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About The Cover
   A summer cottage with a design inspired by its location
   Architect: AAI, Inc  Photography by: Dietrich Floeter Photography

FALL 1994  V  PLACE
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FORUM

Searching for Mr. Goodhouse

We've all had that feeling. It usually comes right before we have guests over to the house, and it usually lingers after everyone has gone. Occasionally it sneaks up on us late at night or when we're quietly reading. And we are afraid that the cure is worse than the disease.

It seems that all of us at one time or another have suffered from that desire to remodel or renovate, to move or to build, to fix-up or add-on. It's that feeling in the pit of your stomach (or the bottom of your wallet) that says - "I want a cool house."

Searching through magazines (like this one) and home tours help ease the pain. Oh, we paint, we wallpaper, we buy everything from furniture to lamps, but we never let our hair down and do it all the way.

PLACE found nine people who did it beautifully. Working closely with their architects, these people realized a dream, and in the process did something special. These homes are big and small, wild and conservative, affordable and...well, up there. These homes are from every corner of the state and represent a significant cross section of design ideals. The one constant in these designs is sensitivity—to site, to budget, to detail, to owners' requirements. We applaud this work.

And to those of you who may be getting serious about taking the cure, we have one small bit of advice. When you decide to do it, do it with an architect, the results are amazing.

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13. 1. A horizontal timber, at the bottom of the frame of a wood structure, which rests on the foundation. 2. The horizontal bottom member of a window frame or other frame.

14. A space before the door of an ancient Roman house, forming a court which was surrounded on three sides by the house and was open on the fourth to the street.

17. The cold section of a Roman bath, sometimes including a swimming pool (piscina).

19. In an ancient Greek house, an entrance vestibule.

21. A roof having a double slope on all four sides, the lower slope being much steeper.

22. One of an unbroken line of houses sharing one or more sidewalks with its neighbors.

23. 1. A carriage porch. 2. A doorway large enough to let a vehicle pass from street to parking area.

24. 1. One of a number of horizontal timbers that are laid on a slab or on the ground and to which the flooring is nailed. 2. Any long horizontal beam, at or near the ground, which distributes the load from posts or framing.
25. A stair unit which consists of one tread and one riser.
28. A dormer window whose eave line is parallel to the eave line of the main roof instead of being gabled; provides more attic space than a gabled dormer.
30. One of a series of inclined members to which a roof covering is fixed.
31. A tall and more or less ornamental post at the head or foot of a stair, supporting the handrail.
32. 1. An open grating or latticework, of either metal or wood. 2. An arbor or framework for the support of vines.
35. The vertical triangular portion of the end of a building having a double-sloping roof, from the level of the cornice or eaves to the ridge of the roof.
36. In the U.S.A., the Classic Revival style, from ca. 1790 to 1830.
37. The covering of a roof, or the like, usually made of straw, reed or similar materials fastened together to shed water and sometimes to provide thermal insulation.
38. The arrangement and design of windows in a building.
40. A decorative or protective facing applied to the lower portion of an interior partition or wall, such as wood paneling or other facing material.
41. A wood-framed house, common to colonial New England, which has a short roof pitch in front and a long roof pitch, sweeping close to the ground, in back.

8. 1. In the Roman and Renaissance periods, a country seat with its dwelling, outbuildings, and gardens, often quite elaborate. 2. In modern times, a detached suburban or country house of some pretension.
10. A member which projects and supports that part of a roof construction beyond the face of a gable.
15. A shallow channel of metal or wood set immediately below and along the eaves of a building to catch and carry off rainwater from the roof.
16. The eclectic form of country-house design, fashionable in England and the U.S in the 1840s and 1850s, characterized by low-pitched, heavily bracketed roofs, asymmetrical informal plan, square towers, and often round-arched windows.
18. A knob, bar or ring of metal, attached to the outside of an exterior door to enable a person to announce his presence; usually held by a hinge so that it can be lifted and allowed to strike a metal plate.
20. In ancient architecture, a terrace on the top of a house built with a flat roof, or over a porch, surrounded by a parapet wall but open to the sky.

25. A horizontal timber which serves as a base for the studs in a stud partition.
26. 1. An embankment with level top, often paved, planted, and adorned for leisure use. 2. A flat roof or a raised space or platform adjoining a building, paved or planted, esp. one used for leisure enjoyment.
27. The fittings and decorative elements of a mantel, including the cornice and shelf carried above the fireplace.
29. 1. The horizontal line at the junction of the upper edges of two sloping roof surfaces. 2. The internal angle or nook of a vault.
33. One of a number of short vertical members, often circular in section, used to support a stair handrail or a coping.
34. A strip fastened to the floor beneath a door, usually required to cover the joint where two types of floor material meet; may provide weather protection at exterior doors.
39. Any framework of a window; may be movable or fixed; may slide in a vertical plane (as in a double-hung window) or may be pivoted (as in a casement window).

