

Walloon Lake Transformation

A northern Michigan cottage undergoes a warm and inviting overhaul

> TEXT BY KHRISTI ZIMMETH

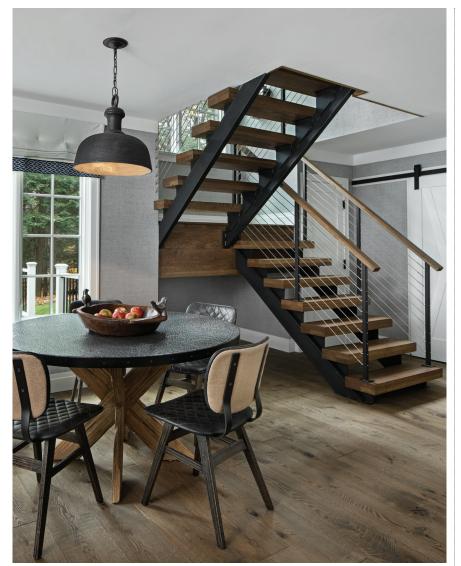
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BETH SINGER he original cottage that once stood overlooking the west arm of Walloon Lake near Petoskey was a "1970s type with very low ceilings and had probably been added on to through the years," recalls interior designer Nicole

Withers, of Jones-Keena & Co. in Birmingham.

Perched high above the lake, the original structure's views were remarkable. Maximizing those views and reorganizing the interior spaces to make them more open and take better advantage of the lot's scenic setting were priorities for the redo that began in 2017. "Really comfortable and family friendly" were touch-points for the homeowners and described the end results they had in mind when they started the project.

Team members included the homeowners, Withers, who had worked with them on a few other design projects, and builder Steve Steffes, of North Bay Construction in Petoskey. "We took it down to the studs," Withers explains. "We redid the entire façade, changing it into a charming farmhouse."

Since the homeowners were starting over with the property, the team seized the opportunity to improve on the floor plan and the 3,800-square-foot home's interior flow. "We definitely reorganized the space," the designer explains, adding that in addition to moving some rooms, they decided to follow the roof structure and add beams to emphasize it. "We took the ceilings up to get interesting ceiling details. Doing so changed the whole feeling of the house," she says.



OVER EASY This page: A cozy breakfast nook is a great place to start the day.



Painting the Past: Much of this Walloon Lake home may have been reimagined, but one important piece of the past remains. The previous owner started Lavender Hill Farms, a popular lavender farm in Boyne City. Local artist Kevin Barton created an original oil painting, not shown, of the farm and the surrounding rolling hills filled with trees, fields, and lavender, and she had the piece hanging in the entrance to the house.

"When she was going to have an estate sale I asked if she was selling that," the current homeowner explains. "She agreed to sell it to me. I had it reframed and now have it hanging in the entrance, as well. I like that it honors the home's history." – KZ

UP NORTH APPEAL Opposite page, clockwise from left: A comfortable guest bedroom looks out to surrounding pines. The dining area is a pleasing mix of classic and contemporary. A new stone fireplace with a reclaimed wood mantel anchors the sitting room.

A working stone fireplace was added for what the homeowners call "that real Up North look." Hues found in the stone inspired the colors used throughout the house, according to the designer.

Reorganizing the interior enabled the team to rethink the existing space and take full advantage of the views. "We tried to make the spaces flow together," Withers says. "The old kitchen was closed off, but the space is now open to the view of the lake. When you walk in from the front door you can see the lake; that was important to them."

Other priorities included creating a warm and welcoming getaway that accommodates the homeowners as well as their three boys and dogs. "It had to be family friendly, for sure," Withers says, adding that the active boys often bring friends. "The house had to be able to sleep a crew," she says. Because the family has all boys and a certain built-in masculinity, Withers made the guest rooms more feminine, ensuring a pleasing balance. "There's a lot of male energy," she jokes. She also added whimsical touches through her wallpaper, color, and accessories choices.

