

DETROIT DESIGN

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Home Design
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Walloon Lake Transformation

A northern Michigan cottage undergoes a warm and inviting overhaul

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NORTH BAY
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PETOSKEY

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JONES-KEENA & CO.,
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TEXT:
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The 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 above the lake, the original structure's views were remarkable. Maximizing those views and reorganizing the interior spaces to take better advantage of the lot's scenic setting were priorities for the redo that began in 2017. "Really comfortable and family friendly" were touchpoints for the homeowners.

The team included the homeowners, Withers, who had worked with them on other design projects; and Steve Steffes, of Petoskey's North Bay Construction. "We took it down to the studs," Withers says. "We redid the façade, changing it into a charming farmhouse."

Since the homeowners were starting over with the property, the team seized the opportunity to improve on



GET COMFORTABLE
Both pages, clockwise from upper left: The living room has great views of Walloon Lake. One of several gathering spots in the home. The master bath, dressing room, and bedroom feature an eclectic and artful mix of appointments. More unique art and lighting await in the traditional-meets-rustic dining room.



the floor plan and the 3,800-square-foot home's interior flow. "We definitely reorganized the space," the designer says, 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 that changed the feeling of the house."

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. "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."

Other priorities included creating a warm and welcoming getaway that accommodates the homeowners as well as their three sons and dogs. The four-bedroom, five-bath project took approximately a year to complete. "I feel like we really made good choices," Withers says. "This is one of those projects where everything aligned."

As for the homeowner, 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." ♦

