

This lakeside home mixes yacht club style and cottage charm to great effect

Designer Tom Stringer took the helm for this lakeside home's renovation, adding style by the boatload



(Image credit: Wittefini)



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This craftsman shingle style summer home was built in the mid-1980s on the shore of Walloon Lake, Michigan. Its owners, who also own the house next door, bought it for their grown-up children and their partners to share.

Following a recent redesign, this weekend and vacation retreat now has gorgeous coastal decor interiors to match its stunning location. We caught up with Tom Stringer, the interior designer responsible for the redesign, to ask how he came up with the new look, which he describes as classic midwestern cottage style.

'The house sits directly at the water's edge and features dockage for the client's boats, so we alit on a yacht club theme,' says Stringer. 'The color scheme of reds, blues, whites and yellows, is drawn from the colors of nautical signal flags, Our intent was to nod toward classic yacht club style without delving too far into nautical clichés.'



'When the owners purchased the property, the existing finishes were dated and formal,' explains designer Tom Stringer. 'We updated the kitchen and cook's pantry and added bead-boarded ceilings and wide plank walnut floors for a more classic feeling.' Kitchen ideas include blue cabinetry, soft gray worktops and a tiled backsplash, all referencing the cooler tones of the nautical palette, while upholstered bar stools introduce the weathered shade of red that will be subtly repeated in the other main spaces in the home.



(Image credit: Wittefini)

'The great room is an easy favorite,' says designer Tom Stringer of the home's open-plan living-dining room. 'It has a great view of the water and features our bespoke semi-circular sofa with a wood paneled outside back that makes it vaguely resemble a settee on the aft deck of a fantail stern yacht. The room also features a grand piano that came with the house. We lightened it's heart with a fresh marine blue lacquer.'



The dining area features two vintage pond yachts displayed 'yacht club style' in glass cases atop a pair of ebonite campaign chests. And one of the designer's inspired [dining room ideas](#) was to include an antique walnut dining table, which has great patina so no one's worrying about new scratches and dents.



(Image credit: Wittefini)

Living room ideas combine vintage and upcycled pieces together with some smart new bespoke elements to create a comfortable and welcoming feel in this unique room overlooking a terrace and the water. A pair of bobbin chairs flank the stone fireplace and a round cocktail table that came with the house was repurposed with the same blue matte lacquer finish as on the grand piano.



(Image credit: Wittefini)

The primary bedroom has its own terrace on the water and features a white painted four poster bed. Yellow and white linen curtains frame the view. Bedroom ideas for this space are all about maximizing the view, and echoing the calming blues of the watery landscape outside.



The new bunk room was added to the house as part of the renovations. This ground-floor space includes three queen beds with vintage-style spindle bed frames and simple cottage-style bed linen. Wainscoting to the walls continues the nautical theme, while the colors echo those used in the rest of the house.



(Image credit: Wittefini)

The primary bathroom features all new finishes. The freestanding tub replaces a dated built-in whirlpool tub. Bathroom ideas that work well here to give a fresh look include the wide plank walnut flooring, double vanity, and wall-to-ceiling tiling.



(Image credit: Wittefini)

Built right on the shore of Walloon Lake and with its own jetty, the craftsman shingle style home has been refreshed and redesigned in a year-long renovation project to bring it right up to date while still referencing the area's sailing history.

Interior Design: Tom Stringer

Photography: Wittefini