

Adirondack Camp



A rustic but comfortable cabin pays homage to an architectural tradition

The Adirondacks in upstate New York have a rich architectural history of cabins, lodges, and other retreat buildings. Architect Nils Luderowski specializes in updating retreats with modern-day conveniences. From his first-hand knowledge of the Great Camps and other lesser-known retreats, he translates the scale, details, and materials of their style.

The objective for this project was to create a cozy camp for two, but one that possessed some of the defining characteristics of the Adirondack-camp style. Luderowski's grasp of the shingle style, his choice of local stone and wood, and his use of rich, deep color fit the dreams his clients had for their cabin.

The couple had been visiting the property they intended to build on for 15 years and were well aware of the site's specific limitations and

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Morning bliss. Coffee on the porch with a lake view is a great way to start the morning. The wall is detailed to express mass, while the arches soften the rectilinear lines. The thickness of the corner walls provides the opportunity for built-in shelves.

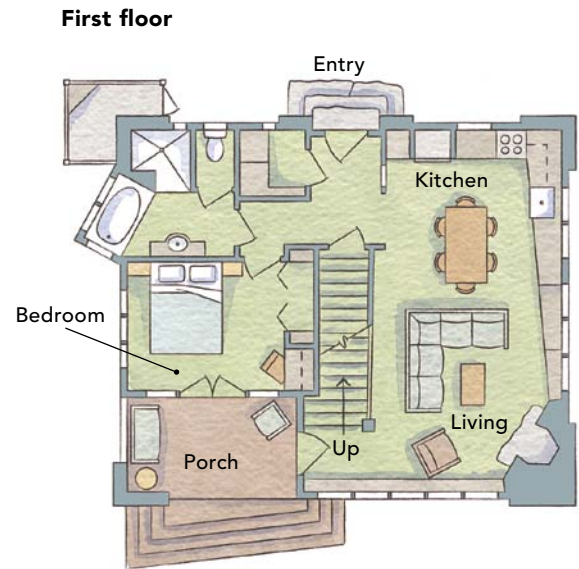




Two views. Windows on both sides of the corner fireplace offer the option of a forest or lake view.



Cabin-style kitchen. Food prep becomes easy in this light-filled and efficiently laid-out kitchen. A trellis cloud disguises the lighting at the ceiling.



ADIRONDACK ARCHITECTURE

No single area in America is as well known for its rustic vernacular architecture as the Adirondacks. In the bucolic setting of mountains, forests, and pristine lakes, the wealthy created a plethora of enclaves of retreat buildings meant predominantly for summer and fall use that came to be known as the Great Camps. Developed in the late 1800s, Adirondack architecture has been widely copied across North America in the form of cabins, cottages, and lodges ever since.

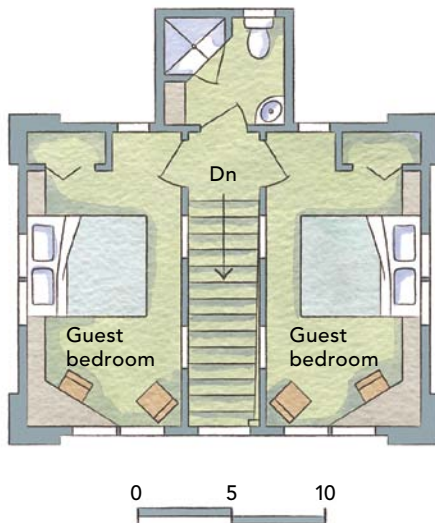
Adirondack-style buildings are rarely ostentatious but rather employ a wilderness ethic and conservative aesthetic. "Camps are old clothes, fishing poles, wooden boats, creaky buildings, moss on the roof, and critters under the porch," cites Paul Malo in his foreword to the book *Adirondack*

Camps: Homes Away From Home, 1850-1950 by Craig A. Gilborn. Local materials—logs, branches, birch bark, and stone—were used in the construction of many of the original buildings. Others utilized milled lumber and shingles to add a modicum of refinement.

