

# LAKE SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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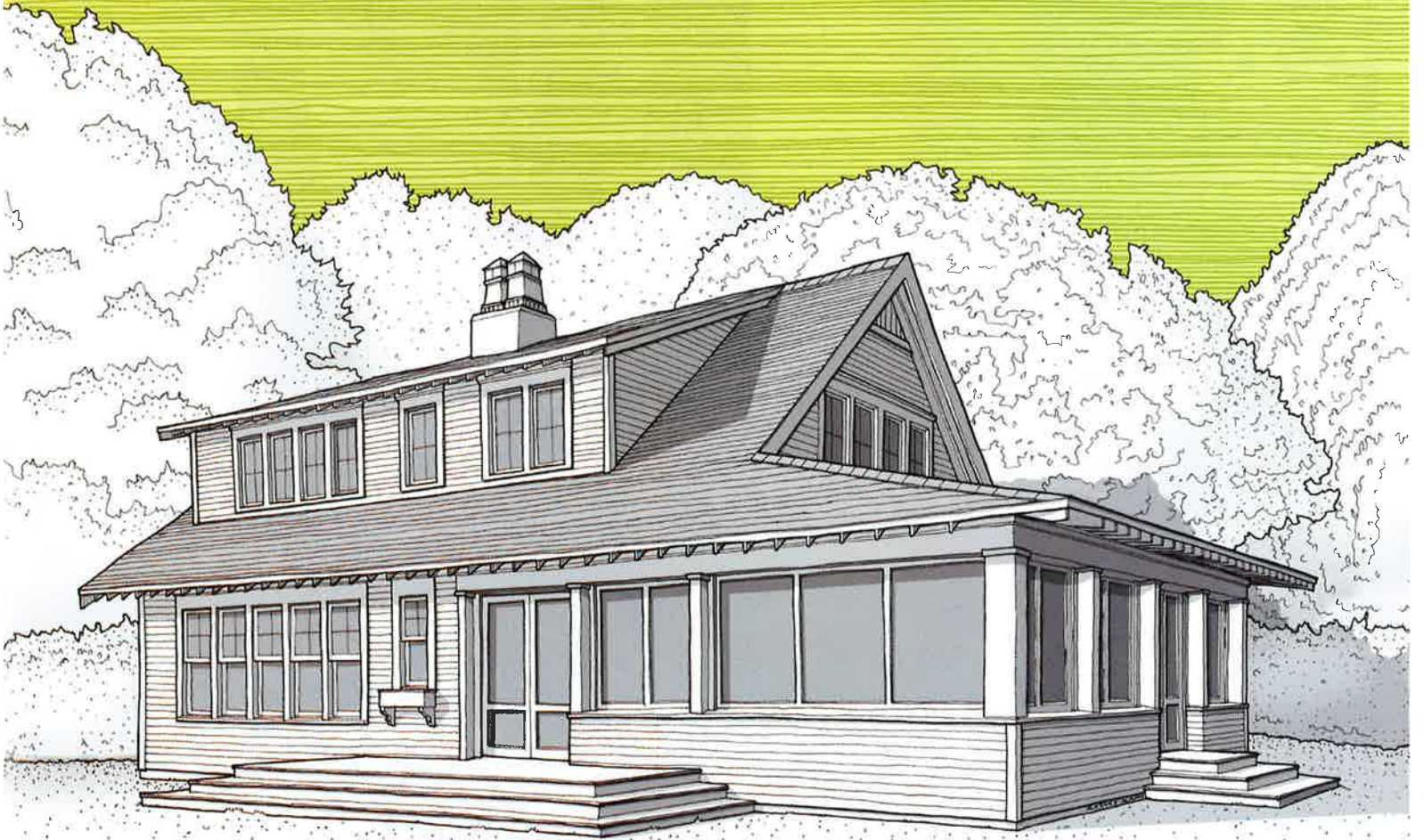


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# PRIVATE OASIS

*Historical precedents anchor the inspiration for this timeless lodge-style getaway.*

photography by susan gilmore, written by ellen olson



A rustic interior featuring extensive woodwork. The ceiling has exposed wooden beams and a hanging lantern. A large wooden pillar supports the structure, with another lantern on top. A patterned rug is on the floor, and a staircase is visible in the background.

*Our intention was to create a new home  
that seems timeless, as though it's always been there,  
having evolved over time.*









The confluence of two rivers creates a peninsula and a secluded, wooded site for a long-standing family compound near Tomahawk, WI. This vacation getaway was built as a large-scale gathering place for family, friends and business associates, and its lodge-like features create wonderful shared, unified spaces, as well as little nooks and crannies where guests can retreat for a quiet moment on their own. Other structures, constructed across the decades, exist on the property and are occupied by extended family members; this house is the newest.

The home has the sensibilities of one built during the last century; historical precedence informs many of its features. The volume of woodwork is just one nod to other lodge-style homes of long ago where decorative arts played an important role, as well. Art glass windows were created for the Dutch-style front door, as well as the breakfast nook and front entry. Rugs and light fixtures evoke an earlier time and many were custom-crafted. Decorative stencils embellish the balcony of the main space, lending a handmade quality to the finishes in the home. A commissioned painting graces the dining room and captures the wondrous beauty of the region.

"This project is proof that the decorative arts are alive and well," commented David Heide. "The lighting, stained glass and painting were all ways to personalize the structure and to create a handcrafted feeling for the homeowner. They lend a richness and sense of place to the experience of the house."

The main level features a two-story gathering room with an expansive masonry fireplace and large windows offering views of the river. A built-in breakfast nook creates a cozy space for family meals, adjacent to the kitchen. The master bedroom was designed as a gazebo with a link to the main building. Half screened porch and half interior space, the dividing wall can be opened on a summer evening creating the feeling of sleeping on an old-fashioned sleeping porch or even in a tent. The three-story stair tower leads to a bird's nest overlook, high above the roof, offering 360-degree views of the river. It's a refuge enjoyed by the family at any time of day.

Another important aspect of the home's design was the use of local materials. Stone at the exterior foundation and first floor walls is indigenous Wisconsin limestone, mortared to create the impression of dry stack (no visible mortar); another detail with historical roots. Knotty Alder wood was used for mill work and casework throughout the house.

"Our intention was to create a building that looks as if it's always been there and evolved over a period of time," remarked Mark Nelson, AIA. "The timeless nature of the design was one of our criteria for success of the project."

ARCHITECT: David Heide Design Studio  
 TEAM: David Heide and Mark Nelson, AIA  
 BUILDER: Van Strydonk Construction





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