

NORTH *Meets* SOUTH

The House Makes Use of
Materials From Near and Far



One of the tenets of design denies the ability to combine styles and materials from different climates with success. For builder Ryan Hill, Don and Kristi Tinker's vision to combine their passion for Florida architecture in a Northern Michigan lakefront home, was an opportunity to prove that it could be done. Other builders may have been daunted by the challenge, but Hill took it as a compliment, embracing the opportunity to build the Tinkers a home that blended their appreciation for northern and southern styles. The steeply sloping, 400-foot lot posed a huge challenge. Site planning took a significant amount of time. "I wanted the house to appear smaller from the road than the waterside," explains Don.

The homeowner's requirements included a water feature in the design, and bringing the house close to the water. To meet zoning requirements and setbacks, it was necessary to design and build complex retaining walls. "It is 75 feet from the retaining wall base to the peak of the roof," shares Hill.

It was accomplished and the end result is stunning. The exterior depicts northern architecture with gables, shingled roof, fiber cement siding and iron bracket detailing.

Don and Kristi's favorite southern architectural detail are the archways. Implemented into the interior and exterior design of the house, they are the defining feature of the home, repeated in a myriad of ways. The entrance showcases the arch in the wood panels of the piers, barreled ceiling and the mahogany door. The interior repeats the arched features in the great room bookcase and doorways.

Hill also artfully combined the contrasting elements in the use of stain and paint, painting the trim more common in warm climate homes and staining the doors most commonly seen

WRITER KAREN VANDER WERP

PHOTOGRAPHER MELINDA SMITH, MELINDA ANN PHOTOGRAPHY

in Northern homes. It is also evident in the custom staircase's wood treads and intricate iron balusters that are more commonly found in homes located in tropical climates. The great room's exotic wood floor, along with the ceiling's inlaid bead-board panels displays not only craftsmanship and ingenuity but complements both styles exceptionally well.

The lower level of the home offers a large area for entertaining complete with pool table, foosball tables, shuffle board court, a bar and guest rooms. The floor combines wood commonly found in Northern homes with inlays of natural stone more commonly found in Southern-style homes.

The master bath, designed by Todd Seidell, offers a 360-degree view from the his-and-her vanities to the corridor showcasing a claw foot tub. This exceptional bath depicts Florida flare with intricate tile work, scones, chandelier and travertine floor.

The Tinkers purchased the Amish-built beach house in Manton, Michigan. The tongue and groove structure was hollow inside with a steel roof. The only way to position it near the water was to place it on logs and roll it down the steep hill. In the process, the roof was damaged, so it was sided and shingled to match the house. The interior was finished with a natural stone floor, recycled granite counters and is complete with TV and full-size refrigerator, a perfect place to step out of the sun.

This Torch Lake home is a perfect combination of craftsmanship paired with an unexpected use of materials and integration of design. The result is exceptional. Homeowner and builder have a mutual fondness that played a major role in making it happen. Ryan Hill says it best, "Don, Kristi and I work well together. We respected each other's opinion, kept an open mind and through it all we remained receptive to new ideas to achieve a product that we all could be proud of."

PREVIOUS PAGE:

The home sits upon a complex and eye-catching retaining wall.

