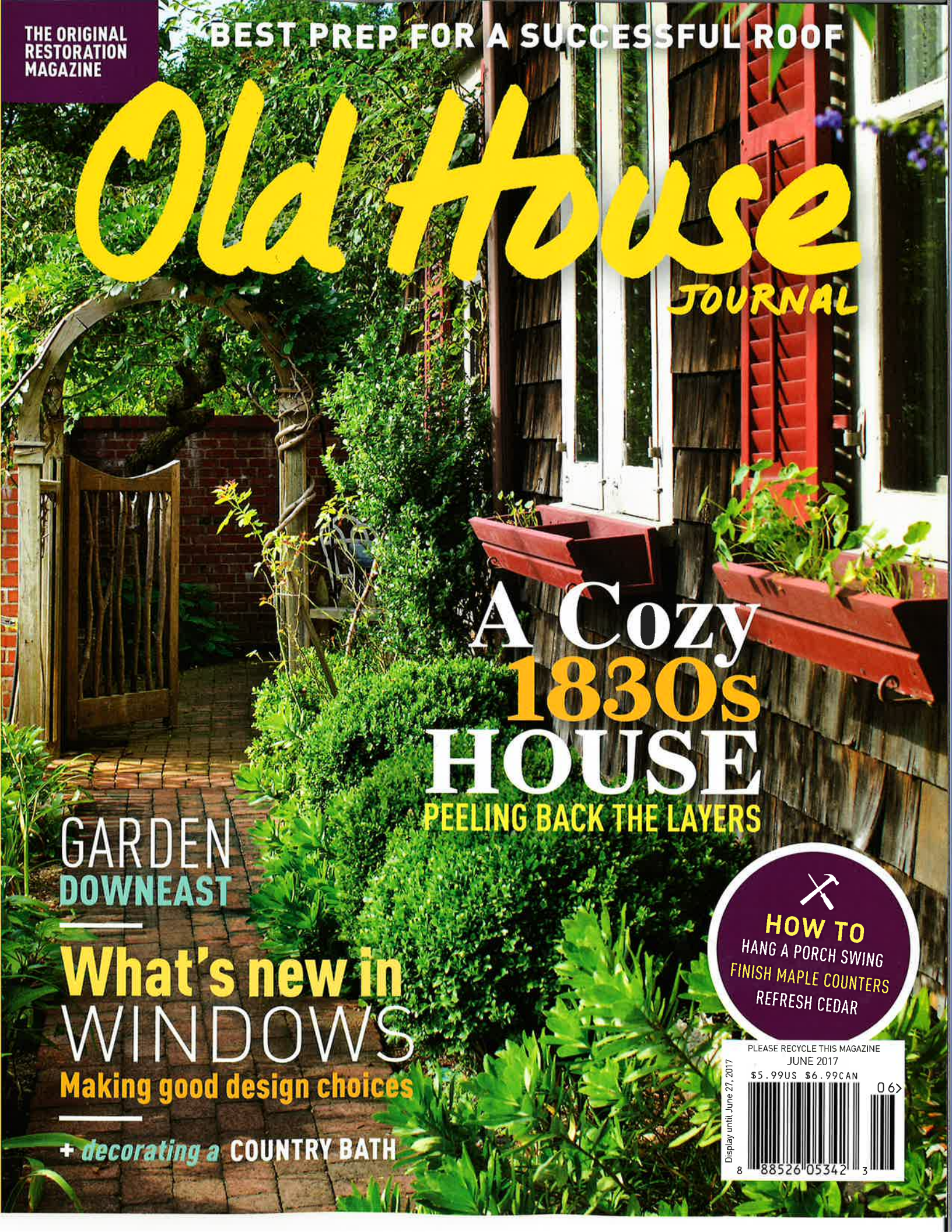
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