Answers can be found on page 23.

Advertiser News

As part of its service to the construction industry, the Michigan Concrete Association, headquartered in Lansing, Michigan, serves as a resource for technical information. The Association maintains a reference library and network to assist designers in getting the most out of their projects using the most durable, versatile, and economical building material known—concrete. For assistance on design, material application, trouble shooting, or any concern related to the use of concrete, call the MCA at 1-800-678-9622.

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Your client is a young single person who has four very difficult project requirements. They are:

- Create a home that can accommodate growth and evolution of client's lifestyle from single, to married, to family with children. Client intends to reside in home for a considerable length of time.
- Interior space should be light and airy but more traditional in the sense that spaces have defined limits, not the open "great room" concept that is prevalent today.
- Exterior should have a "traditional rural" sense but with a contemporary interpretation. This is to reflect rural setting of structure and owner's desire.
- Detail should be a part of the design concept. This detail should be evident throughout the interior and exterior of the structure and help unify and enhance the design.

Your solution must be very creative in its approach, to address the four requirements given by the client.

- A plan with traditional/formal organization was developed. The plan utilizes a central entry, two story foyer and an open stairway to the second floor. The main floor living space was organized off the foyer with circular, circulation to the left or right from the foyer, either through the formal living room or the den into the kitchen and then back to the foyer.
- Interior detailing reflects traditional character with the use of solid core paneled wood doors, paneled windows, "built-up" door casing and base from standard shapes and a stepped plaster ceiling in the living room.
- The exterior utilizes standard materials, organized and assembled to give textural variety and to recall traditional methods. The first floor siding is board and batten, the second floor dormers have three-inch exposure beveled siding. Soffits are T.&G. 1x. All the wood is stained clear redwood. The roof is a standing seam metal roof. Porch
The formal living space.

columns, entry doors, and dormer windows recall “rural Gothic” images.

- The front entry porch faces the road and adjacent neighbors across a large landscaped lawn. The porch is an icon of “rural traditional” residential structures and also increases the mass which makes it appear larger than it actually is.

This home works beautifully as a solution to client requirements and also as architecture. It is an inspired use of historical elements in a modern approach to rural living. ▼
Upstairs, looking into the master bedroom.

Project: Private Residence, Grand Haven, Michigan
Architect: Oppenhuizen Architects
Photographer: Bill Lindhout
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Large sloping skylight aligns itself over the living and sitting rooms, and stair.

GLASS ROOF

With its dramatic sloping roof and extensive skylights, this large (6,000 square foot) home seems to be a part of the landscape. The site slopes toward Island Lake and most rooms face the water or have views of it. Mature trees surround the house and help reduce the scale of this large structure. The wood cedar siding gives the home a greater sense of belonging to the wooded site.

Inside, a warm, cave-like atmosphere is enhanced by use of wood and is punctuated by shafts of daylight from the skylights above. With five bedrooms, study, library, sitting room and conversation area beyond the living and dining rooms, space is abundant and designed to provide a natural and comfortable environment.

Project: Costello House, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
Architect: Dow Howell Gilmore Associates Inc.
Photographer: Glen Calvin Moon
The Fireplace rises through the two-story living area.
LAKEFRONT COTTAGE

This cottage, completed in 1991 for a modest $120,000, represents a lifelong desire of the couple to have a summer place on Lake Michigan. Married 30 years, the couple spent their honeymoon in a beach house on Cape Cod. Since that time, almost all family vacations have been connected to water and beaches. Since the budget was limited, almost all aspects of the project evolved around the notion of making the most out of what budget would allow, and still fulfill the desire to build a reflection of the older cottages with a contemporary flavor. Simplicity and traditional Shaker design were also guiding principles during the design and furnishing of the 1,714-square-foot cottage.

The narrow lot dictated the size and location of programmed areas, but also allowed the cottage form to ramble back from the beach, and together with the breezeway connected garage, provides an appropriate cottage style arrival at the entry.

The building is topped off with an observation cupola or belvedere that provides a variety of options from sipping cool drinks and watching Lake Michigan sunsets, to the solitude of reading a book, or a tree house for future grandchildren. Access to this room is provided by a 3 1/2-foot diameter and 14-foot high circular stair, reminiscent of a lighthouse or ship’s access way.