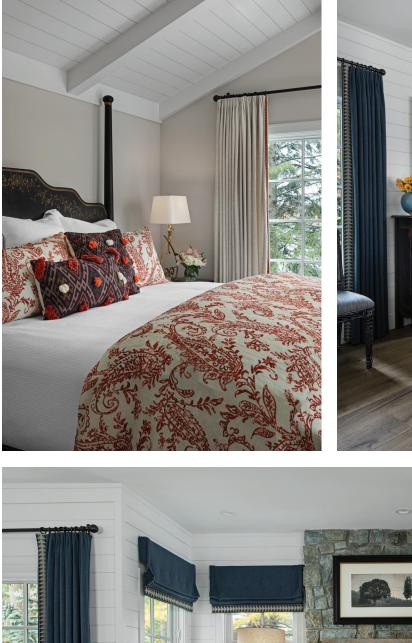
Challenges included the lot, which has a steep hill and semi-rugged terrain that "makes it feel like both a journey and an adventure," especially in winter, when four-wheel drives are definitely needed, Withers says.

The four-bedroom, five-bath project took approximately a year to complete. Withers says she's proud of the entire house, but admits to being partial to the black-and-green master bedroom, with its bold art. "It's a very interesting space; it just feels good when you walk in there," the designer reports. The homeowner agrees. "It feels like a happy room," she says.

The homeowner and the designer were pleased that things went according to plan. "I have no regrets," Withers says. "I feel like we really made good choices. This is one of those projects where everything aligned."

The homeowner seconds that opinion, adding: "There's nothing I would do differently. Nicole nailed it."

She says she relaxes the minute she walks in and sees the lake. "Everything slows down," she says. "It's just a cozy, easy place." **♦**













BUYER'S GUIDE

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Nicole Withers, Jones Keena & Co., Birmingham, jones-keena.com

BATHROOM, GUEST

Cabinet - Framingham Vanity, Fairmont Designs, Pointe Cabinets and Design, Grosse Pointe Woods Faucet - American Standard, Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, Troy Flooring - Virginia Tile, Michigan Design Center, Troy Mirror - Finnick Mirror, Uttermost Sconces - Yoke Suspended Sconce, Visual Comfort, City Lights Detroit, Michigan Design Center, Troy Shower Tile – Virginia Tile, Michigan Design Center, Troy Wallpaper - Birds & Butterflies, Schumacher, Michigan Design Center, Troy

BATHROOM, MASTER

Artwork – Trowbridge Gallery Cabinetry - Custom, Detroit Woodworking, St. Clair Shores Countertop – White Princess Natural Quartz, PMP Marble and Granite, Troy Faucet – Rohl, Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, Troy Flooring – Virginia Tile, Michigan Design Center, Troy Mirror - Custom, North Bay Construction, Petoskey Sconces - Ruhlmann Sconce, Visual Comfort, City Lights Detroit, Michigan Design Center, Troy Shower – North Bay Construction, Petoskey Shower Tile (decorative) - Virginia Tile, Michigan Design Center, Troy Sinks - Mirabelle, Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, Troy Wall Paint - Sherwin-Williams, Eider White

BEDROOM, GUEST

Bed Frame - Amy Howard, Amy Howard at Home Furniture Collection Bedding - Amity Home Drapery - Kravet, Kravet/Lee Jofa/ Brunschwig & Fils, Michigan Design Center, Troy; Trim, Fabricut, Designer Furniture Services and Fabrics, Michigan Design Center, Troy Lamp, Table - Harper Table Lamp, Visual Comfort, City Lights Detroit, Michigan

Design Center, Troy Pillows, Accent – Amity Home Wall Paint - Sherwin-Williams, Egret White

BEDROOM, MASTER

Armchair - Custom, Jones-Keena & Co. Upholstery Studio, Birmingham; Fabric, Schumacher, Michigan Design Center, Troy Artwork - South & English Bed Frame - Wellesley Bed, Redford House, RJ Thomas Ltd., Michigan Design Center, Troy Bedding – Peacock Alley Chest, Display – Greene Cupboard, Phillips Scott Chests, Bedside – Sofia Chest, Phillips Scott Drapery - Kravet, Kravet/Lee Jofa/ Brunschwig & Fils, Michigan Design Center, Troy; Trim, Fabricut, Designer Furniture Services and Fabrics, Michigan Design Center, Troy Flooring - White Oak, Surfaces, Material Gallery, Petoskey

Lamps, Bedside - Porter Lamps, Currey & Co., RJ Thomas Ltd., Michigan Design Center, Troy Rug – Kenya Collection, Safavieh