Camp structures were embellished by local craftsmen with forged metal brackets, latches, and light fixtures (bottom photo, p. 104). Lampshades were produced from deer hides, and chandeliers from antlers. Prize catches and game trophies, along with well-worn oars and snow shoes, adorned the walls. "There are varying degrees of rusticity possible," notes Ann Stillman O'Leary in her book *Adirondack Style*. "One could use silk velvet ocelot print or a cotton buffalo plaid to upholster the same piece."

Bright idea. Storage is conveniently captured under the stair. The interior is a harmonious blend of fir and colorfully painted wood. The structural column that supports the center of the cabin presents an additional opportunity to add color.

Second floor



The living space was positioned to capture the trickle of summer light, which turned into a flood of sunshine during the warmth-starved winter.



Bathed in nature. Taking a bath is almost an alfresco experience, with the tub wrapped in windows opening to the surrounding forest.

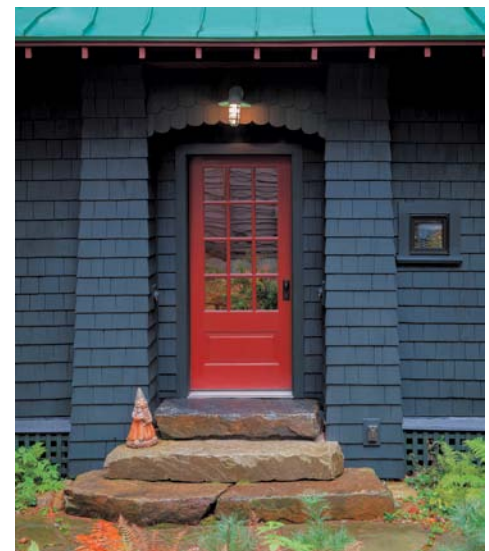
'Round back. Lakeside cabins have back doors that are usually convenient for entering from the driveway or garage. This one is charmed by details that echo the lake facade.

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its significant opportunities. Code required them to build within the footprint of a seasonal structure that was being replaced. This size limit would help contain their budget.

Luderowski developed a plan with the main living space and primary bedroom on the main level, and with all the rooms facing the water. The living space was positioned facing south to capture the trickle of tree-filtered summer light, which turned into a flood of sunshine during the warmth-starved winter months.

To get the most out of a small plan, Luderowski designed a center-hall entry and stair. The open stairway makes the living room seem bigger than it is. The second floor steps in a few feet from the main floor below. High interior windows into the stairwell borrow light from the bedrooms, which then cascades down into the darker interior of the cabin. The cabin has the solid corners and centered windows characteristic of shingle-style Adirondack buildings. The wood shingles are stained a darker color to allow the cabin to blend into the forest.





Waking up in the glassed-in space makes you feel as if you are outside in the forest.

Naturally situated. A cluster of four cabins is woven into the forest setting.

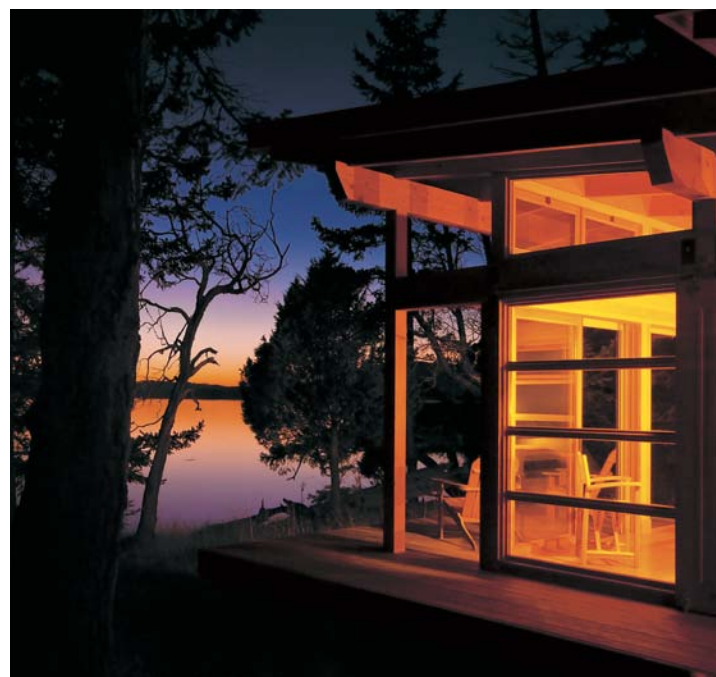


Simple Sheds

A cluster of sleeping shelters awakens a family's appreciation of the great outdoors

