

F

FEATURE
HOME

words by *Patrice Peterson*
photos by *Kip Johnson*

A Family Style HOME





A remarkable lake home doesn't have to follow a definitive style to be comfortable, cozy or classy. Whether building a structure that's considered rustic, modern or mountain style, the most important thing when making decisions is figuring out what is best for each family's lifestyle.

Located on Otter Tail Lake, this home incorporates the combined needs of a retirement home, a family gathering place, and a playground for grandchildren.

"The homeowners didn't have a certain type of style in mind, but they knew they wanted good lake views, good windows and cathedral ceilings," says the builder, Eric Haataja, owner of Haataja Contracting Inc. in Menahga. "The original structure that was on the property when they purchased it worked for them as a summer cabin for the first few years. Now that this would be their year-round home, plus a family cabin in the summer, they had many new decisions to make."

With a gradual elevation down to the lake, the wide lot is limited in depth, so positioning the new home on this lot had to be very specific.

Architect Kelli Wegscheid, owner of Harmonious Architecture in Perham, designed the structure to maximize the "lay of the lot" and increase the accessibility to the lake and the overall views.

"It's an unusual lot in both size and shape, and the original seasonal cabin was one-level, with a very steep driveway," she explains. "With the plan to live here full-time, we designed the new house on two levels. Now the home has a beautiful entry on the street side, and a walkout basement on the lake side."



Harmonious ARCHITECTURE



HOMES
BY ARCHITECTS

 **AIA**
Minnesota

Feature Home
2020 Virtual Tour



*Creating more than a lake home...
designed for making memories.*



Serving Detroit Lakes, Perham, Ottertail and Park Rapids Lakes Areas

www.HarmoniousArchitecture.com 218.346.0081

The new construction added both space and height. The walkout basement works perfectly with their beach and dock, which was already in place, and the higher elevation provides new and unexpected views.

"We realized they would be gaining space, and it was hard to initially imagine that the second level, especially the covered deck, was going to be so fantastic," says Wegscheid.

The glass-topped railings on the deck, made with tempered glass panels and polished edges, are easy to take care of, according to the homeowners.

"Once we realized that full railings were interrupting our sightline, we switched over to the half railing/half glass. We wanted it open, with no screening so we could feel the breeze, and we love spending almost every evening out there watching the sunsets. An added bonus is that we don't seem to get as many bugs up that high. Plus the kids think it's fun."



The couple, who grew up in the area, had gravitated to Otter Tail Lake most of their lives, so when it came time to think about a more permanent retirement home, they both knew it would be here. Their four adult children and nine grandchildren all live nearby, and the lake is their favorite gathering place.

With all those grandchildren, the walkout level was an extremely important detail—they needed a basement where the kids could run and play, and could come straight inside from the lake at the walkout level. The flooring throughout the lower level is COREtec Plus vinyl planks, featuring a very realistic wood look and texture in the Blackstone Oak design. The cork backing makes it quieter and warmer underfoot, plus the tiles are waterproof, which makes them ideal for a lake home, especially one with kids and pets.

"Once we realized that full railings were interrupting our sightline, we switched over to the half railing/half glass. We wanted it open, with no screening so we could feel the breeze."

homeowner

There is a wet bar area downstairs, along with a few bedrooms, an exercise room, ample storage, and a casual living area that is set off by a horizontal fireplace insert. What is most remarkable about the lower level, however, is the brightness and magnificent view of the lake. It is flooded with sunlight from its bountiful windows, and does not have the feel of a basement. Stepping outside, there is additional seating available on a stamped concrete patio, making it an enjoyable experience to view the lake and join in on family activities.



**HAATAJA
CONTRACTING
inc.**

**Call
Today
for a free
estimate!**



Building Dream Spaces

www.haatajacontracting.com

218-564-5634

33552 109th Ave | Po Box 315 | Menahga, MN

The dramatic and beautiful rich color variations and interesting grains of the solid Sheesham wood from India, caught my eye immediately. I also loved the simplicity of the table design and the graceful curved back of the wood chairs."

homeowner



Back to Main Level

On the main level, the kitchen has a wide open, spacious feel that also lends to family gatherings. The cabinetry throughout the home was custom built by Jerry Eischens Cabinetry of Park Rapids. To create the homeowners' dream kitchen, every one of their ideas was listened to and improved upon throughout the process. The white cupboards and granite countertops, from Brichacek Stone of Motley, combine for a bright, clean high-quality look that transcends style.

