

New England HOME

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An all-star design team comes together to realize one family's dream vacation home in Vermont.

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A garden elegantly planted with river birch trees and native greenery takes center stage outside the dining room's floor-to-ceiling windows. Ochre's Moonlight Murmuration chandelier, a J.D. Staron rug, a Robert James Collection dining table, and chairs covered in a Romo charcoal-velvet upholstery complement the views.



In 2003, a couple purchased thirteen acres of land boasting expansive views of Stowe, Vermont's trademark mountains—and then spent the next fifteen years imagining the home they would one day build. “We knew we wanted to maximize the picture-postcard views, but we also wanted to integrate the indoor and outdoor spaces,” says the wife. Also on their wish list:

ABOVE: The home's contemporary exterior is clad in Eastern white-pine siding stained Benjamin Moore Black. **LEFT:** The light-filled entryway, with its Arturo Álvarez-designed light fixture and a hair-on-hide rug, offers a striking contrast to the exterior. **FACING PAGE:** A slate path flanked by gray gravel and surrounded by birch trees offers visitors an inviting entry to this Stowe, Vermont, four-bedroom home.

BELOW: Nothing in the living room, from the twin midcentury modern textured-velvet chairs to the Arturo Álvarez-designed chandelier to the low-backed Flexform sectional, detracts from the spectacular mountain views. **FACING PAGE:** Interior designer Jennifer Palumbo used warm grays on the fireplace wall to balance the abundance of sunshine that comes from the adjacent window wall.



a sleek, elegant design that would fit in with the landscape and, as the wife explains, “was not too ‘in your face.’ ”

The owners and their architect, interior designer, builder, and landscape architect closely collaborated on the resulting four-bedroom, four-bath vacation home tucked away in the ski town’s rolling hills. “When it came to matters like design and materials, we all spoke the same language,” says Jim Cappuccino, a principal at Hutker Architects and an inductee in the 2023 New England Design Hall of Fame. He pauses for a beat, smiles broadly, then adds, “And we were so in sync that we even finished each other’s sentences!”

There’s a reason this team got along so well.

Most of them had worked together with the homeowners on several other projects over the last decade. “We’ve all gotten to know each other’s strengths and weaknesses,” says the Florida-based owner. Then she adds, “And we share a similar aesthetic.”

That aesthetic is modern but also takes its cues from the New England barn-like vernacular, says Cappuccino. Think classic gabled structures connected by a flat-roof volume. “Also, detailing is simple,” Cappuccino points out. “It defers to the landscape. We used lots of large, often floor-to-ceiling windows to make the most of the magnificent views and help bring the outside in.” Indeed, almost every room in the 6,000-square-foot home features





ABOVE: Palumbo designed the shelving nestled between the kitchen's refrigerator and a pantry that includes a coffee-and-tea prep station. Jonathan Browning Studios pendants hang above the quartz-topped white-oak island. **LEFT:** Massachusetts-based Chilmark Design crafted the white-painted kitchen cabinets; the windows open onto the patio, making it easy to pass food and drinks from indoors to out. **FACING PAGE:** For casual dining in the kitchen, a banquette by Partners in Design and chairs by Maxalto surround a Clubcu dining table.



windows with mountain views.

Interior designer Jennifer Palumbo worked with the wife to select a neutral, organic palette that gives the home a “light, fresh, and unfussy” interior. “We chose tones like teal or evergreen to address and connect with the exterior views as the colors changed throughout the seasons,” says Palumbo. “And we chose discreet window treatments and low-backed furniture so as not to compete with the exterior views.” Rugs thoughtfully placed atop the European white-oak floors that run throughout the house help define the living spaces in the open-plan home.

The wife and Palumbo are fans of what the designer calls “cluster lighting,” and the home is rich with a glittering assortment of hanging lamps and striking chandeliers. “We both view



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The designer's penchant for cluster lighting can be seen in the primary bedroom, where Lee Broom pendants hang over the nightstands and a Blanche Field fixture is suspended above the bed. The homeowners can hit pause on their morning routine and enjoy a cup of coffee in the room's cozy sitting area. After a day on the slopes, everyone vies for time in the ground-level tile-floored sauna. **FACING PAGE:** The primary bath's black-resin tub makes for a striking contrast against the honed-marble tile floor.



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—Interior designer Jennifer Palumbo



The back of the 5,400-square-foot home has an impressive array of expansive windows and a second-story porch that take full advantage of the distant mountain and forest views. Landscape architect Kris Horiuchi devised sophisticated outdoor "rooms," including one with a firepit and one with a spa, for varying opportunities to enjoy the scenery.



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Ceiling heaters make this partially enclosed patio a three-season outdoor dining room complete with a grill, outdoor-rated vinyl shades, a stone-and-teak table, and woven-vinyl-and-teak wicker-style chairs. **FACING PAGE:** Weatherproof chairs and couches from Dedon's Sealine collection offer plenty of places for the homeowners and their guests to relax around a cozy firepit.

lighting as the jewelry in a room,” says the designer. “And like jewelry, lighting can have its own personality and add a unique touch to every room.” Both are especially fond of the hanging light fixture in the dining room, which, when lit up, resembles a school of fish or a flock of birds in flight.

It is evident that years of planning, consultation, and collaboration went into this year-round vacation home. Says Steve Sisler, the Stowe-based contractor whose team built it, “This may

be the best-thought-out house I have ever worked on. The entire team, with the owners, came together to produce a home that meets the owners' every need and fits in perfectly with the land. That takes teamwork!”

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ARCHITECTURE: Hutker Architects

INTERIOR DESIGN: Jennifer Palumbo Interior Design

BUILDER: Sisler Builders

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Horiuchi Solien