The Gulf Islands, west of Vancouver, have been referred to as the Caribbean of the Northwest, and they provide a sunny respite from an otherwise cloudy region of Canada. A necklace of islands, they are surrounded by sheltered waters, strong tides, and dramatic coastlines. Lush with vegetation, the islands support considerable bird life. It's a magical retreat from the demands of urban living.

A family from Portland, Ore., asked architects Andrew Latreille and Mark Osburn of Osburn/Clarke Productions to design four separate sleeping cabins, each with two bedrooms, a bathroom, and an outdoor deck with views to the Strait of Georgia. The firm had already designed and built communal buildings that were part of this family's vacation compound. The cabins are set along the shore but purposefully not in formation; rather, there is a higgledy-piggledy



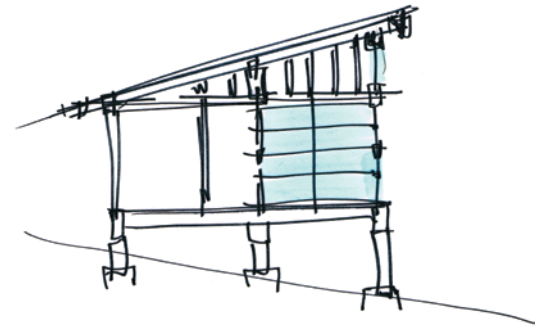


Year-round protection. Metal roll-down shutters (you can see the bottom of the shutters just above the sliding glass doors) and wooden sliding barn doors can close up this structure to bad weather or secure it during the off-season.

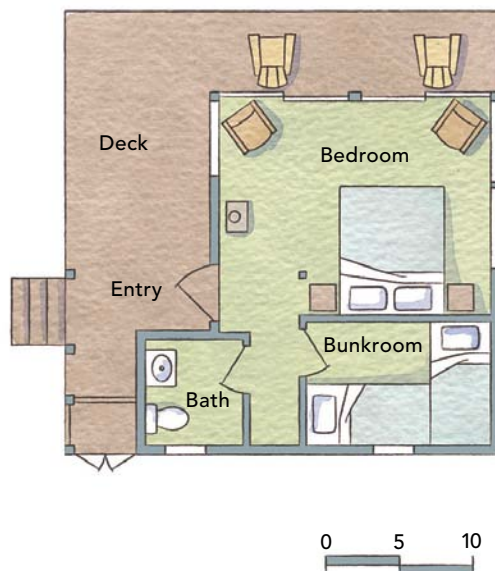


PEN STROKES

Elegant, simple designs are often the result of a minimal sketch that presents an idea worthy of development. The challenge in development is to continue to edit the design while retaining its simplicity. Mark Osburn's initial elevation sketch for the Gulf Island cabins possessed all that was needed to direct this design into building.



A purposely simple palette. The building materials—elegantly limited to black metal, fir, and glass—open the interior space up to and frame the surrounding landscape.



casualness employed (site plan, facing page). They are simple shed forms that open to the light, forest, and water through high glass walls that wrap around each side. Mark Osburn refers to them as “little sweetheart buildings; they speak for themselves.” The interiors are clad in Douglas fir, the exteriors in western red cedar. Both are native to the area.

The cabins are used only in the summer months; a woodstove is all the heating needed to take the chill off a cool evening. Photovoltaic panels located on the roofs store enough energy to supply the modest electrical demands. The buildings can be shut down for the winter, with large sliding shutters and roll-downs over the windows and doors.

Family and friends love these sleeping sheds, where waking up in the glassed-in space makes you feel as if you are outside in the forest. Whether relaxing on the deck with a good book or stargazing at midnight, these special cabins make for a memorable getaway.



Shore thing. This charming beach cottage nestled in the trees provides storage for water toys below, a living space on the main floor, and loft sleeping above.

