



# Simply Irresistible

The extended vernacular structure shows a linear design created of many shapes and sizes that march along the property's ridgeline, slowly stepping down.



**A Vermont timber frame pairs sleek decor with natural hues, creating a low-key home that sits subtly on the land.**

BY STACEY FREED | PHOTOS BY JIM WESTPHALEN





**T**HE LAND SPEAKS TO US in more ways than we can imagine. And with this Vermont timber frame, the quiet — not to mention gorgeous — site struck a chord with the homeowners and helped drive the simple-yet-stylish design.

With sweeping views of Lake Champlain, the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks, the site is peppered with old maple hardwood growth and farm fields — the perfect setting for a second home for the Washington, D.C.-based homeowners. Architectural designer Cliff Deetjen, manager of design and sales at Peregrine Design/Build in South Burlington, Vermont, worked with the clients (with site planning help from landscape architect Jeff Hodgson of Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architecture) to design a home that would preserve as much of the natural landscape as possible, all while featuring the amenities they desired.

“The site is like an inland peninsula, a spit of land that’s raised up high around the established farm field,” Cliff says. “We saw the potential for an extended vernacular home with many shapes and sizes on a linear design that could march along the ridgeline, slow-stepping down on the land. There was a nice spine to work with.”

Since the home runs north to south, the homeowners enjoy eastern exposure in the morning and western exposure in the evening. “The homeowners wanted something with a playful architectural sense that was well appointed, something with Adirondack style,” Cliff says. The answer? A 5,000-square-foot romantic shingle home boasting natural materials, resting on a timber frame.

“The design really started with the family,” explains Cliff. “They wanted the house to feel like a retreat but they also wanted to have it feel like a hotel. They love traditional, handsome spaces, accentuated cathedral ceilings, rooms with no slants or curves — a house with a little sophistication and traditionalism.”

To accomplish this, the homeowners and design team opted for a structural timber frame, although the clients didn’t feel the need to show off the full timber bones on the interior, Cliff says. The open grid floor plan “is a nice way of telling you when to have columns exposed.” The double-sided hearth (left) in the gable end of the open space acts as a fulcrum connecting the living room and the screened porch, which nestles in the trees 12 feet above grade. The

The homeowners wanted something playful yet well-appointed for their vacation retreat. The open plan helped dictate where to expose the structure’s columns and timbers.



**ABOVE:** The stone hearth in the gable end of the open great room acts as a double-sided connector between the living space and the screened porch.

**RIGHT:** The bathrooms all feature the same custom materials found throughout the home. A freestanding tub offers tranquility among the treetops.

**FAR RIGHT:** Contemporary LED lighting adds some visual interest overhead, as seen with this curved statement chandelier.

first floor is more refined, while the second floor boasts more of the traditional timber frame. “It’s a nice hybrid of the two systems,” Cliff says.

Interior designer Kim Deetjen of TruexCullins in Burlington came on board early to help with finishes, lighting, plumbing fixtures, colors and countertops. They chose Douglas fir timbers for their warm-hued palette and used salvaged wood and old barn boards (found on the site) for things like custom doors. The floors are wide-board pine sourced locally. All of the interior elements and finishes were picked out in tandem with designing the space.

“From day one the homeowner knew she wanted the stove she chose — a custom-

made range from France — so we designed the kitchen around that. We focused on the essence of all the spaces and encouraged furniture layouts early on. The lighting was overlaid quickly so that we could understand where things needed to be accented,” says Cliff.

For a bit of bling, Deetjen added accents with LEDs. Since everything is exposed in a timber frame, it’s important to pick the right track lighting. “The lighting here is a contemporary ‘wow,’” Cliff says. The lower level space is the true family room with a walk-out to the pool area.

“We knew the house would be built for generations,” Cliff says. “It is a house to be lived in and not showcased.” ■

# home details

**SQUARE FOOTAGE:** 5,750

**ARCHITECT; BUILDER:** Peregrine Design/Build,  
802-383-1808; peregrinedesignbuild.com

**INTERIOR DESIGNER:** TruexCullins,  
802-658-2775; truexcullins.com

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:** Wagner Hodgson,  
802-864-0010; wagnerhodgson.com

**TIMBER PROVIDER:** North Woods Joinery,  
802-644-2400; nwjoinery.com