The interiors are reflective of Shaker values of purity, efficiency and order. All the walls are finished with T & G Pine paneling painted white; the ceilings are drywall with a light stucco finish; the floors are either plank oak, berber style carpet, or white glazed tile; the doors are all pine and all the trim is pine except for the oak base which matches the plank flooring.
The cottage was also designed to comply with all environmental conditions and considerations related to sand dune protection, sanitary systems along lake front property and local codes.
Charlie and Carol Henry wanted to replace their existing cottage with a small, simple structure that maximized views to the lake and took full advantage of the premium lake front site located on the north end of Lake Elwood. The lake frontage is framed by a large peninsula and island that are dense with mature red and white pine.

The structure features large laminated wood roof timbers and ash paneled cathedral ceilings. The form and lines of the house are simple, clean and massive. The cruciform plan features a large stone fireplace and bleached white hardwood floors throughout. The exterior is sided with cedar siding and redwood trim with large full circle windows located in each gable end. The plan of the living area is open and inviting for informal gatherings of friends and family on both the upper and lower level. The lower level is designed to accommodate guests comfortably and separate from the master bedroom area on the upper level.

The site is beautifully landscaped to complement the building structure and rustic natural beauty of the tall pine stands which border the property.
Lakeside elevation floats on the site.

Strong roof forms and balconies create proportion and scale.

Project: Henry Cottage
Location: Lake Elwood near Iron Mountain, Michigan
Architect: Blomquist & Associates, Architects
Landscape Architect: Fred Cheshire
General Contractor: Hugh Shanks
Interior Decorator: Ruth Morell
Photographer: Mark Blomquist, AIA
Located in northern Michigan on the sandy shores of Lake Charlevoix, this contemporary style home fits comfortably into the environment while combining the utmost in style and function. Situated with a magnificent south facing view of jewel-toned, sparkling waters, the architect used every opportunity to take advantage of the site's spectacular location.

On the exterior, taupe tone cedar siding harmonizes with the surrounding landscape, while copper, arched top chimneys and windows accent natural cedar shingles. Summer breezes and interplay of light and shadow is constantly captured by the many windows and skylights. A wrap-around deck and terrace, surrounded by clear glass railings, provides a totally uninterrupted view of the lake. Landscaping interweaves with the natural beauty of the setting.

Inside, the great room is flanked by a sunken bar and divided by a double opening fireplace wall. A summer gazebo, just a hallway away from the great room, has mitered clear cedar ceilings and a tile floor. Numerous skylights and windows make this a favorite room to enjoy a hot summer evening with a cool mint julep. An indoor/outdoor pool and spa complete the necessary amenities for grand scale entertaining.
Extensive outdoor living space complements this large home.

Providing a private get-away, the master suite, including bedroom, super bath, study and office area, completes the living area on the first floor.

On the second floor, two guest bedrooms (each with its own bath) connect via a bridge to the hobby area.

An adjacent guest house provides the crowning touch of elegance to this northern Michigan year-around retreat.

Adjoining guest house matches the main house architecture.

An indoor/outdoor pool and spa complete the necessary amenities for entertaining.

The sunken bar and indoor spa from above.

Indoor/outdoor pool faces the lake.

Project: Private Residence
Architect: Jack Begrow, AIA
Builder: Hans Marten
Landscape Architect: Maureen Parker, “Common Ground”
Photographer: Jack Begrow, AIA
A beautiful Lake Michigan Dunes area in Benzie County, Michigan is the location of this new summer cottage. Its whitewashed, red roofed, 19th century lighthouse and coast guard buildings complement the barren coastal beauty of this northern shoreline making it one of the most photographed places in the state. These clapboard buildings quietly dominate the landscape in tiny groupings of red roofed pavilions that seem to have blown up on shore. They represent a unique architectural context and the obvious inspiration of this new residence.

Architecturally, it was important that the new house blend in with this unusual environment; to site the building just over the edge of the dune and to allow the little village of red roof forms to appear from behind.

Programatically, the residence is a cottage in a traditional Michigan sense, with porches, a bunk room, a galley kitchen, a central massive hearth, even a lookout tower.
With its cherry floors, beach stone fireplace and cedar siding and trim, it was important to the owner to create a building as regional as possible, to be built not only by local craftspeople but with their local materials as well.
FARMHOUSE REVIVAL

Steve and Anna Easudes wanted to create an intimate rural place that could accommodate animals, fruit trees and kitchen gardens. The place should feel as if it has been there for a very long time. The early Greek Revival homesteads with small outbuildings and modestly proportioned houses were particularly appealing to the Easudes. Steve was particularly interested in the "Plymouth House," a Greek Revival house in Greenfield Village. This house had simple vernacular additions added over time.

