



Planned to Perfection

A Wisconsin couple takes the time to make their home a standout

Before Michael and Kathy Kincaid broke ground for their new home, they took their time looking around for ideas and inspiration. They spent their weekends touring model homes and made it a point to visit parades of homes in nearby towns. On one of these tours, the couple spotted a home that they were particularly attracted to.

They recall that the house, which was built by Town & Country Cedar Homes of Petoskey, Michigan, stood out from all the other homes in the development because it was covered with white cedar. They were

The 4,414-square-foot home enjoys its privacy on its heavily wooded lot. The home features a variety of rooflines and bumpouts, but its facade remains as simple as it is elegant. Adding to the beauty of the front entranceway is a king-post truss that features curved kneebraces with slightly arched struts.

attracted to the beauty of the cedar, which tends to have a naturally light appearance. When they walked through the front door and into the great room, they were even more delighted to find wooden posts and beams gracing the walls and huge trusses hanging from the room's vaulted ceiling.

It was just the type of home that they had always dreamed of, featuring an unadorned elegance and lots of built-in character. "We liked the real strong clean lines of the building," Michael says. "Also, we wanted a lot of wood, but we didn't want a log-home look on the outside."

Story by Colleen Morrissey • Photos by Roger Wade • Styling by Debra Grahl

The deck is a great place to enjoy the surrounding woods. Although the exterior is clad in cedar, the wood's naturally light appearance conveys a warm, relaxed look. Two types of siding material cover the walls: tongue-and-groove, rough-sawn white cedar boards on the bottom half, and white cedar shingles on the upper part of the walls.





The rear of the home features a walkout basement that leads onto a patio with a Jacuzzi tub at one end. The finished basement includes a game room, two bedrooms with full baths, an exercise room and extra storage space.

They also knew it would be the perfect type of house to build on their heavily wooded 10-acre lot. Kathy had found this particular property while exploring a road that had opened several months before. "I was just driving down the road and saw a sign that said, 'Wooded Lots Available,'" she recalls. "I went walking back in there and said to myself, 'Look at that.'"

About seven lots were for sale along this road, which is located just a mile from town. Even though about half of the property is located on wetlands, Michael says, "we decided it would be a beautiful place to build a beautiful home."

When the couple was finally ready to build many months later, they went to Town & Country's headquarters to do more research and discuss specific plans. "We looked at a couple of the company's models and several homes they had built up there," Michael says, noting that even before the trip they had made up their minds that Town & Country would build their dream home.

When the couple gave the company the signal that they were ready to make a commitment, they were introduced to Tim Casey. Tim is the owner of Northern Visions and a dealer for Town & Country's Wisconsin regional office (and soon to be director of the company's Mountain State Regional Office in Silverthorne, Colorado). Tim's responsibility was getting the couple's preliminary floor plan ready for Town & Country's design department, ordering the materials package from the company and suggesting



The foyer combines a Craftsman-style front door with other hand-crafted features, such as the staircase and railing that were created by a local woodworker. Tile flooring makes this busy intersection—between the entry and the home's three floors—easy to keep clean.



builders that the couple could contact to construct their home.

The couple decided to go with a nearly complete package from Town & Country. Such a package contains all materials required to build the home, with the exception of the foundation, electrical and appli-

The trusses, while part of the joinery system, actually have metal connectors concealed within the timbers.

ances. "Everything that is needed to set a home on a foundation and dry it in," Tim explains. "They were close to a full package."

The couple already had a builder in mind for their project. "They subcontracted a builder," Tim says, "who had built some other homes that they had seen." Eventually, Michael and Kathy also hired a local carpenter to do all the finish woodworking in the home, including the staircase.

While all of this activity was going on, Michael and Kathy were diligently working out their home's design. They got out the notes that they had gathered from touring open houses and selected which features, finishes and floor plan ideas they wanted to incorporate into the design.

When they came up with a design they liked, Tim submitted it to Town & Country's in-house design team to work out the details and draw up plans. "We knew what

In the great room, two king-post trusses with arched intermediaries add drama to the ceiling. All of the framing in the home, including the trusses, are structural. While the posts and beams of the framed sections use a joinery system to connect to one another, it uses metal connectors concealed within the timbers, instead of wooden pegs, to fasten them together.







we wanted for rooms and how to put it together,” Michael says. “The plan is what we came up with after looking at a lot of different homes.”

Although the design process was relatively straightforward, it took a long time before everything was in place for construction to begin. “From initial design, it was probably about three years,” Michael says. “We got the lot, worked on the layout of the

house and then we got started. Another 13 months passed before it was finished.”

When the home was complete, it turned out to be everything Michael and Kathy could have hoped for—especially the great room with its two king-post trusses with arched struts. The trusses, while part of a joinery system, actually have metal connectors concealed within the timbers.



Above: A wooden post with chamfered edges defines the dining room. Open to the kitchen, it is also outfitted with reproduction Stickley furnishings. When the home was built, the owners included several custom pieces in its design, such as the built-in china and linen cabinet facing the dining room table.

Below: One of the most relaxing places in the home is the small breakfast nook adjacent to the kitchen. The homeowners use it to catch up on the news with a coffee in hand before the day begins. Even though tile tops the floors in this section of the home, it is kept warm with a radiant in-floor heating system.



Above: Since the home was built with an open concept in mind, almost every room sports the Arts and Crafts look. In the kitchen, it manifests itself in the custom cherry cupboards made by a local cabinetmaker. An L-shaped bar, which acts as a boundary between the kitchen and the facing room, features low-maintenance granite countertops and a breakfast bar on one side of its length.



The great room also contains post and beams, which provide structural support for the walls in this portion of the home. To give the timbers character, the couple opted to have them finished with a dark stain. As a backdrop to the trusses and frame, tongue-and-groove pine boards cover the ceiling.

While framing is found primarily in the main rooms of the home, there are trim complements in almost every room of the home. "There is a mixture of different woods in the house," Kathy says. "In the dining room, for instance, the built-in cabinet is

A bridge connecting the second-story rooms forms a loft-like hallway open to the space below. A line of transom windows brightens the space—a portion of which overlooks the great room and, farther down toward the door, the kitchen.

cherry. In the entry, the staircase is maple, and the front door is mahogany. And there is pine in the ceiling."

To bring the whole look together, Kathy worked with Dorothy McMillan of the interior design firm Porter of Racine. "Because this is a post-and-beam home," Kathy says, "what we picked out has a lot to do with the Stickleby look." Reproduction Stickleby furnishings complement the Craftsman-style finishes that can be found throughout the home, from the style of windows to the kitchen cabinetry and front door to light fixtures hung inside and out.

Dorothy also brought into the mix earthy-looking colors, such as green, wine red, rust and gold. After seeing how private their lot was, the duo decided to forgo window treatments. "We wanted to make it so that when you looked out of the house, all you'd see are trees," Kathy says.

The couple spent more time than most people planning their home because they were determined to get it exactly the way they wanted. The result is a home that is everything they envisioned. It's no wonder that two years after moving in, everything about the home still feels special to them. They enjoy the whole house, according to Michael, who points out, "Our favorite room is whatever room we're in at the time." **THI**

Right: The second-floor loft hallway enjoys a bird's-eye view of the great room's two king-post trusses decorated with curved struts. Rafters and tongue-and-groove pine boards top the ceiling in the public spaces.



Because the home is located on 10 wooded acres with lots of built-in privacy, the owners decided not to use any window treatments in the home, except in the master bedroom.