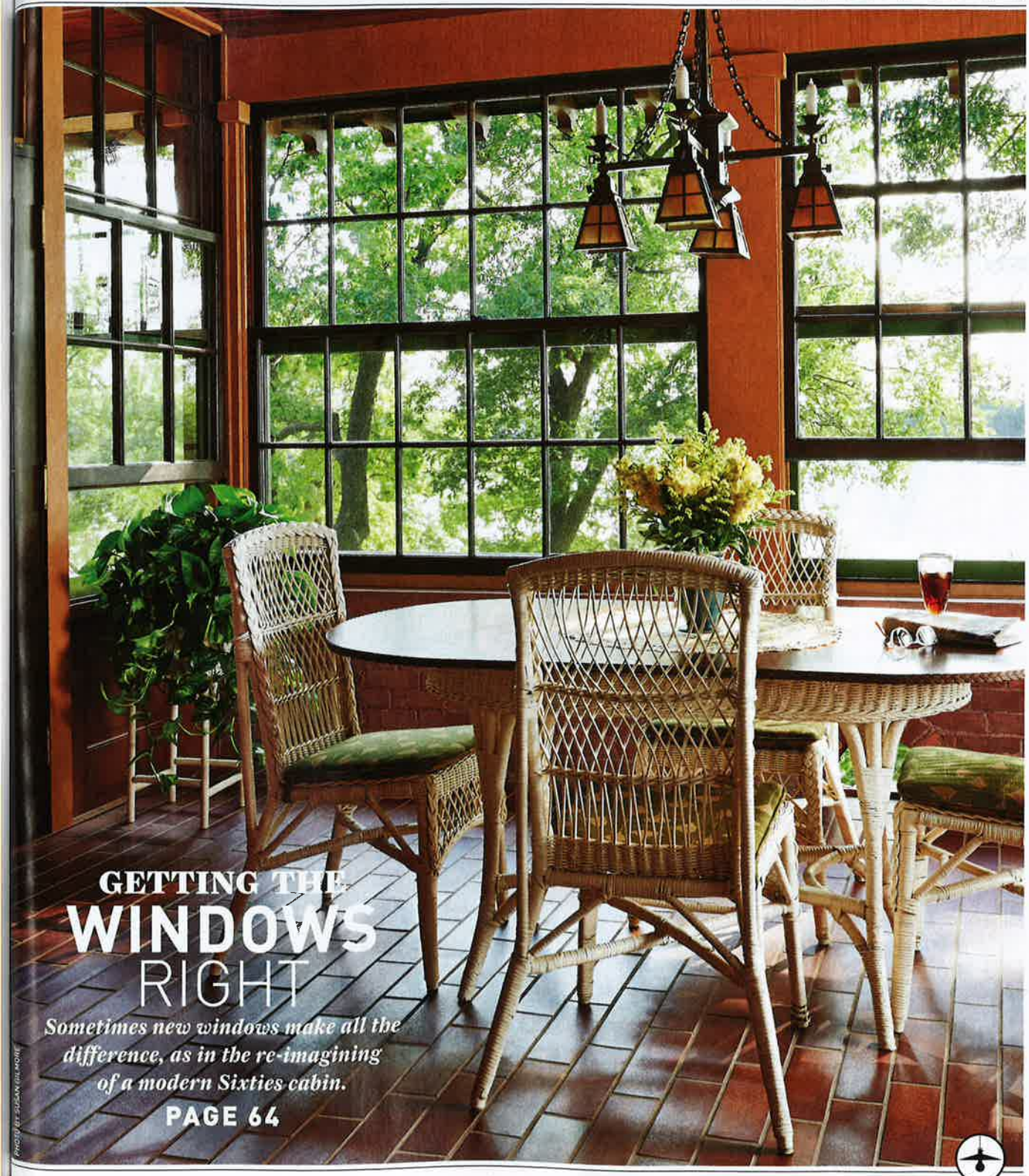

