

cottage living

A traditional 1920s lakeside cottage finds new life as a cheerful family retreat

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Basin, one of the homeowner's three dogs, enjoys the Muskoka room come rain or shine: the large sliding windows can be removed in more pleasant weather, converting the space into a screened-in porch and allowing the lakeside breezes and warm air to flow in. To take advantage of the fantastic



The growing pile of restorable of this Lake Muskoka prospective property was what the cottage was. But the new homeowners to a diamond with high good bones. "Even better, I saw the potential what the inside could be happy." The lake. But returning the to its original 1920s simple decorating & restoration. Design

The homeowner put double-hung windows in the original openings and left them unadorned for an unobstructed view of the lake. The twig chandelier casts a warm glow over the refectory table and antique white farmhouse chairs. A multicolour hooked carpet pulls all the elements of the living room together, from the cherry-top birch-bark coffee table to the pine chairs with blue-and-white ticking cushions. "We filled this room with interesting pieces - some we brought with us, some we found here, and others we purchased," says the homeowner. A rustic whitewashed pine table with birdhouse legs displays hats, candles and flowers, which animate the simple lines of the main hallway.



acided. From there, he
undoing some of the
visited upon the place
terraced down to add light
and large window that
by drywall were refined
floors and enlarged the
room, which was ad-
cottage to take advan-
"I felt it was important
have a place of import-
people are eating, they
view and the spectacu-





"It's important to have simple, fresh colours on the walls — nothing that would compete with the outdoors or special pieces."



INSPIRATIONAL

COTTAGE DECOR

Designer Margot Jarrett offers creative and affordable tips for decorating a second home.

Keep family favourites. "Resist the urge to discard items that are worn. Furnishings that have been in your family a long time can add a sense of history to a new space." Work with existing flooring. Restoring the original flooring can preserve a home's character and save money. Maintain a simple colour scheme. "It's important to have a clean colour palette throughout. It lets the view, or one great piece in a room, such as a colourful quilt, make an impact." Slipcover old furniture. "New fabric can go a long way when pulling a look together." Don't purchase unnecessary items. Consider leaving windows with incredible views undressed. Stretch your imagination. "Use items in an unusual way: turn a pair of old shutters into a fantastic coffee table or put old wrought-iron gate panels over

The simple colour palette in the sitting room provides a backdrop for interesting accessories such as the wooden toy soldiers and carved sailboat atop a rustic twig table. The old window frame with antique quiltwork patches completes the spirited vignette. Stainless-steel appliances add contrast to the kitchen, which is a bright, cheerful space to





The next step was the decor. Striving for an understated vintage charm, Margot and her client chose a simple colour palette and opted for a natural look by using wood throughout, including refinished pine and maple flooring, a birch coffee table and a twig chandelier. They also kept the upholstery and decor whimsy. "With a clean background, all you need are one or two great pieces to bring a whole room together," says Margot. A few select items, like whimsical wooden toy soldiers and a pine side table with birdhouse legs, add personality to the rooms. The simple decor, along with the authentic restorations, has allowed this gem of a cottage to shine once again. **WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 172**

The pretty vintage floral bedding by PineCone Hill warms up the soft Shimmering Celadon-painted bedroom and antique iron bed. The blue end table, along with the yellow dresser and rich pine flooring, completes the cozy feel. The dramatic queen-size black twig bed is set off by a sumptuous pale yellow-and-white quilt. The hooked rug pattern is a reproduction of an antique quilt. Believing in unconventional solutions for conventional needs, Margot inserted a modern square sink into a reproduction distressed pine table and added pewter hardware to create a vanity.

