



# Sailing SMOOTH

How One Early 20th Century Home Was Gracefully Transformed Into an Open Plan Northern Michigan Estate

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**L**ike many large scale renovations, this Prairie-style summer cottage started with a simple sentiment, “Well, it probably needs a new roof,” the man of the house duly noted. Soon after, the lady of the house chimed in with one small request of her own which went something like this, “An upgraded kitchen would certainly be nice.” However, as this couple spent more and more time there—a little over ten years to be exact— they created a bigger and bigger wish list. Eventually they decided they needed a new...just about everything.

It was right about that time that builder Jerry Pesarczyk—who had been introduced to the couple through friends— got the call to pencil the project in for the following autumn. This Harbor Springs home belongs to an association with rules, which require construction to occur only in the off-season months: starting after Labor Day and finishing before the third weekend in June. Pesarczyk, with his team of talented and loyal subcontractors, knew it could be done.

For the project, the family established a proper business-style Mission Statement: “Fit the needs of our family and keep the integrity of the cottage.” With grown children and growing grandchildren, the owners needed plenty of bedrooms, an ample kitchen and better flowing traffic patterns throughout, common shortcomings of many homes built in the early 1900s. In fact, while most owners cite the kitchen, living room or perhaps a covered porch as their favorite room in a home, these owners favor their foyer. “The house was awkward and difficult to enter and when people arrived and they were inherently steered to enter through the mudroom,” laughs the owner. Now a garden gate, paved path and arbor signals the correct entrance and a wide “front to back” entryway draws in family and friends alike.

Since its purchase in 2000, this steady stream of summer guests made the additional first floor bedroom a necessity, but the true show-



stopper is the grandchildren's dormitory. With hotel-style numbered doors and themed "girl" and "boy" rooms, all of the children have a very special place to call their own.

The cottage grew from 4,500 to 7,000-square-feet and the experience was smooth sailing. "Being elsewhere for the winter, we looked forward to our e-mailed pictures from Jerry," notes the owner. "Jerry is so good with everything! From roof lines and overhangs and door handles and so much more. We are so grateful for him and our wonderful designers because, without them, it would have been quite a hodge podge!" she jokes. "The crew was also very courteous and entirely ego-free which was refreshing."

For the final month of construction, the construction update photos stopped coming. When the owners inquired, he said simply, "You'll just have to be surprised." Upon arrival to their renovated home for the first time, this couple was indeed pleasantly surprised. Rooms and hallways that once seemed confining now flow gracefully into one another. To this day, these owners can't believe how a cheerful but segmented house could be transformed into an open design masterpiece with ample room for everyone. □

**PREVIOUS PAGE:**

**ABOVE :** With more than 20 roof hips and valleys, and a giant 4.5-foot overhang, this classic Prairie-style home is carefully converted into a classy, timeless summer haven with room for everyone.

**BELOW :** The owners thought a landscaped water source would be nice. When they arrived home, the couple couldn't believe the spectacular falls that were installed, but they do enjoy them each and every day of the summer season.



**OPPOSITE PAGE:**

**ABOVE:** Granite to look like marble, a Viking range, bun warmers, and a pullout microwave drawer are perfect choices for the lady who loves to cook. A gas fireplace is incorporated into the cabinetry on one wall to cozy up the kitchen—a universally favorite gathering spot.

**BELOW :** The 9-foot ceilings and gleaming white throughout anchor this 7,000-square-foot home in a northern cottage theme. Cheerful upholstery and slim solid oak floors create a sunny space to relax and unwind.

**THIS PAGE:**

**BOTTOM :** The sunroom got a quick makeover with striped pillows and whimsical lighting.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Antique pieces are expertly incorporated throughout and the Blue Bedroom was no exception.





**ABOVE:** The children's dormitories are the true crowd pleasers of the second level. Here, the girl's room got a color boost with bright new fabrics and even a pink starfish sham.

**MIDDLE:** The boy's room curtains are strung through grommets on roping to mimic sails.

**BELOW:** A space for all the children to create and play is expertly designed for years of use.

Carpeting/Garage Doors: **CONTRACTORS SUPPLY**  
 Exterior Painting: **SNOW COUNTRY DECORATING INC.**  
 Fireplace: **EMMET BRICK AND BLOCK**  
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 Kitchen Designer: **ETC. KITCHENS AND BATHS**  
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 Wood Floors: **PINECRAFT WOOD FLOORS INC.**



## Jerry Pesarczyk Builders LLC

PRINCIPAL OWNER (S):

GERALD J. PESARCYK

NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:

26

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

1985

EDUCATION:

High school diploma, builders license and continuing education courses.

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

Our success is based on our ability to understand and exceed the building requirements of our clients in a professional, service-oriented manner with a dedication to superior quality and performance. Our pledge to quality is evident throughout the entire organization, both in the office and with our craftsmen in the field. Motivated by the knowledge that our clients deserve the finest performance possible, Jerry Pesarczyk Builders manages details efficiently with resulting excellence. Excellence, in turn, assures the solid, rewarding, long-term relationships that we enjoy.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

The majority of our projects come directly from client, architect and designer referrals; many of these projects are from repeat clients who know they will receive an outstanding product.

HOBBIES:

Hunting, golfing, gardening and spending time with family.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER AND WEB ADDRESS:

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