On first inspection of the kitchen, one item that might not be as visible is the "hidden" pantry. The two doors that initially look like part of the kitchen cabinets are so much more than that.

"The owners had seen a similar pantry, and really liked the idea of being able to tuck away the toaster, the blender, the coffee maker—and keep the clutter off the kitchen countertops," says Wegscheid. "It creates kind of a 'wow' factor, where all of a sudden you open it, and there's a huge pantry behind those double doors."

With a rich walnut floor throughout the main level, it was also important to find the perfect dining room table set, one that had a unique style and worked with the rich wood tones of that floor. The homeowners searched several larger furniture stores in the area before finding it at Smith Furniture in Wadena.





"I walked in, and there it was—exactly what I was looking for. The dramatic and beautiful rich color variations and interesting grains of the solid Sheesham wood from India, caught my eye immediately. I also loved the simplicity of the table design and the graceful curved back of the wood chairs."

A matching 6-foot-long bench from the set is a beautiful piece of furniture that sits in the front entry. It doubles as additional seating for their larger family gatherings, and the cousins love sharing it.

The spacious kitchen flows into a living area that is a mix of wood, stone and sunlight. All of the dramatic windows and glass doors in the home are from Marvin Windows, and the walnut floors are from Renneberg Hardwoods. The floor and windows are accentuated by a cathedral ceiling with timberframe beams and a floor-to-ceiling fireplace with floating shelves on either side.



LOCATED IN PARK RAPIDS
Specializing in Customer Service
 YOUR IDEAS BROUGHT TO LIFE!



PROUD FEATURE HOME
 CABINET SUPPLIER



218-732-8061
 700 East River Dr | Park Rapids, MN
 www.jecabinets.com

Eischens
**WOOD
 PRODUCTS**
 INC.



"We used the same stone on the fireplace as the front of the house, and created a thin brick surround on the fireplace insert to add some drama," says Dave Haataja, owner of DBH Concrete in Menasha. "It's interesting, too, that the mantel is made of a masonry material, but has the look of weathered wood. It's great because you don't have to follow the same fire clearances as with a wood mantel."

DBH Concrete was also responsible for the foundation, footings and anything related to concrete or masonry, including what some people might call a "panic room" or storm shelter, in the lower level of the home.

"When the homeowners request it, we have been putting storm shelters into some of the homes we build, especially since the 2010 tornado in Wadena," says Eric Haataja. "Most of the shelters have a dual purpose, and this one is a walk-in closet/storage room."



"We used the same stone on the fireplace as the front of the house, and created a thin brick surround on the fireplace insert to add some drama."

Dave Haataja
DBH Concrete



A Little Less Noise

The homeowners absolutely love the vaulted ceilings, high windows and wood flooring in the living area that overlooks the lake. However, they often had difficulty enjoying the space due to the high level of noise that was created by hard surfaces throughout the home. They initially tried to resolve the noise issues by adding soft items like rugs and fabric pillows, but decided they needed some kind of noise reduction. Sound quality experts, Innovative Acoustics, Inc., designed and installed integrated acoustic panels at the ceiling, which made a tremendous difference—especially when the kids are in the house!

- Custom Shower Doors
- Thermopane-Insulated Units
- Patio-Door Replacements
- Window and Screen Repair
- Aluminum Storefronts & Doors
- Custom Table-Desk Top Glass

**STOP IN
AND
SEE OUR
SHOW
ROOM**



**LOCALLY OWNED
QUALITY SERVICE**

**BRAINERD
Glass**

Commercial / Residential

Serving the Lakes Area for over 70 years

218-829-5430

302 5th Avenue Northeast Ste 4
(next to Cub Foods East)

Brainerd, MN 56401

More info at brainerdglass.net



The walls and ceilings are poured concrete, 8 inches thick, with lots of rebar, which would protect them from flying debris.”

