



EMPHASIZING *Quality* and CHARACTER

A Passion for Reclaiming Creates a Unique Home Full of History and Untold Stories

WRITER KAREN VANDER WERP • PHOTOGRAPHER W. PATRICK CHAMBERS

It's like a scene from the storybooks of childhood; over the hills you go, and through the woods, with light glistening through towering treetops while stray branches snap below your feet. In a clearing, you catch a glimpse and its quaintness lures you closer. Your approach quickens in eager anticipation.

This is the Holland home of Greg and Diane Schrottenboer. "I wanted a home that fit its surroundings, like a cottage or bungalow in the woods, think Hansel and Gretel," excitedly shares Diane.

The European-style cottage is nestled among steeply sloping sand dunes in the Sanctuary Woods Nature Preserve. The enveloping natural environment, along with Lake Michigan access, makes this home the ideal place for entertaining and raising a family, providing endless hours of fun.

The home complements its surroundings, while defining its country charm. The meandering pitches of the roofline, integrated cupolas, and exterior fieldstone facade complete with a Hobbit-arched entry door, define it well. The color palette of earth-brown trimmed in Dragon's Breath grey, enhance the storybook appearance.

The home needed to accommodate man, wife, three children and a Bernese mountain dog. "We wanted our home to be one that is welcoming and comfortable, while accommodating a busy lifestyle," explains Diane.

Diane coupled her desire for a casual quality and a commitment to recycling to furnish the interior.

"I am a big advocate of reclaiming, because I want my children to have a nice world to live in," shares Diane. When friends asked if she was buying new furniture for their new home. Diane would reply, "No, I am using old junk."

She is not only committed to the recycling cause, but views every piece as a chapter in history, examining each selection for a clue to its story and memories that it holds. Diane's furniture reclaiming also allows for quality at an affordable price.

The reclaimed entry buffet serves as a charging station. All the furniture pieces in the great room, with exception of the sofa, are second-hand. A "no feet on the table" policy doesn't exist in this home.

The Schrottenboers opted for a home practical in size, with every space serving a function for everyday living. Every room is used and every room has a purpose. This approach allowed them to incorporate quality detailing; from 6-inch baseboards, to crown molding that might have otherwise been omitted.

Designing this home combined the efforts of builder Brian Meiste, owner of Meiste Homes, with the homeowners' integrated recycling priorities; the result is a home embodying both practicality and luxury. The Schrottenboers boast Meiste's desire to get to know





them, their lifestyle and what they wanted. "Our builder never sold himself. He took the time to know us. When the house was done, it was perfect. We think that is priceless," share Greg and Diane.

The kitchen, with its oversized island, is the home's hub. The island, with granite countertop, serves as a divider between the dining area, great room and open stairwell. It also functions as a place to eat, study and play games. The hand-hewn maple floor is a perfect disguise for any mishap. The kitchen's copper sinks enhance the cottage charm even more.

An unexpected health concern arose during the planning stages with the end-result being that the home is handicap accessible. The luxurious master bath has a roll-in shower. The cottage-in-the-woods became a place easily adaptable to a variety of needs over a lifespan.

The lower level is "all for the kids," providing a place to sleep, study and play. It comes complete with ping pong table and gym.

The quaintness of this home in the woods is a culmination of conviction, purposeful planning and homebuilding expertise. Diane says it best, "Our home truly represents us and embodies who we are, reflecting our personalities along with unparalleled quality." □



PREVIOUS PAGE:

Combining stone and wood with an architectural eyebrow creates the desired quaintness for a home in the woods.

INSET: Strategically placed slabs of rock create a waterfall.

THIS PAGE:

The island, with its expansive granite countertop, serves as a place to study, eat and play games.

TOP: Accents of copper enhance the charm and quaintness found within the kitchen.

MIDDLE: A second island also serves as a divider between the dining area, great room and open stairwell.

BOTTOM: Alder and stone enhance the kitchen and great room.

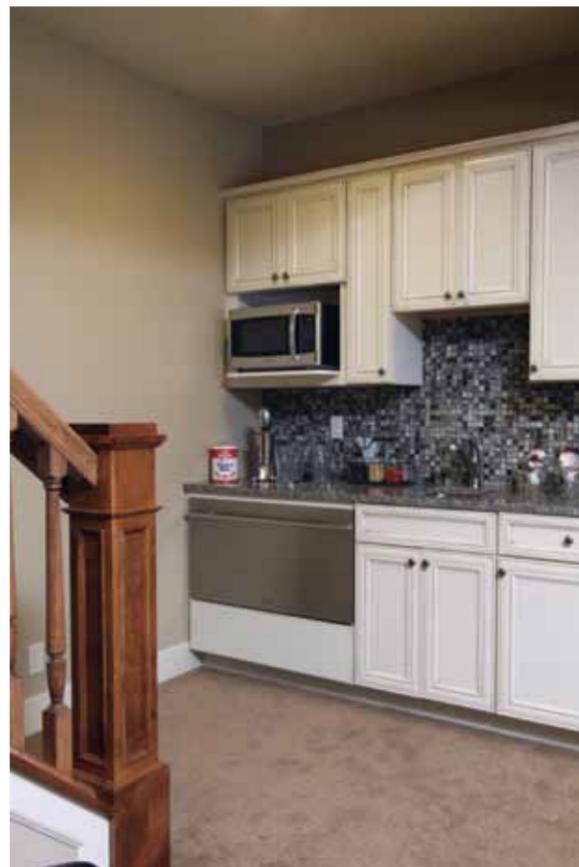
OPPOSITE PAGE:

Diane furnished the home with repurposed furniture with appealing results for family and friends.





TOP: A comfortable den is the perfect hideaway.
BOTTOM LEFT: The kitchenette adds convenience and style to the lower level living space.
BOTTOM RIGHT: This spacious room comfortably accommodates groups of all sizes.



Architectural detailing combines with smart design choices for a family-pleasing home.



TOP: The master bedroom is both comfortable and elegant.
BOTTOM LEFT: The master bath design maximizes beauty and is handicap accessible.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Laundry facilities are always better with a view.



TOP: The three-season porch constructed of cedar and pine, and paired with recycled furniture, brings the outdoors in.

BOTTOM: The ample patio is inviting and relaxing.

MEISTE Homes



PRINCIPAL OWNERS:

Brian and Amber Meiste

NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:

18

EDUCATION:

Brian studied business management at Grand Valley State University. He also is a licensed builder and realtor, and was elected president of the Lakeshore Home Builders Association in 2005.

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

1995

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

We are committed to an enjoyable and rewarding design and construction process from first consultation to keys. Satisfaction as a builder only comes from the interaction and satisfaction of our client. We maintain the highest levels of professionalism, integrity, honesty and fairness in our relationships with our suppliers, subcontractors, professional associates and customers. We see it as a privilege to make new home dreams come to life.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

We approach each construction opportunity with a commitment to achieving and exceeding the goals and expectations of our clients. Through creativity, open communication, follow through, quality materials, fine craftsmanship, pride and confidence, we build homes upon our reputation that is unique and invaluable.

HOBBIES, VOLUNTEERISM, ETC. :

We enjoy spending time with our three children in Northern Michigan. Golfing and snowmobiling are our favorite sports. We take pride in being involved in our local church and community outreach ministries.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER & WEB ADDRESS:

For more information, call (616) 392-4814 or visit us at www.meistehomes.com; follow our projects on the Meiste Homes Facebook page.