With drawings of the Plymouth House from the Henry Ford Archives and after visits to over 20 Greek Revival homesteads from Marshall, Michigan to Plymouth, Michigan, a site plan and architectural design were developed. The house and barn sit well back from the road. The white house is silhouetted by the red barn and a giant field oak. The story-and-a-half main house has a hipped roof side wing common in Midwest Greek Revival with vernacular kitchen and mudroom wings. The rooms are simple and extremely well lighted with deep windows on usually two walls. Furniture replaces closets throughout the house. In the large kitchen only the sink is attached to the wall. The kitchen garden is just out the back door next to the rear porch and the sheep can be seen through the north kitchen window.
The traditional farmhouse porch announces the entry.

Back porch from the kitchen is the entrance to the garden.

First Floor Plan

Second Floor Plan

Project: Earsides Residence, Chelsea, Michigan
Architect & Engineer: Rueter Associates Architects
Builder: Brink Vachon Inc.
Photographer: Rueter Associates Architects
This professional family requested minimum disturbance to the wooded, sloping site and pond. Cascading volumes stepped down toward the woods with major spaces having views, decks and balcony on the privacy side. Light and airy spaces are achieved with vertical lantern fenestration to enhance loft spaces. A spiral generated staircase provides convenient and dramatic vertical circulation to the upper bedrooms and lower activity areas.

Staggered garage doors faced with vertical cedar siding reduce the scale and integrate the circular visitor drive. Basic landscaping and site lighting elements reinforce the beauty of the site. Total site sensitivity, modulation of volumes and a fresh organization of living spaces suggest that this residence is in total harmony with its site.

The home contains 3,700 square feet of open, airy space on many levels and takes advantage of sun angles to enhance the interiors. Sun and shade decks are carefully integrated into the massing of the house and offer views to the pond which borders the property.
The kitchen is full of light from the vertical windows.

The spiral stair floats above the great room.

Entry Level Plan

Second Level Plan

Project: Private Residence, Flint Township, Michigan
Architect: Tomlinson Harburn Associates
Photographer: Arcadia Photographics, Inc.
This is a prime example of how a relatively modest expansion can turn into a spectacular renovation if given the chance to exploit house and site to their fullest potential. The 20 year-old house had served the owners well, providing compact yet acceptable space for raising two children, but was now simply worn out. Success in both family and business brought with it a new emphasis on entertaining and improving the quality of everyday life.

Because the original house was built into the side of a hill, all natural light entered the house from one direction only, except for the main entry that was carved into the ground to allow access from the north. Extensive landscaping and other site improvements, such as the swimming pool and a private natural lake, had transformed the site into a beautiful, serene refuge for owner and wildlife alike. The only thing lacking was an updated house worthy of such surroundings.

Primary needs for the new house were that it be larger for entertaining, with plenty of light (the original kitchen and baths were windowless) and magnificent views from every room (only the living room and porch had adequate views of the site). The master bedroom was due for a well deserved expansion with a few luxuries. Most importantly, the owners wanted to feel like they were living among the trees and nature, rather than just looking out at them from an elevated perch.
The result is a house where the exposed exterior walls are fully transparent, sheltered by a canopy of wood and plaster, held up by treelike forms with outstretched branches. The sawtooth design of the south exposure was a response to the 30-60-90 degree angles of the existing pool and decks and a desire to obtain views of both pool and pond, while orienting the main glass areas away from due south. Abundant light is dropped into the landlocked rooms by way of skylights and two new light wells over kitchen and entry. Views are maintained from every room; even the sauna and master shower provide stunning vistas through clear glass panels. Finishes are deliberately simple, yet natural, so as not to.

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views into and out of the master bath are stunning. Heated French limestone floors emerge from lush carpet and extend to the outdoors.

In the end, most original walls and roofs were replaced with new, leaving only the three-season porch and entry field stone walls as a reminder of what used to be.

The remodeled kitchen is open and airy.

Project: Private Residence, Southwest Michigan
Architect: Marshburn/Bunkley Associates
Interior Design: Stephanie Olson, ASID
Structural Consultant: Stuart Eddy, PE
Photographer: Jeff Mitchell Photography

Legend
1 Entry Court
2 Entry
3 Bath
4 Kitchen
5 Three Season Porch
6 Dining
7 Living
8 Den
9 Bedroom
10 Master Bedroom
11 Exercise Room
12 Master Bath
13 Sauna
14 His Closet
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