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# RUGGED COMFORT

WHILE BLENDING SEAMLESSLY INTO ITS SURROUNDINGS, THIS MICHIGAN LAKE HOME WEAVES IN SMART SOLUTIONS FOR CAREFREE LIVING.

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THIS PHOTO Seating on Andy and Alicia Hopping's screen porch centers around the fireplace. The couple lights a fire most nights, even in the summer. OPPOSITE The family's most-used entrance links the mudroom to a hallway that leads to the kitchen.





**THIS PHOTO** The double stairs meet on a mezzanine that overlooks the living area. Turned hickory balusters alternate with metal posts for transparency. **OPPOSITE** Architect Greg Presley clad the exterior of the home in rugged, blocky stone trucked from Colorado and cedar board-and-batten and shingle siding. A copper shed roof shields the front porch.



A vacation home may get a reprieve from daily wear and tear, but interior designer Beth Webb knows better than to ease up on livability when it comes to fabrics and furnishings. “Everything needs to be bombproof,” the Atlanta designer says. “No one wants to go to a second home and worry about red wine spills, kids, dirt, and pets.”

Webb made sure that a worry-free attitude permeates Andy and Alicia Hopping’s getaway home on Walloon Lake in northern Michigan. Neutral colors and fabrics with little pattern keep the mood calm. Many seating pieces are upholstered in indoor-outdoor, solution-dyed fabrics, which are stain resistant and easy care. On visits to Atlanta design centers with Webb, the Hoppings tested every chair and sofa before deciding to buy. “Comfort is key,” Webb says.

The home’s architecture also passes the livability and durability tests—with a look akin to a Western-style mountain house. “We didn’t want a typical lake cottage,” Alicia says. “We wanted to use natural materials so the house would blend into the landscape.” A far-flung Georgia-Michigan team that included architects Greg Presley (exterior) and Peter Block (interior) and builder Jim Meathe created a stone-and-timber three-story house that snuggles into the wooded lot. Inside, rooms are detailed with paneled walls, planked and beamed ceilings, and arched trusses—all with a lime-wash treatment that prevents the home from looking clubby and instead gives it a dreamy air.

That calming ambience helps visitors tune out their busy lives while tuning into the lake surroundings. “We stretch out our days,” Andy says. “We eat late and watch sunsets from the lake porch. It’s spectacular.” As Webb jokes about Walloon Lake’s ideal slice of Americana: “It’s like Norman Rockwell on steroids.”



Atlanta architect Peter Block designed the kitchen with few upper cabinets to maximize space for windows. "It's all about lake breezes and views," he says. Angled soffits top corner cabinets—one of which hides the built-in refrigerator.

**THIS PHOTO**  
Natural light and wide-plank oak floors flow throughout the dining room, living area, and kitchen. "I wanted the house to feel soft and quite ethereal," interior designer Beth Webb says. "For me, it starts with the finishes."



"I LOVE HOW THE LIME-WASHED WOOD THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE FEELS FRESH AND WARM AT THE SAME TIME."

—BETH WEBB, INTERIOR DESIGNER



**ABOVE** Arched cedar trusses span the vaulted ceiling, letting sunlight pour in, while sliding doors serve as transparent walls between the living area and porch. "When the sliders are open, the rooms become one big space," Webb says. A built-in bar with upper glass-front cabinets separates the dining room. **MIDDLE, FAR LEFT** Lime-washed paneling details the tub niche in the master bath. "The lime wash gives the home a richness and patina," Webb says. "In the summer it feels light and airy, and in the winter the house feels warm and cozy." **MIDDLE, NEAR LEFT** The rugged stone fireplace draws the home's exterior materials indoors. **BOTTOM LEFT** The Hoppings chose the lot for its 180-degree-plus views of Walloon Lake. Large and small windows, including a bank of them in the office, abound.

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