



# Sense of Place

A POST-AND-BEAM VACATION HOME TAKES ITS  
ARCHITECTURAL CUES FROM THE VERMONT LANDSCAPE.

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#### CREATE A CUSTOM LOOK

Looking for a way to bring a home's architectural style to the exterior? A mix of brown and gray natural stones makes up most of the roof, with accents of standing stone used to create the unique look of a custom edge.

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They live close to each other, and their—mostly for and space—from the site near Jeffersonville, Vermont, were walked for its frame and columns. Those are the ways builders kept to the core of this lodge-style home, with design themes of “keep local,” says Rick VanLamont, production manager and on-site project manager for the contractor. “It’s great to be able to use materials right off the land and incorporate them back into the house,” he says.

The home serves as a getaway for a New York couple with three college-age children, one who attended Vermont schools. But that wasn’t the only reason the owners wanted to build a second home here. This is where they now want to school, eat, and fall in love with each other while taking in love with the beauty of Vermont.

The landscape of forests, meadows, and mountains overlooking views of Vermont’s tallest peak, Mt. Mansfield inspired much of the home’s design. The owners’ request for

interior design and exterior design were made to fit in. The owners’ goal was to create a home that was a mix of the best of Vermont and the best of the world. The house is a mix of the best of Vermont and the best of the world. The house is a mix of the best of Vermont and the best of the world. The house is a mix of the best of Vermont and the best of the world.





**LEFT** The fireplace iron door, with oxidized copper facing and screen, moves down to close off fires and keep out drafts. Local metalworker Larry Allen built them and the series of chairs, tables, and counterweights that work to lift the heavy pieces.

**RIGHT** The Rumford-style stone fireplace, with a raised hearth, is the great room's focal point. Douglas fir beams and yellow birch trim provide contrast. The granite tables were made by Vermont woodworkers.

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The building materials and architectural flourishes of a fireplace say a lot about the style of a home. Here, the clean lines of the massive limestone fireplace and its Douglas fir mantel suggest a dramatic, nature-inspired look befitting a lodge.

the surroundings, paired with a love of the cozy lodge-style vernacular the state is known for, played significantly into the planning process. "The entry sequence and great room are all on axis with that mountain," architect Sam Scofield says. "And we took great pains at the end of the great room to have high windows so when you are standing at the fireplace or first walk into the house, the top of the mountain is not cut off by the roof."

Post-and-beam design reflects Vermont architecture and makes the most of the stunning views by allowing for generous window placement. The timber frame, which was put together by a joinery crew in the spirit of an old-fashioned barn-raising—cranes lifting huge timbers into place and mallets pounding oak dowels in to hold the timbers together—was problematic in that mechanical and electrical systems had to be concealed behind the exposed timbers.

In addition to hiding household systems, the timbers inspired artistic touches. "If you respect the ability of the







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Your home's environment affects how its rooms best connect to the outdoors. In this case, a dramatic view of a mountain inspired the total wall of windows, and our Vermont weather guaranteed the only screen porch with fireplace would be used often.

timber frames, it's easy to give a lot of appealing details and touches to the inside of the house to complement the framework that they've produced," Scelfield says. "Getting that cozy feeling on a winter's evening is easy with these huge timbers all over the place. It's like living in a tree house."

Mountain vistas play into that feeling. Framed in high transom windows, Mr. Mansfield dominates the view, even at night when all but the moonlit mountainside is shrouded in darkness. Whenever possible, the design team situated furniture and windows to make the most of the vista. In the master bedroom, for instance, windows and double French doors frame the perfect bedside view.

Interior materials complement the view and contribute to the home's warmth in traditional lodge style. Four types of wood, three indigenous to Vermont, were used for

OPPOSITE Multiple height windows open the dining area of the great room to picture-perfect views of Mr. Mansfield. A long built-in table and custom-made of Druggler's North American is Vermont, Handmade Quebec-style chairs, but we retain seats. ABOVE A bold stone fireplace and wicker furniture that looks like wicker mean the porch is comfortable much of the year.





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Ceiling architecture factors significantly into a room's mood. In the kitchen, for instance, the beamed ceiling is laminated and finished in prep painting for an intricate look, while the adjacent great-room, which features a tall ceiling in grand lodge fashion,

the home's frame, ceiling, and paneling. The main frame and ceilings in the great-room and kitchen are Douglas fir; the master bedroom is finished in rock maple; the upstairs bedrooms feature hemlock; and the living room and master suite braces are built of a light yellow Birch. Floors are wide-plank, old-growth pine.

Interior designer Kim Deetjen brought in metalsmiths, carpet weavers, and painters from the area to provide complementary finishes, fixtures, and furnishings. The stairway, for instance, incorporates 150-year-old fir treads recycled from a nearby building, and the metal chandeliers were made locally and outfitted with beeswax candles, so candlelight flickers against the high ceiling.

Color choices also reflect the inspiring surroundings, Deetjen says. Earth tones, such as chocolate-brown leather and deep green chenille, keep upholstered pieces casual.

OPPOSITE Although the kitchen opens to the great room, its lower ceiling creates a cozy feel. Cherry cabinets were custom-made by third-generation woodworker Ed Roy, who uses a story pole rather than a tape measure.

ABOVE Stainless-steel appliances, granite countertop, and a heavy iron sink complement the kitchen's woodwork. Local artist Sarah Spencer painted the walls.



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Accent windows complement banks of glass and French doors to make the most of sunlight and boonery. In the master suite, small windows in the bedroom gate and lead to the windy island with the architecture inside and out and enhance the room's appeal.

**RIGHT** Designer Kim Deetjen arranged the master bedroom furniture to maximize mountain views. Double French doors open to a patio with a hot tub that accommodates 10 people. **BELLO** The master bath's deep claw-foot tub and dual pedestal sinks merge antique style with modern convenience.



And neutral-color paints and stains were chosen for the custom tables. "There is something unpretentious about the house," she says. "It's quality, but there's nothing formal about it. In Vermont, you have so many months of the year when it's cold and gray and you're surrounded by snow. It was a goal to pick warm colors so no matter how gray and cold it was outside, there was a glow in the house."

The homeowners spend about half the year here cooking, skiing at nearby Strugglers' Notch, and watching the sun set while sitting on the summer porch. "The most successful thing about it is how the house fits in the landscape, how it celebrates a sense of place," Deetjen says. "The best of Vermont is all right there." 111

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For more window ideas: [www.living.com/windows](http://www.living.com/windows)

**POST-AND-BEAM LODGES** associated with Vermont's architectural heritage inspired this new home. Room plans and window layouts make the most of mountain views, and local craftspeople contributed heavily to the warm, textural building materials and furnishings.



MAIN LEVEL SQ. FT. 2,682  
UPPER LEVEL SQ. FT. 1,408  
BEDROOMS 4  
BATHROOMS 3 AND 1 1/2



Architect Sam Scofield, AIA. Interior designer Kim Deetjen, ASID, and Rebekah Bone Builders Peregrine Contracting, Inc.