Access to Water

A lakeside cottage preserves history and peace of mind



The resort community of Elkins, N.H., has been the vacation destination of a Boston couple for two decades. Sheri and Gerry enjoy the town's relaxed way of life: water activities in the summer, hiking in the autumn, and skiing in the winter. In addition, there is the local farmer's market, a theater, restaurants, and a spirited ambience created by the proximity of several colleges. All in all, it is a delightful escape just 90 miles from their primary residence.

Although their first house in Elkins was on a pond, they longed for a lakeside experience. When a small cottage with a beach became available just a quarter mile away, they snatched it up.

The property had been one of a group of 11 seasonal rental cottages known as the Rocky Point Cottages. When the owner died, the family subdivided the property. The owner had been an Elkins legend of sorts; she had been postmistress for a time and was known for giving

Perfectly situated. The owners wanted easy access to Pleasant Lake. They got it when they scored a beachfront cabin with a balcony view of the lake. Now the opportunities for kayaking, hosting clambakes, and going for a swim are just outside their front door.



Restful rusticity. The living room is a great place to relax after a strenuous kayak workout and a refreshing swim. The refurbished space blends a newly sanded pine floor, painted walls, and the original rustic wood ceiling.



Simple storage. Modest storage and a place to sit just inside the entry are welcome amenities in any cabin.

every new resident of the village a copy of *Reflections in the Millpond* by Larry Wood, who, in the pages of this book celebrates the phrase “Home is where the heart is.” With such history, Sheri and Gerry decided to restore and remodel the cottage, while simultaneously planning for a future larger home for themselves on the site.

They hired architect Jeremy Bonin of nearby New London, N.H., to make sure the property was adequate for their future plans and also to assist in the cottage renovation. Sheri notes, “We asked him to make the space as open as possible to the views while reusing as much of the existing structure as possible. Being on the water, we had to pull a considerable number of permits, and Bonin helped a great deal in navigating the process.”

Bonin’s scheme for the cottage was to remove many of the interior partition walls and ceilings, creating a cathedral ceiling under the roof





Flop on top. The unfinished loft above the living room provides ample (albeit spartan) space for overnight guests, with a view over the living room below.

PRESERVING A SENSE OF PLACE

The village of Elkins, N.H., has a rich historical background. It was originally a mill town called Scytheville and later a summer camp retreat. The Rocky Point Cottages were an integral part of this legacy.

During the remodeling and restoration of Sheri and Gerry's cottage, great care was taken not to disturb the ecosystem and pristine quality of Pleasant Lake and its shoreline. Minimal change to the exterior of the cottage preserves its profile in the landscape, and renovation of its interior gives the cottage a new chapter in New Hampshire history.

“I love the outdoor shower, the expanded view, the wildlife out our front door.”



Cleanup out back. An outdoor shower helps to keep sand out of the house.