GETTING THE WINDOWS RIGHT

Sometimes new windows make all the difference, as in the re-imagining of a modern Sixties cabin.

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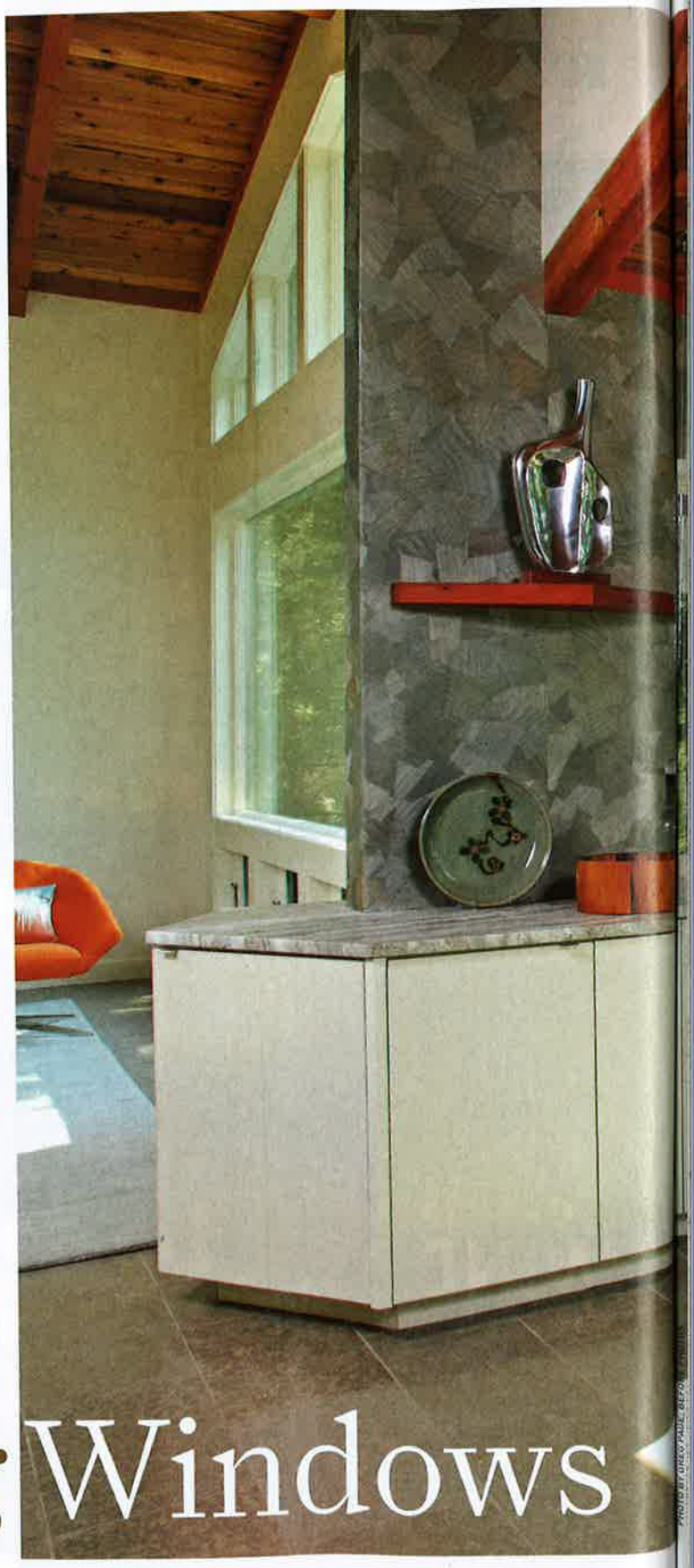
PHOTO BY SUSAN GILMORE

Winning Windows

Windows are key in the new life of a 1960s summer house many might have considered throwaway. A small addition, a deftly reworked floor plan, and interpretive modern design make a stunning backdrop for the house's second act. **BY PATRICIA POORE**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GREG PAGE & SUSAN GILMORE



WHEN THIS MID-CENTURY cabin was saved by a remarkable update, it became a much better version of the original. Before, the ca. 1968 house felt dated, not much like an exemplary period piece. Its style-defining windows, past their prime, had trim painted white against dark siding; the uninspired entry was through a screened porch. Inside, the floor plan was beyond awkward. Well-informed design decisions by David Heide Design Studio gave the house new life, but the focus remained on those big windows, its obvious architectural strength. The owners had loved that "outward focus" of the original house, which was served by large expanses of glass done in modern, mid-century configurations. Inside, simplicity reigned, with no distraction from the beauty outdoors, not incidentally making the summer home low-maintenance. While new windows are often the bad actors of the remodeling industry—as when original, proportional, still-serviceable, ever-fixable wood windows are sacrificed for ill-fitting replacements with a projected life of eight to 20 years—this project is a victory. New windows, necessarily specified for additions and new construction, are getting better.

