

# 10

## PERFECT COTTAGE ON CROOKED LAKE

text by elizabeth edwards | photos by jacqueline southby

9054 Cedar Ln., Alanson

Edgewater Design Group, 301 E Mitchell St., Petoskey, 231.348.0497, edgewaterdesigngroup.com

Find driving directions on your ticket: MyNorthTickets.com. Find more resources for this home at MyNorth.com. Search 2015 Northern Home & Cottage Tour, October.

In general, Bryan and Connie Rellinger loved the charm of the old cottage they purchased on a Crooked Lake peninsula, north of Petoskey. Specifically, however, the presence of a live-well in the kitchen (a huge cement basin with running water for keeping fish alive was right in the kitchen entry way, seriously), rickety staircase and green shag carpet, not so much. An extreme renovation was the only solution. The downside? The rebuild would have to fit into the smallish nonconforming footprint. The upside? That footprint was built when folks could place a building close enough to the water to feel like they could dive in from the house. Ahhh...

Stephanie Baldwin of Edgewater Design helped the Rellingers come up with a timeless cottage design that breathes efficiency into every nook and cranny. It also expresses the synergy of Bryan, Connie and Stephanie, who emailed each other links to products they liked throughout the building process. That teamwork resulted in an interior that sports a young take on classic cottage. Highlights include a brass

sink and light fixtures, coffered ceilings with wide beadboard planks, leathered granite kitchen counters and a way-cool floor made of American chestnut planks from an old barn.

Thanks to an abundant use of windows that deliver a grand view of Crooked Lake, the home feels airy and much larger than it is. Bryan and Connie also love how well the layout functions for their family—especially when they are entertaining. The kids' bedrooms are off a large landing at the top of the stairs—roomy enough to double as an entertainment room. When the adults are enjoying cocktail hour or a dinner party downstairs, they can pull a sliding door across the kitchen/great room area to seal it off from the kids' ruckus upstairs (or vice versa!).

From its gray-shingled dormers to its sweet white window boxes, this charmer on Crooked Lake is packed with ideas! 🍷

ELIZABETH EDWARDS IS MANAGING EDITOR OF *NORTHERN HOME & COTTAGE*.  
LISSA@TRAVERMAGAZINE.COM

