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Relax at the lake

With a traditional, yet understated style inside and out, this country home is open to views and conducive to outdoor living

Many people have fond memories of lakeside holidays, filled with fresh breezes, tall trees, and days looking out at the sparkling water. There is a certain style of residence that suits this relaxed way of living, which can be seen in this estate at Reynolds Plantation.

Architect Bill Baker used a traditional shingle and stone design that he says is indigenous to lakeside sites. Some unexpected architectural elements were added to the exterior, such as an octagonal tower containing the dining room.



“Even the garage is artistically designed,” says Baker, “with a shed roof and a gabled window to blend with the traditional style of the house. The middle section of the garage is offset and moved forward to further this look.”

A balance between a sense of entry and understatement is created in the double-height entrance foyer, which features painted wainscotting. Wooden furniture and a warm colour scheme ensure consistency of colours and materials – important with an open floor plan, Baker says.

“The entrance foyer accesses three rooms: the dining room to the left, the study to the right, and the great room straight ahead. A sense of informality and comfort is created through the furniture choices as well as through the materials.”

Rather than the raised panels that would be seen in a more formal residence, Baker used antique heart pine boards on the study walls. The same wood is used for exposed beams on the ceiling in this room and in the great room, introducing a rustic aesthetic.

Above left: This shingle and stone house fits aesthetically with its forested, lakeside site. Gabled windows and an octagonal tower add interest to the front facade.

Above: The garage is designed to integrate with the style of the home, with barn-style doors and a circular upper window. The landscaping was completed by Alec Michaelides of Landplus Associates.





"The country atmosphere in these rooms ties in with the views of the trees and lake," says the architect.

In the kitchen, all appliances are integrated into the cabinetry, and the layout is designed to suit family entertaining.

"A breakfast nook in the wall of the kitchen looks into the vaulted family room next door. A visual connection is maintained between the spaces, allowing for multiple settings for a social occasion. Beyond the family room is a screened porch overlooking the lake," Baker says.

The layout of the house ensures that the lake can be seen from almost everywhere in the house. All in all, the house has five bedrooms, including two master suites and guest rooms on the third floor.

The rear of the house is directed towards outdoor living, with an external stone kitchen at the lower level. A balcony features an external stone fireplace, allowing year-round enjoyment of the views.

A lagoon-style pool spills over in a waterfall, creating a feature that can be enjoyed from the putting green below.

Preceding pages: A sandy colour scheme of neutrals and browns lends visual warmth to the great room. A wrought iron chandelier and exposed ceiling beams create a rustic look.

Facing page: The colours in the tortoiseshell light fixture in the study are offset against the wood-panelled walls.

Above: The warm colour scheme in this home continues into the kitchen, which has dark polished wood flooring. The interior design was completed by Suzanne Kasler.