GLORIOUS GLAZING
Owing to an addition that echoes the original façade, taking meals indoors is now possible—and the dining area has this expansive water view through a renewed glass "prow."

COURTESY DAVID HEIDE DESIGN STUDIO

TRIPLE HUNG WINDOWS

Architectural designer David Heide has an adroit touch when it comes to windows, not only for new homes but also when an old house needs them. "We love triple-hung windows," he says, citing their use in two recent projects. "They can be opened top, bottom, or both for better circulation, they can go almost floor to ceiling." The porch above is original to an early 1940s lake house designed by the Minnesota architect Edwin Lundie. It was a screen porch the clients wished to enclose. "The rest of the house has double-hung windows, so neither casements nor French doors would have looked right," Heide says. "The triple-hung sash has the right proportions and has proved very practical in the space."

ENCLOSED PORCHES

When a former porch is enclosed, "It's critical to maintain the scale of the original openings," David Heide says. "It's also important where in the thickness of the wall the glazing goes. If possible, it should be set back in the plane of the wall to express the original structure." Large, wide windows in the porch below, one of several on a 1905 Arts & Crafts house, were restored. "We made our own insulated, divided-light windows in mahogany for the new bedroom above," Heide adds, "using vintage glass salvaged from old windows." The bedroom thus has the look of a vintage sleeping porch.

TOP New triple-hung windows follow original proportions. **LEFT** Several porches on a 1905 lake house had been glazed with high-quality double-hungs that maintain scale.

WINDOW WISDOM

The redesign brought elegance to the river-side facade and drama to the entry. The new windows are both more aesthetically pleasing and more functional than the lesser-quality originals.

ABOVE The "prow" remains, its roof echoed in the one-room addition that steps back on the right. **INSET** Small vacation cottages like this were built in the 1960s and '70s, a recognizable type if often constructed with materials that don't age well.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN GILMORE; COURTESY DAVID HEIDE DESIGN STUDIO (OPP., TOP)

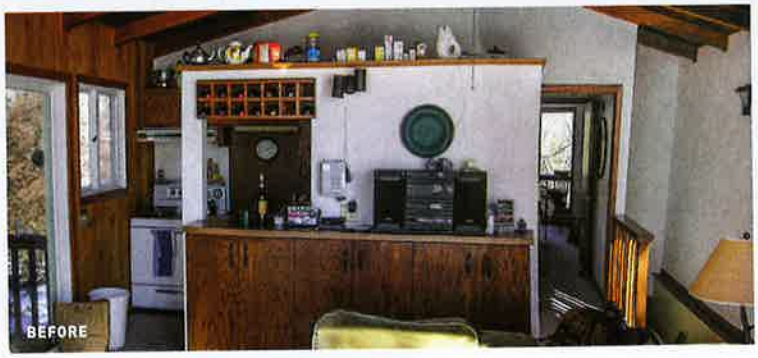
The house in Hudson, Wisconsin, is a summer getaway: built as a 1,000 square-foot, mid-century cabin nestled amidst pine trees on the bluffs of the Saint Croix River. Beloved by the same family for decades, the house had a talent for getting out of the way, says designer David Heide. "For my clients, it was all about being on the river, not creating a fancy interior." In fact, they may have just left things alone had not a burst water pipe ruined much of the building, necessitating a renovation and, given the opportunity, a modest-sized but critical addition.

The clients wanted a family retreat that would engage the surroundings but not become the center of attention—or add housework. The designers were asked to reconsider the size of the house, how it was being used today, and its aesthetics. Heide and team had to work within the Scenic River Byway national guidelines, which address sight lines (the house must be all but invisible from the river), materials and colors, lot coverage, and environmental concerns. A small addition, just 320 square feet added out to the side, made all the difference. "It profoundly improved the livability of the house," Heide says. "Every inch became usable; the house feels twice as big as it did." The addition also improved the primary façade, adding depth and allowing a more fitting entry.

