



# An Exercise in Preparation and Design

“A goal without a plan is just a wish.” Antoine de Saint-Exupe’ry

WRITER KAREN VANDER WERP | PHOTOGRAPHER DAVE SPECKMAN

**O**ave and Jill searched for over three years looking at hundreds of properties to find the perfect setting. They journeyed through the design process for another three years in search of the ideal craftsman-style home. It was this long, deliberate process that made their wish come true.

The Elk Lake lot was densely wooded, but high, dry and deep enough to allow the desired footprint. The unique topography lent itself to the perfect balance of form and function.

The couple began with some specific features in mind, but also took direction from the property they selected. The build was well thought out and a long exercise completed in stages. Each year, they



completed another phase, drawing them closer to their goal. “When the final design was complete, it jumped off the sheets with dynamic flare,” says Dave. “We knew it had the right feel for our lifestyle.”

The couple’s realtor, Chad Brown of Homewaters Recreational Real Estate, introduced them to Eric Render of Render Construction. Eric stayed in touch throughout the two year design phase, which attests to his thoroughness and attention to detail. They made the final decision to Eric as their builder for multiple reasons. Render Construction provides clients with the opportunity to monitor their project through the Render

Construction website. Clients have the ability to remotely access all construction activity including blueprints, contracts, selection approvals, change orders, and an active builder calendar. “For clients who want to be fully vested, it’s the finest program available.



### Den

On the family room's fireplace wall are custom-built panels with a hidden door that leads to the master suite which Dave sketched and designed himself. Pamela Machnak was instrumental in the furniture and fabrics selections.

Coffered ceilings in the breakfast and family rooms helped define the spaces in an open floor plan and reduce the noise in a large space.

Being 200 miles away, it was ideal," shares the couple.

As the project began, it was an added advantage that Eric had already been familiar with the area, as he had already built a home in the same neighborhood. Land balancing of the distinctive topography along with the requirements to incorporate structural steel wind bracing on the lakefront side of the house posed a big challenge. The architect and structural engineer had to rework the plan and Render found a cost-effective source to build the structural steel frames.

Jill describes the home as "craftsman style with an up-north feel." An abundance of natural materials were incorporated throughout the home, including alder millwork, stained glass, and Michigan quarry stone used to achieve the desired effect. The colors, style and materials artfully blend the structure to the land and land to the structure – a perfect rhythmic compliment.

The home, dubbed "The Eagles Nest," has a view from almost every room. "Your eyes are drawn to the aqua blue strands of Elk Lake," says Dave. The octagon winter garden room



Office

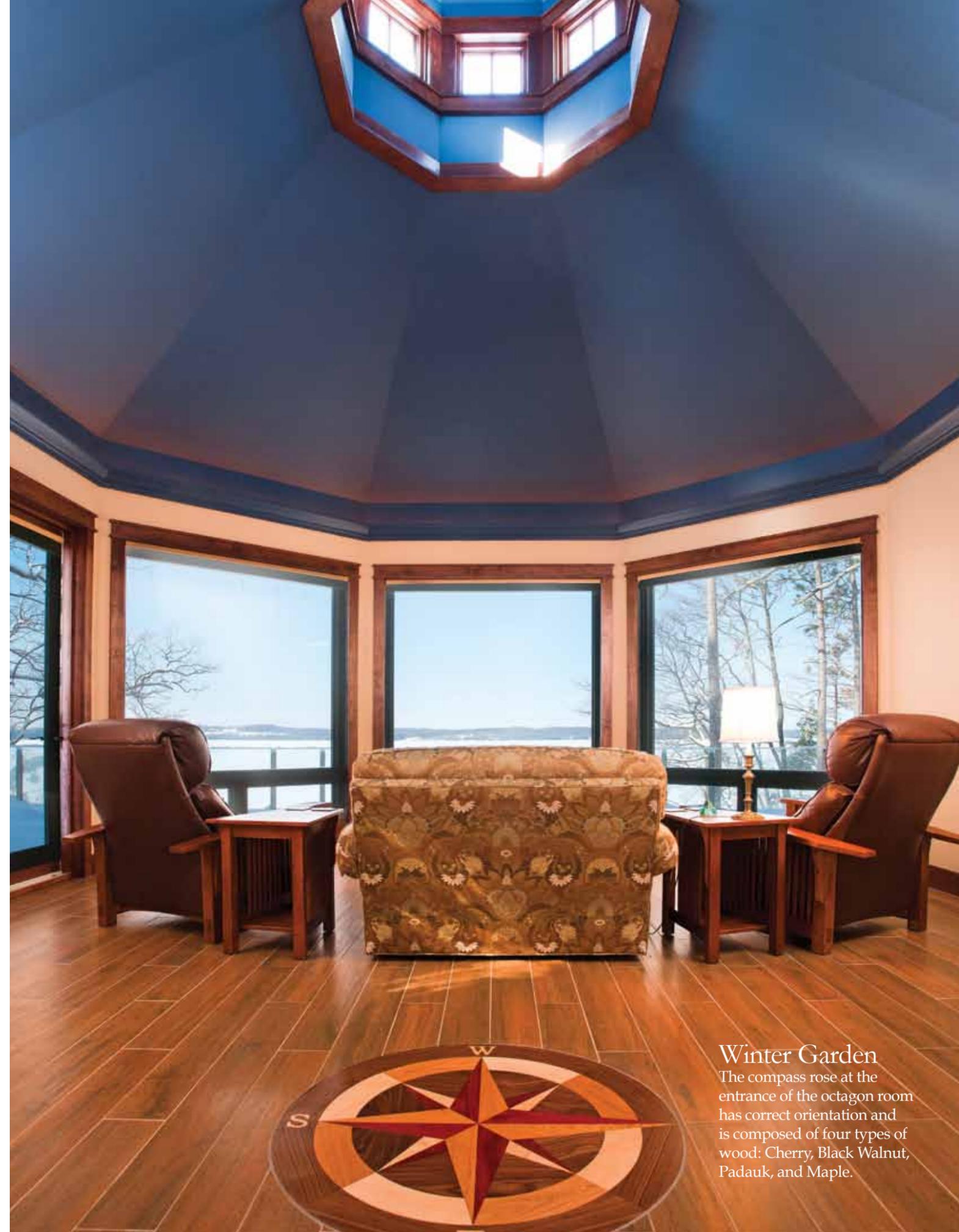
is a showplace that not only utilizes the view, but showcases the Render craftsmanship with its "pilot house" peaked ceiling. Inlaid on the floor is a 36-inch compass composed of four types of wood, including Cherry, Black Walnut, Padauk and Maple.

