



# MACKINAW CITY ESCAPE

One Well-Designed Cottage  
Hosts Three Generations on  
Lake Michigan Shores

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It was 1958 and Willard Adolph was faced with what seemed like a very expensive decision: to buy or not to buy. The family had enjoyed camping in the area for years so when a few parcels of Wilderness State Park's glorious, sandy Lake Michigan waterfront became available for sale, he just couldn't decide. In the end, with prompting from his kids, Willard bit the bullet and chose to purchase three lots, for his three children, at 1956 prices.

Today those lots are in full use as Adolph's ancestors enjoy the glorious sandy beaches and state park all summer long. Bryce Adolph, one of the three children, and his wife Audrey were gifted the lot with the family's old cabin. "With five young grandsons we had to build something that would accommodate our growing family," says Audrey.

The resulting 4,000-square-foot house, built by Jim Matthews of Matthews Construction of Petoskey, gets an A for functionality. Two entrances on either end of the cottage's beach side—and an outdoor shower—ensure that little feet don't track sand through the living areas. A simple galley kitchen keeps traffic moving along swiftly through the space. Surprisingly, one of the boys' favorite places is the couple's library, fitted with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and Matthew's signature pocket doors leading to the master bedroom, making the room grand or cozy at will.

The cottage has a mix of style influences ranging from Arts and Crafts with classic deep overhangs to Georgian-style height and width. In the end, dark blueberry-stained cedar shakes and multiple round windows lends the cottage to nautical undertones. One of the couple's favorite feature is their heavy, richly-hued mahogany door mounted on ball bearing hinges and topped with solid brass Rocky Mountain hardware. Another conversation starter can be found on top of the main newel



post: a handcrafted lighthouse supplied by Matthews Construction is securely attached and wired to light up at night.

"I wanted the water to be the main attraction," says Audrey. Mission accomplished with soaring great room windows and views of water from almost every area. The Adolphs, their children, and their grandchildren enjoy watching the freighters and cruise ships pass, as well as having the best seats in the house for the Chicago/Mackinaw race. However, most of all they enjoy the long summer days in Northern Michigan with nothing more on the agenda than building another sand castle and heading out for another kayak ride. ☐



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**ABOVE :** With the summer sky, the brilliant bay, and the cheerful blueberry blue-stained cedar shake lake house, this Mackinaw City getaway is truly a nautical playground.

**INSET :** Anticipating lots of little feet, Mathew's Construction designed entryways to capture sand and wet towels before they hit the interior floors.

**THIS PAGE**

**ABOVE:**The galley kitchen was topped with soft watercolor tones, honed Carrera marble and framed with pillars to underscore the cottage theme.

**BELOW:** Australian cypress floors with natural markings brings warmth and detail throughout the main level.



This house is designed as a cottage yet every room feels spacious and ample and the great room is no exception.



**ABOVE LEFT:** Comfortable and classic, the parent's guest room is a cozy retreat after a long day in the water.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** This trough sink is a rare find but perfect for the five busy grandsons who come to visit each summer.

**MIDDLE:** The boys bunk room leads out to the loft which is a favorite gathering place for all of the grandsons.

**INSET:** Pastels and port holes run throughout the cottage and these mirrors mimic the theme.

**BELOW:** Directly off the master bedroom is an intimate library—with pocket doors—that can feel like part of the bedroom, or a quiet little room to watch TV or play marbles.



## Classic Cottage Comfort



**ABOVE:** The owners requested that above all, the water should always be the main attraction so the master bedroom is simple and soft, perfectly suited for life on the beach.

**BELOW LEFT:** Built in cupboards and tiered sink bases create interest and functionality.

**BELOW RIGHT:** The original plan had only one basin sink and this second basin sink was added later on as a gift from the husband to his wife.



ABOVE: The blue waters beckon family and friends.

MIDDLE: Comfortable, classic and roomy, this screened porch offers yet another spot to enjoy the scenery.

BELOW: With multiple outdoor seating areas, it would be difficult to decide which one to use on a lazy sunny day.

Building Materials: **PRO-BUILD**  
Fireplace and Stone Supplier: **EMMET BRICK & BLOCK**  
Flooring: **CONTRACTOR'S SUPPLY**  
Kitchen Designer: **KITCHEN'S BY DESIGN**



## Matthews Construction

### PRINCIPAL OWNER (S):

James C. Matthews

### NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:

30

### YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

Early in the 1980s

### EDUCATION:

Extensive field experience.

### BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

We develop and maintain a strong commitment to customer service, before, during and after all construction projects. Elements of this relationship include offering our clients the best value available for the various aspects of their project, regardless of how large or small it may be. We continue to warranty not only our craftsmanship, but also the products we use, long after traditional expectations. We work very hard to make sure that each and every one of our clients remain completely satisfied with the services provided by our company.

### WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

More often than not, the particulars of our business philosophy enable us to become close friends with our clients after the completion of their project. I continue to be in frequent contact with nearly all of our past clients, and this has repeatedly led them to return to our company when they need something additional. In some cases, I have even built multiple homes for the same people. Our diligence in providing the best value in our customer relations, throughout the construction process, makes these things possible.

### HOBBIES:

My current passion is fly fishing; I also am a bird and big game hunter. I enjoy flying, and have owned and piloted a number of small aircraft. My family and I stay involved with functions and activities provided by local arts clubs / associations, as well as equestrian activities and events in the area. Our company works in conjunction with multiple other local professionals and businesses to provide volunteer help and donations for various community and charity events.

### CONTACT PHONE NUMBER AND WEB ADDRESS:

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