The next big improvement was opening the kitchen. The original had been tiny, built against a wall that stopped traffic and

MEMORY REMILLED

A significant part of the living space, the beloved outdoor dining deck had to be rebuilt. But its salvageable redwood was remilled to create the island in the newly open kitchen.

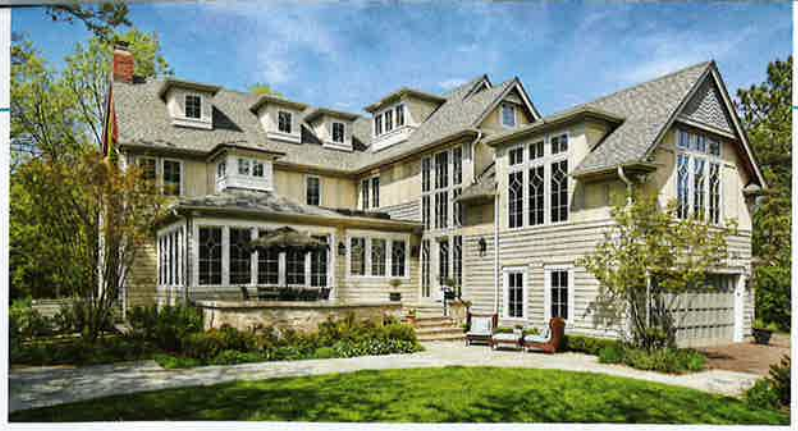


What were they thinking with that first kitchen? "Two people could not fit behind the wall," says Heide.

blocked the view. It had no connection to the living area or the river. The new kitchen, in the same space (but borrowing just a bit from the master bedroom and a bath), is far more functional. An island takes the place of the offending wall. Strong, clean, and simple lines pull the kitchen into the rest of the main living area. Now open to views, this has become a gathering space.

The porch remains, but it has been rebuilt. "The old house had the distinction of having no indoor dining area," Heide reports. "All meals were taken on the screened porch, rain or shine." With the addition of a living room, the "prow" now can accommodate a dining area. The rebuilt dining porch, in the same location and more accessible from the main room, is handsome in cedar. Redwood from the original porch floor deck was remilled to build the kitchen island, encapsulating memories of family meals in years past.

"It was important to me, and our clients, that we preserve the mid-century aspect of the house: the large windows that take in the view, the 'prow' created by angled window walls," Heide says. "These attributes are intact." The addition, for example, intentionally emulates characteristics of the original house. The



FINALLY, WINDOWS SPEC'D BY ARCHITECTS

"For years, we've typically used Marvin because they offer wood windows and incredible customization," David Heide says. Other new and replacement windows have left a lot to be desired—but there's good news. One example: Pella's recent expansion of their Architect Series wood window and patio door collection. "In-depth research with architects and builders led to new designs," says Pella's Heidi Farmer. "This collection gives them extensive design flexibility." The Pella team also met with the National Park Service and regional preservation groups for feedback on the Reserve line, which offers more authentic details—such things as putty glaze-profile grilles and sashes that reflect historical construction methods, archival butt joinery, engineered vertical through-stile construction, and decorative sash lugs that hide the turn-and-tilt mechanism for easy window washing. Reserve and Contemporary, another line, have the craftsmanship of the Architect series, now with more design and performance options. Hardware, too, has improved, in response to architects reporting that window hardware "can be ugly." With an industrial designer in-house, Pella is working with Baldwin Hardware to create Classic, Modern, Rustic, and Essential hardware lines with 28 different options.

ABOVE Glass tile in the kitchen and the Wisconsin Bedford limestone fireplace in the new living area visually link the spaces. **INSET** An awkward kitchen wall blocked traffic and views. **RIGHT** Natural stone and wood are used with a modern twist. **TOP RIGHT** Architect Series windows by Pella add detail to a period-inspired new home.