Wall Paint - Sherwin-Williams, Egret White

BREAKFAST NOOK Chairs, Dining – Sloan Chairs, Four Hands

Door, Barn - Custom, North Bay Construction, Petoskey Flooring – White Oak, Surfaces Material Gallery, Petoskey Fruit Bowl – Jan Barboglio Light, Ceiling – Timpano Pendant, Currey & Co., RJ Thomas Ltd., Michigan Design Center, Troy Staircase - Custom, North Bay Construction, Petoskey Table, Dining - Austin Table with Zinc Top, Noir Trading Wall Treatment - Thibaut, Fog, Rozmallin, Michigan Design Center, Troy Window Shade Fabric - Kravet, Kravet/ Lee Jofa/Brunschwig & Fils, Michigan

Design Center, Troy; Scalamandre, Troy **CLOSET, WALK-IN**

Artwork – Bungalow 5 Bench – Surva Chandelier – Flanders Chandelier, Visual Comfort, City Lights Detroit, Michigan Design Center, Troy Drapery - Kravet, Kravet/Lee Jofa/ Brunschwig & Fils, Michigan Design Center, Troy; Trim, Fabricut, Designer Furniture Services and Fabrics, Michigan Design

Birmingham Design Center, Troy Center, Troy Gallery, Petoskey Curations Vase, Teal - Clubcu

FAMILY ROOM

Center, Troy Bench – Mansfield Bench, Bernhardt, RJ Thomas Ltd., Michigan Design Center, Troy Cabinetry – Pointe Cabinets and Design, Grosse Pointe Woods Drapery – Kravet, Kravet/Lee Jofa/ Brunschwig & Fils, Michigan Design Center, Troy; Scalamandre, Troy Flooring - White Oak, Surfaces, Petoskey Lamp, Floor - Currey & Co., RJ Thomas



Center, Troy

Flooring – White Oak, Surfaces Material Gallery, Petoskey

Wall Paint - Sherwin-Williams, Egret White Wardrobe - Custom, Detroit Woodworking, St. Clair Shores

DINING ROOM

Chairs, Dining - Scarsdale Dining Chair, Worlds Away, Jones-Keena & Co.,

Chandelier - Belden Linear Lantern, Visual Comfort, City Lights Detroit, Michigan

Drapery - Kravet and Lee Jofa, Kravet/Lee Jofa/Brunschwig & Fils, Michigan Design

Flooring – White Oak, Surfaces Material

Sculptures, Gear – Cyan Design, Perigold Table, Dining - New Trestle Table,

Wall Paint - Sherwin-Williams, Pure White Wall Treatment – Nickel Gap, North Bay Construction, Petoskey

Armchairs - Houston Swivel Chair, Wesley Hall, RJ Thomas Ltd., Michigan Design

Ltd., Michigan Design Center, Troy Rug – Patchwork Vintage, Creative Touch Sofas - Emory Sofa, Hickory Chair, Michigan Design Center, Troy Table, Coffee - Modern History Vase – Asian Loft Wall Treatment - Thibaut, Fog, Rozmallin, Michigan Design Center, Troy

SITTING ROOM

Armchair – Deb Chair, Stafford Furniture Fireplace – Stone, Emmet Brick & Block, Petoskey; Mantle, Reclaimed Wood, Surfaces Material Gallery, Petoskey; Masonry, Emmet Brick & Block, Petoskey Flooring – White Oak, Surfaces Material Gallery, Petoskey

Lamps, Floor – Elena Floor Lamps, Gabby Ottoman – Custom, Jones-Keena & Co. Upholstery Studio, Birmingham; Fabric, Kravet, Kravet/Lee Jofa/Brunschwig & Fils, Michigan Design Center, Troy, Zimmer & Rohde

Rug – Greta Rug, Surya Sectional – Riley Sectional, Universal Furniture

Table, Occasional - Lucinda Table, Gabby Wall Paint - Sherwin-Williams, Pure White Wall Treatment - Nickel Gap, North Bay Construction Petoskev

Window Shades - Kravet and Lee Jofa, Kravet/Lee Jofa/Brunschwig & Fils, Michigan Design Center, Troy

ADDITIONAL PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS

Builder - North Bay Construction, Petoskey Drapery Fabrication – Designs Designs, Commerce Twp.