



UP AND *Away*

A Luxurious Retreat Just Steps From The Water's Edge

WRITER KAREN VANDER WERP • PHOTOGRAPHER RANDALL GOSS

any reference to “Up North” has a definite meaning for most Michiganders. It conveys a destination where relaxation is the name of the game and stress melts away with the ebb and flow of the crystal clear waters. Dwellings, of course, need to be as comfortable for two as they are for large gatherings, and resort-like settings promise carefree days and nights.

That is exactly what the homeowners specified to builder Eric Darooge, of Eastmark Construction, for their Lake Charlevoix home. Lake Charlevoix is one of the largest lakes in Michigan, offering all sports, along with sandbars and restaurants to visit by boat. Its access to Round Lake is the link to Lake Michigan and beyond—making this a perfect location for those who crave water sports and relaxation.

The home’s exterior East Coast architecture has a timeless permanence. Country ledge-stone lends a beach-side feeling. Sweeping roof lines, thick mutton bars, limestone detailing and splashes of copper make a quiet, casual, sun-washed statement.

The versatile interior manages to capture a level of intimacy, creating both the ideal space for two, as well as for an assemblage of friends and family. The open floor plan encompasses the kitchen, dining room

and great room.

Ideal for any chef, the kitchen features a two or three seat island. An “L” shaped counter, complete with under-counter bar refrigerator, is ideal for entertaining.

Master bedroom’s virtues include built-in cabinetry, his and her closets, and access to a private patio complete with coastal landscape—perfect for a private retreat. The accompanying bath has tub, large walk-in shower with corner seat, along with side commode room.

Eastmark’s distinction is bountiful. It is artfully defined by transom windows, triple-layered crown molding and base, along with coffered ceilings. Eastmark crews have a unique ability for custom detail. “We decide on a profile, and then proceed with doing all our own millwork on-site. All of our homes are one-of-a-kind,” shares Darooge.

The hallmark of this home is the Caribbean-blue water framed for an exemplary view from every room. To escape with a cup of coffee and newspaper, or be totally engulfed by the Lake Charlevoix expanse of water, travel to the upstairs open-air lookout. Yes, that is Charlevoix to your left and Boyne City to your right.

Darooge’s biggest contribution is his extensive experience with





lakefront and resort homes and knowing how to place a home on a lot. He assesses the geometries of the site, deciding access to the beach, solving issues of access to bathrooms without tracking in sand or disrupting finished spaces. "It is a primary objective to situate a home with minimal impact to its surroundings, minimizing the removal of trees—we situate the house to Mother Nature as opposed to conforming the lot to accommodate the house," explains Eric.

This is exactly what Eric Darooge, owner of Eastmark Construction, provided for the homeowners for their Lake Charlevoix home. The private, 2-track rustic drive offers a sense of privacy. Safety for children and grandchildren was never in question. Space for recreational sports, such as snowmobiling, is there for the taking. The 130-foot lot offers a wide, open sandy beach.

The resort home has interior and exterior access to the lake, sea wall, screened porch with patios front and back—all tucked-in and private, while encompassing the massive expanse of water and beach. The home's lakeside veranda was inspired by a photo of the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.

This exceptional lakeside home has an unusually broad appeal. Homeowners and builder agree, "Every room is great and nothing is better than a trip to "Up North." □

PREVIOUS PAGE:

East Coast architecture is the perfect complement for Michigan's lakefront lifestyles.

THIS PAGE:

ABOVE: A soothing color palette, eye-catching views and excellent traffic flow combine to create an outstanding vacation home.

OPPOSITE: Casual furnishings add comfort to luxury and style.

"The East Coast architecture is timeless as opposed to others styles that come and go," shares Darooge.





OPPOSITE PAGE: Smart styling is found by combining transitional lighting with an assortment of finishes and woods.

ABOVE: Inspiring views abound and are part of the builder's master plan to enthrall inside and out.

MIDDLE LEFT: The master bedroom has a radius of views along with access to the patio—perfect for enjoying a cup of coffee after waking from a restful night's sleep.

BELOW: By creating custom details and millwork on-site, the Daroogé's craftsmen and crews were able to create a one-of-a-kind home.



ABOVE: This home was built with minimal impact to its surrounding, conforming to Mother Nature as opposed to conforming the lot to the house.

MIDDLE: A screened porch is tucked in and private—providing privacy while taking in the view.

BELOW: Views and access are the name of the game for this home with its easy lake access, screened porch, and front and back patios.

Eastmark Construction



PRINCIPAL OWNER: Eric Darooge

NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS: 6

EDUCATION:

Eric holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Building Construction Management from Michigan State University.

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED: 2007

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

Our business philosophy revolves around the concept that the homes we build are our personal impression on the landscape of our community for generations to come. We build every home with this sentiment in mind.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

We stand apart due to the level of experience derived from many years of building custom homes on the lakeshores, golf courses and resort communities of Michigan. We put this experience to work for our clients. We have developed a process that helps our clients navigate the critical aspects of building a custom home by setting goals, achieving unique design, using a customer integrated construction process, and building lasting relationships.

There are inherent challenges to the building process that we strive to overcome with our knowledge of the latest building materials and methods, combined with old world craftsmanship and quality. Homes in the environs where we do business may be subject to a variety of potential issues concerning zoning, wetlands, critical dunes, plat restrictions, extreme weather and moisture considerations which require knowledge of home science and technology—this is where we excel.

Ultimately our experience, coupled with solid communication and good old fashioned hard work, will in turn create a pleasing experience for our customers.

HOBBIES, VOLUNTEERISM, ETC. :

Eric Darooge lives in Boyne City with his wife, Sara, enjoying all of the opportunities that Northern Michigan has to offer.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER & WEB ADDRESS:

For additional information, call (231) 675-0286 or visit www.eastmarkconstruction.com.