The kitchen is unparalleled in design with its boat island. The bow and stern is constructed around a traditional cabinet of Padauk and Maple, and the windshield is formed black laminate.

The master bedroom's sitting area offers respite before a busy day or to enjoy an evening sunset. The master bath is flooded with natural light with extensive tile work showcased through a euro glass shower enclosure.

The lower level walkout features a small kitchen, sitting area, bedroom and bathroom for the homeowner's in-laws. Other honorary mentions include a fireplace and a game room, as well as a beach bath and changing room for guests.

Dave's man cave is a blend of Galvalume steel paneling and epoxy floors – a sanctuary for old sports cars and wood speed boats. A separate woodshop makes any special detail



### Winter Garden

The compass rose at the entrance of the octagon room has correct orientation and is composed of four types of wood: Cherry, Black Walnut, Padauk, and Maple.



### Kitchen

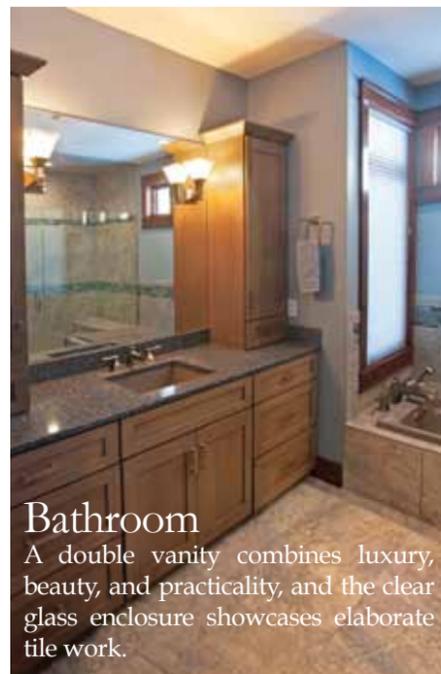
Nowak Cabinets constructed the unique boat island around a traditional cabinet of Padauk and Maple. The windshield is formed black laminate and completes the owners' nautical-lifestyle look.

project a conquest. "This is a space to work, play and be one with my tools," shares Dave.

The home's extensive list of singular and remarkable features is made successful between a superb blend of detailed planning and superior execution. "Eric's biggest contribution was his flexibility to work with us on all our ideas and make them happen," shares Jill. What started as a showcase of wishes, became a reality in craftsmanship and creativity. Truly, a dream come true. □

### Entry

Hal's Masonry of Grayling supplied the Michigan-shaped stone over the entry door. The front steps, porch and lower level patio are exposed aggregate.



### Bathroom

A double vanity combines luxury, beauty, and practicality, and the clear glass enclosure showcases elaborate tile work.



The house was designed to fit the topography of the land-integrating one to the other, creating an idyllic combination of form and function. There are numerous landscaped terraces of natural materials, native plants and steps leading to the lake.





**Stone Patio**  
A wall of stone is the perfect backdrop for a lakefront patio.



**Garage**  
A rare collection has a home of its own.



## Render Construction, Inc.

PRINCIPAL OWNER: Eric J. Render

YEARS IN BUSINESS: 15 years

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED: 1999

EDUCATION: Studied Construction Management at Michigan State University.

### BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

Our goal is to create long-term business relationships, to treat every project as if it were our own, and to stand behind everything we say and do.

### WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART:?

Render Construction, Inc., is the proven source for high quality custom building and remodeling in Northern Michigan. Our clients have private 24/7 online access to all of their project information including schedules, progress reports and photos, product and finish selection information, construction documents, etc. Render Construction, Inc., is a member of the invitation only, National Association of Home Builders – Builder 20 Program. In March of 2014, Eric Render was recognized by the national industry publication, *Professional Builder Magazine* as one of the top 40 industry professionals under the age of 40.

### HOBBIES, VOLUNTEERISM, ETC.:

Off the clock, Eric enjoys spending time with his wife, two sons, and two labs. His hobbies include several of the nearly endless outdoor activities that northern Michigan has to offer, like fly fishing, mountain biking, downhill and water skiing, boating, and hiking.

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