Even if the house and main floor were to be destroyed by a tornado, Haataja says the storm shelter would be left standing in the basement.

Back upstairs, the master bath has a stylish appeal, with a distinctive stand-alone tub and a huge walk-in shower.

“The homeowner wanted a very specific type of tub to fit in that space, so we did extensive research to find it,” says Ross Seelhammer, of Seelhammer Plumbing in Wadena. “It turned out to be a really nice look, especially with the tub filler that comes out of the floor and raises up above the tub with a wand.”

The master bath’s walk-in shower, however, is a favorite of the grandkids.



Creating enjoyable gathering spaces Room-by-Room

with our innovative home acoustic solutions.



"Sound treatments so beautiful, they're part of the home!"



innovative

ACOUSTICS, INC.

Quietly making rooms pleasant since 1995

www.innoacoustics.com

320-286-6621

1268 REARDON AVE SW | COKATO MN 55321

For over 25 years we have been quietly making rooms pleasant by designing, building and installing acoustical panels and treatments. Our customers appreciate us because we meet and exceed the highest expectations. Contact us today to get started.

"It has beautiful tile work, with a partial glass panel and a full glass door, from Brainerd Glass," he adds. "That really makes it stand out from other showers."

Showers are definitely important after all the water sports this family enjoys. From stand-up paddle boards to splash pads to kayaking to wake boarding, there is always something going on, both inside and outside.



"They are such nice people to work with, and I am so happy they now have this beautiful lake home to share with their family."

Kelli Wegscheid
Harmonious Architecture

"We like the fact that the lake is shallow on our shoreline, even at the end of the dock. Getting our family together is so important to us, and even the youngest ones can put on a life jacket and jump into the lake off the dock. What more can you ask for?"

Wegscheid says that what stands out to her the most about this project is the view created by the new design of the home.

"That upper level gives them an absolutely panoramic view of this large lake, where they can see so far—not only across the lake, but even off to each side," she adds. "They are such nice people to work with, and I am so happy they now have this beautiful lake home to share with their family." ~L&H





COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT:

Haataja Contracting | BUILDER
• View our ad on page 97

Harmonious Architecture | ARCHITECT
• View our ad on page 94

Ross Seelhammer | PLUMBING

Seelhammer Electric | ELECTRIC

Park Rapids Building Supply
| BUILDING MATERIALS

Anderson Painting | PAINTING

DBH Concrete | CONCRETE

Fincks Drywall | DRYWALL

Jerry Eischens Cabinetry | CABINETS
• View our ad on page 99

Kountry Tile & Stone | TILE WORK

Pete's Nursery & Landscaping
| LANDSCAPING

Brichacek Stone | GRANITE COUNTERTOPS

Innovative Acoustics | ACOUSTIC CEILING
• View our ad on page 103

Renneberg Hardwoods | HARDWOOD FLOORING

Brainerd Glass | SHOWER DOORS, DECK GLASS
• View our ad on page 101,125

Ellingson Plumbing & Heating | FIREPLACES
• View our ad on page 55

Bluffton Hardware | EXCAVATING & SEWER

Boedy Appliances | APPLIANCES

Jack's Siding & Seamless Gutter
Services | GUTTER

K&M Coatings | GARAGE FLOOR COATING
• View our ad on page 105

A&C Lumber | CEILING BEAMS

Marvin Windows | WINDOWS

Bayer Built | MILLWORK, STAIR SYSTEMS

Elsner Well Drilling | WELL

Expert Insulation | INSULATION

CONCRETE FLOOR COATINGS

We've got it covered!

GARAGE • BASEMENT • PATIO • PORCH • MUD ROOM • SHOP • STAIRS • SIDEWALK

4X Stronger Than Epoxy - Non Slip Surface - One Day Installs



Residential or Commercial

K&M
Coatings

**ADD
USABLE
LIVING
SPACE!**

New York Mills, MN • 507.923.3311 • www.kandmcoatings.com