



Mirror Lake Retreat



Perched on the edge of Lake Winnepesaukee, the house opens up to an expansive view of the lake and the White Mountains beyond. The biggest challenge was to make a substantial house of approximately 10,000 square feet with a five car attached garage seem like a small New England cottage. This was accomplished in a variety of ways; first and foremost being that the second floor, which includes five bedrooms and a guest apartment, is tucked under the gable roofline using multiple dormers to create fenestration for the living spaces within.

The shed roof dormers and steep gable roofs are clad with a simulated sage green slate roof shingle. The varying roof planes create an intimate scale synonymous with a lakefront cottage style, reminiscent of many older historic structures throughout the New Hampshire lakes region.



There is an abundant use of New Hampshire fieldstone on the house's foundation as well as the chimneys which pierce the simple gable roofline. The grade drops off rapidly as one walks towards the waterside of the house. The change in grade allows for the basement level to have direct access to a lower stone patio which accesses a boat house at the water's edge.

The home's front entrance is a clearly defined portico with a large arched transom window which opens up the interior foyer in a gracious and welcoming manner to guests as well as family. French doors line the lake side of the house, allowing all the interior spaces to be open for easy and relaxed access to a bluestone patio running the length of the house along the lake. Much of the patio is covered by a roof which provides protection from the sun and inclement weather.

The interior of the house is elegant but casual with a warm and personal touch created by the owner and interior designer's close working relationship. The cool interior colors are contrasted by the dark wood flooring, railings and antiques. The main interior living space is over 20 feet in height with a grand fireplace anchoring one side while a free standing spiral staircase connects to the second level of the home. As one ascends the staircase, the view opens up to the lake through the clerestory windows above the main living space.

This house, steeped in New Hampshire historic lakefront resort architecture exemplifies architecture which takes advantage of the best qualities of a site while melding into the natural setting.

House Information:

Location: Mirror Lake, NH

Size: 10,000 square feet +/-