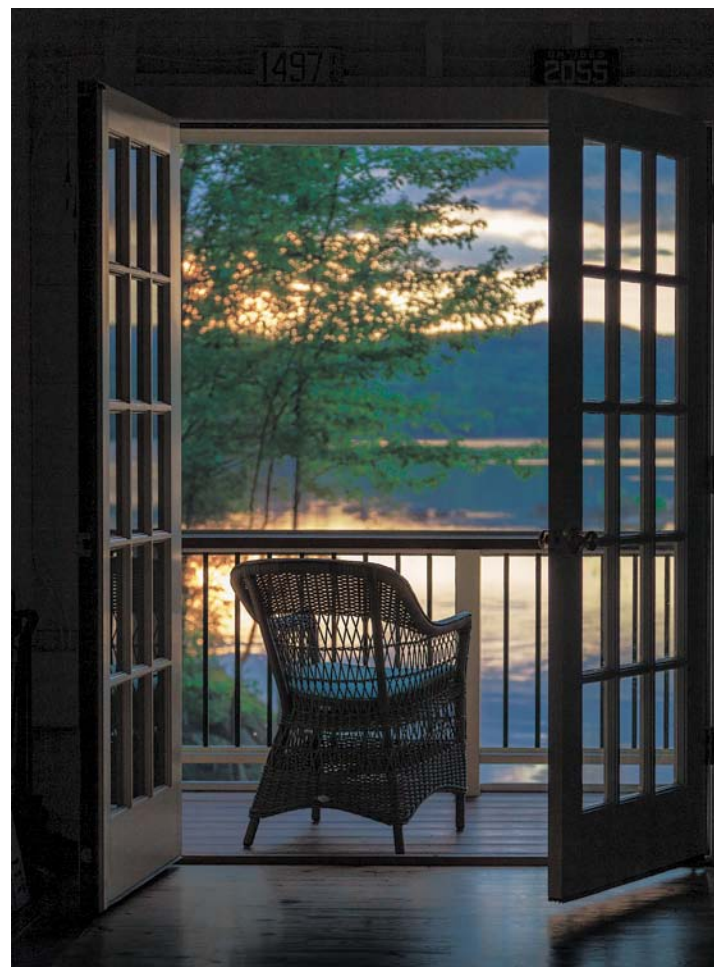


On the road to relaxation. Tranquility takes over at the cabin, removed as it is from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

for a more open feel. He reused and repositioned windows and doors for better views and ventilation. He salvaged and refinished framing lumber, tongue-and-groove paneling, and wood flooring. New materials were selected for their sustainability; even the woodstove is recycled.

Bonin's efforts won his firm two Excellence in Design Awards in 2011 from the American Institute of Architecture, New Hampshire: a Merit Award and the People's Choice Award. The jury noted that the project was an "understated, simple, cost-effective renovation making excellent use of space. It speaks to the desire for simplicity in all of us."

Says Sheri, "Our life at the lake is quiet and enjoyable. We hang out at the beach, and take the kayaks, canoe, or wooden motorboat out." Her girls enjoy camping on the beach, and Sheri likes "staying down at the cottage for dinner and, at sunset, taking an evening cruise. The cottage gives us so many more reasons to head up to the lake for the weekend. I love the outdoor shower, the expanded view, the wildlife out our front door, and even a warm woodstove in the middle of winter after skating in the cove."





Adding Charm

Picturesque on the outside, this quaint cabin had an interior that needed some serious restoration work



Hello, dear. The cabin's restored interior now adds to its backwoods charm.

Sometimes the only addition an older cabin needs is a little bit of charm. That is just the project David and Kay Root commenced when they purchased a historic log cabin a few miles from their primary residence. Kay had loved the structure since childhood, and in 1995, she noticed a for-sale sign in the yard. To her dismay, the interior was not what she had imagined it to be. Undaunted, she was convinced that with a vision, energy, and the help of several subcontractors, her dream cabin was achievable.

The date of the cabin's construction and its original purpose remain open to local speculation. Its location on the lot, low and off to the side, suggests it might have been a secondary building, the main house having been demolished or never even built. Some maintain

Dream realized. Owner Kay Root has loved this historic log cabin since her youth and was lucky enough to be able to purchase the property as an adult.



Worth saving. The original claw-foot tub was restored and is a favorite of guests.

that it was the cabin of a chauffeur, at the beck and call of nearby wealthy summer residents. But to Kay, the facts were less important than returning the interior of the cabin to a time reflecting a slower pace of life.

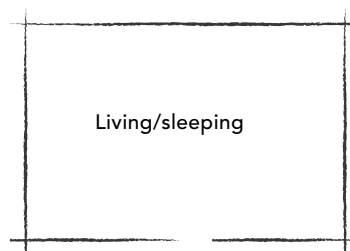
With that goal, the cleanup crew commenced stripping away the tacky carpet and worn sheet vinyl. The flooring, which had rotted, was replaced with knotty pine to replicate the original. A 1970s kitchen peninsula was scaled back to make room for a modest dining table. The kitchen cabinets were refreshed with a new coat of paint, and a pot rack was added for cooking convenience.

