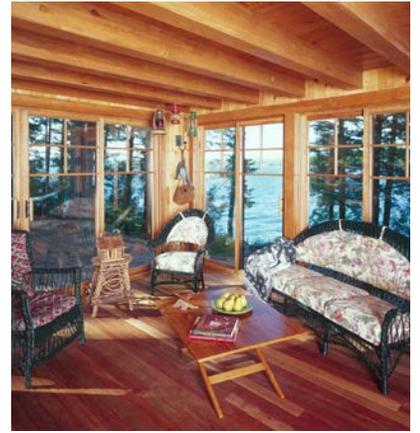
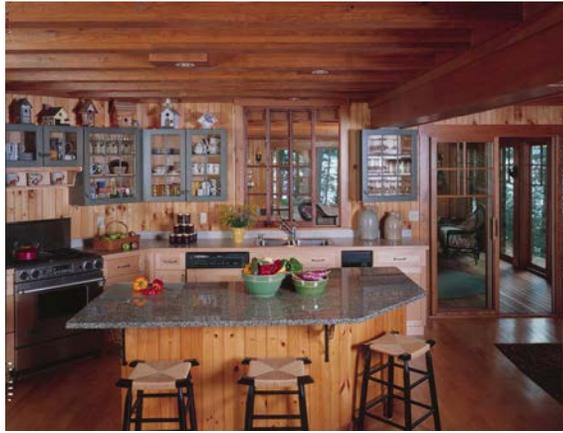
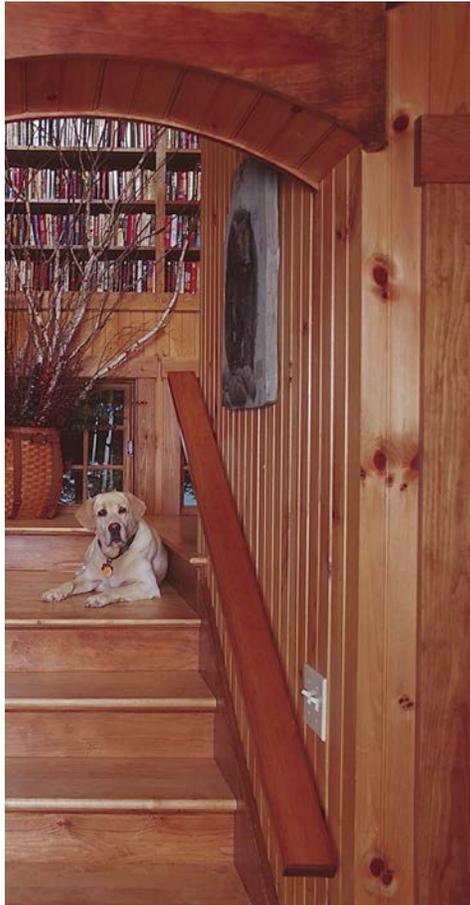




Lakeside Retreat



We are looking for something cute and campy" were the first words spoken by the clients when TMS Architects began programming for this summer home in the Maine lakes region.

The location had previously been the site of the local minister's 1100 square foot camp and the new owners wanted to keep the razed structure's character and rustic charm. In addition, they decided to set the home 75 feet back from the water for additional privacy.

The resulting structure was Adirondack in style with steep roofs, exposed wood rafters and floor beams with the added contemporary twist of a barrel-vaulted two story glazed wall. The exposed chimney centered in the great room was an important feature for both the owners and the architects.



The home was designed to fit into the steep slope of the site, allowing cascading terraces to the south with a walk-out basement. This approach allowed for a more comfortable access to the waterfront and boat dock.

The interior continues this simple theme of informal and comfortable spaces for leisure and recreation. One space opens into the next, reinforcing the open concept. The owners enjoy entertaining so the open floor plan was important to them, yet each space had to offer intimacy for two when they were alone in the home.

A combination of stained wood including wainscoting, trim and floors, coupled with clay tile floor, granite countertops and the exposed stone fireplace contributed to the "camp" atmosphere. To complete this theme, the owners selected furniture, carpets and fabrics that provided splashes of color throughout, in bright contrast to the organic feel of the natural building materials.

Some elements "borrowed" from the previous camp on the site, such as the window linking the kitchen to the porch, serve as a bridge from the present home to its gentle past.

House Information:

Location: Acton, ME

Size: 4,400 square feet

Notable Design Details: The massive stone fireplace a dramatic element viewed from both the interior of the great room or from the rear elevation of the home. The green and brown colors chosen for the exterior allow the building to recede into the background, rendering it virtually invisible from the water. A sleeping porch was designed for the second floor so that guests and owners could enjoy spending the evening "outside" in comfort.