COURTESY PELLA (TOP, TOP)

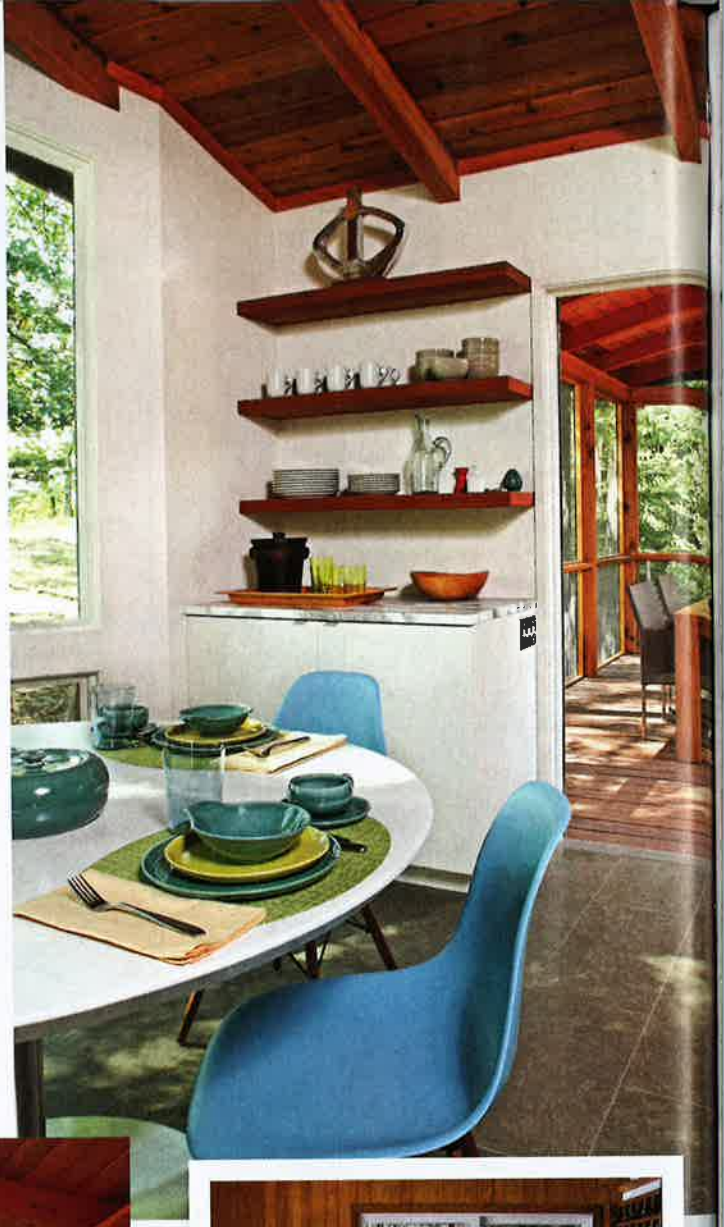
old house itself was saved, not razed: "There's nothing greener than reuse," Heide says. Inside, the attractive cedar ceiling has been renewed and extended throughout the house.

"Mrs. Client loves Modernism—and taupe," says Heide. "Mr. Client wanted a cabin aesthetic, all wood and stone. We were able to extend the house's mid-century marriage of natural and modern." The new fireplace, for example, made use of regional limestone but has a contemporary design. The bluestone floor is laid in a simple grid. On the original wall separating the dining area from the new room, an unusual wallcovering with modern scale is made of actual wood veneer, in greys that echo the stone. New furniture and lighting from mixed sources further the 1960s aesthetic without direct imitation.

"A house that spends time uninhabited needs to be able to fend for itself," Heide says about the functional, low-maintenance design and materials. "You don't design downspouts that need heated tape turned on. Appropropriate detailing makes the house less vulnerable." Stone floors, open shelves, plain flat cabinets, fewer textiles—every decision affords easy care.

Oddly, the house had been built with flat-top windows only; the trapezoidal clerestory in the prow was added later, though decades ago—a necessary improvement in keeping with the style and period. Heide kept the glazing areas and the low awning windows, but he tweaked the proportions, adding heavier mullions. New, double-glazed windows by Pella echo the originals.

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 87.



LEISURE LIVING

Materials throughout are simple and elemental—redwood, bluestone. Natural materials, unembellished, combined with easy-care mid-century furnishings,even plastic chairs, make this a true vacation house, one built for low-maintenance upkeep. Now the interior recalls the best of mid-century design, having lost the worst of it (plywood cabinets, chattering sliders).