The mechanical systems also desperately needed upgrading. The Roots sought to extend the seasonal use of the house by adding insulation and energy-efficient windows. A new furnace and central air-conditioning increased comfort. Electrical wiring was upgraded, and decorative lights were added in the living and dining areas. The

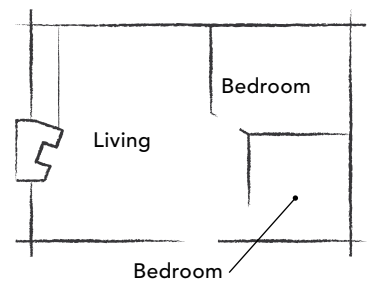
ONE CABIN'S EVOLUTION

Cabin plans evolve over time as new owners adapt structures to fit their own lifestyles and needs. The Roots believe the oldest section of their getaway is an 18-ft. by 28-ft. portion that was originally one large open space. A potbellied stove is thought to have sat in the middle of this room. As the cabin was subdivided into bedrooms and a kitchen, a fireplace with heating baffles was added. It sits askew to take advantage of the flue of an earlier wood-burning kitchen stove and to aim the flames into the living room. An outhouse was replaced with a bathroom, and a later addition expanded the kitchen around the plumbing stack.

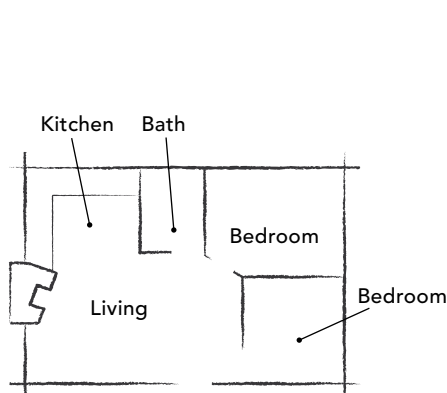
First build



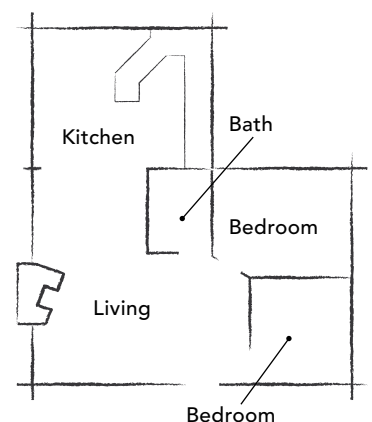
Alteration 1

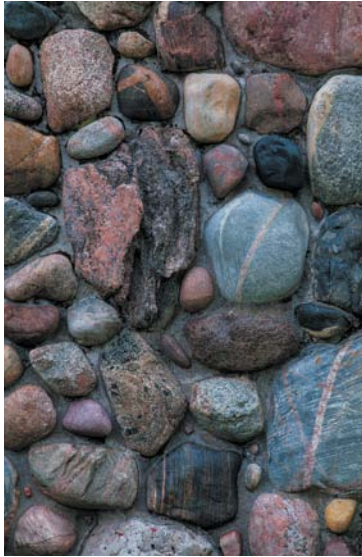


Alteration 2



Addition





Rock collecting. Kay gathered rocks from near and far to be included in the restoration of the chimney.

Lightening up. Skylights were added to let light into what had been a dark living space.



Some maintain that it was the cabin of a chauffeur, at the beck and call of nearby wealthy summer residents.



Duly noted. Writing on the wall is encouraged here and has led to a one-of-a-kind built-in guest book.

Workaround. The kitchen counters float out into the room so that the existing windows in the log wall need not be disturbed.





Corner weave. Alternating logs of smaller and larger diameter are critical to the stability of the walls of a log house. This effect is best seen at the corners. Here the logs are shown from the interior (above), as well as the outside (below), where the dark log color comes from the use of creosote as an early wood preservative.



A fresh facade. New chinking between the logs presents contrasting stripes as a decorative note on the wall of the back porch.

plumbing was improved, and a small sink was installed in the tiny bathroom. The original claw-foot bathtub was a gem worth retaining and was completely in keeping with Kay's dream of lazy days at the cabin.

The outside of the cabin saw little change other than the addition of new stone bases to the porch columns, new skylights, and some landscaping. The cedar logs were restained to freshen up the getaway.

The cabin is now an oasis where Kay can drop in for a cup of coffee and a quiet place to read a book. It's also a place for longer stays for friends and family, whether they're spending a few weeks on vacation in Michigan's playground, or just passing through for a weekend wedding. Now when Kay drives by the cabin, she knows her dream is realized inside and out.