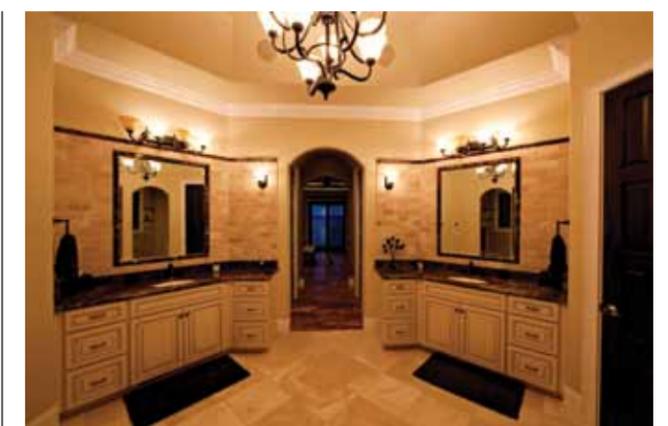
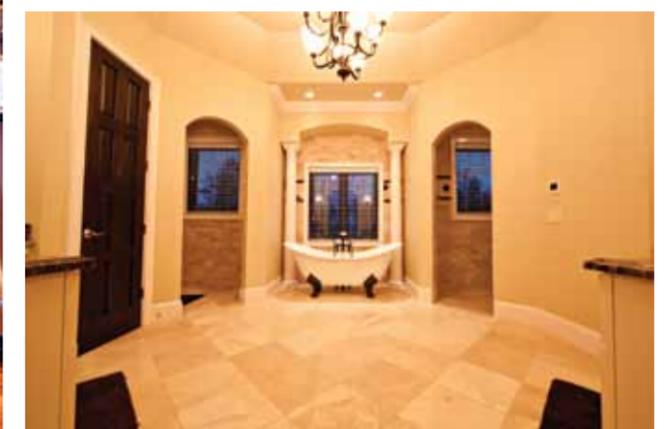
INSET: A combination of wood and stone make for a grand entrance.

OPPOSITE: Extensive trim and inlaid wood ceiling panels epitomize the ingenuity of homeowner and builder.





TOP: Expansive kitchen and dining areas are ideal for large crowds.
 LEFT: The spacious walkway between the counter and island allows ample room for multiple cooks.
 RIGHT: The lower level hall leads guest to their spacious accommodations in style.



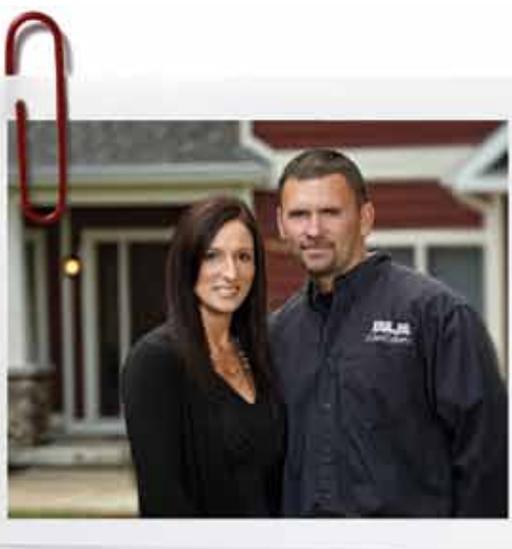
TOP: The lower level rec room boasts an intricately laid floor of stone and tile and is outfitted with everything to keep the fun going.
 TOP LEFT: The crowd pleasing bar is custom designed.
 TOP RIGHT: A three-tiered tray ceiling adds to the allure of this spacious suite.
 MIDDLE RIGHT: A claw foot tub is the focal point of design in the master bath.
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Extensive tile work is synonymous with art.



TOP: The fire pit and boat house offer indoor and outdoor living spaces—ramping up the fun at this home.

MIDDLE: The stone wall of this exceptional outdoor living area also serves as a buffer from neighbors.

BOTTOM: An outdoor dining room is a must for lakeside living.



DLH Builders LLC

OWNERS: Ryan and Michelle Hill

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED: 2001

EDUCATION:

Ryan attended Central Michigan University and has 16 years of experience in the building industry. He also has his Real Estate License. Michelle has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and is a licensed CPA.

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

My Business Philosophy is: "Quality, not quantity." Building homes is a passion for me. I have a significant amount of pride in our homes and feel a great reward from the quality of the homes we build and from my relationships with my clients.

Building or remodeling a home is often the most significant investment many people make. It is a priority for me to give homeowners a home they love that meets their needs and that they are proud to show their friends and family. In order to do that, I have spent countless hours searching for the right group of skilled craftsman. Craftsman who are not only capable of the creativity and flawless craftsmanship our clients demand, but also give the clients the confidence that they have a qualified team of professionals all working together to protect their investment.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

I believe that what sets my business apart from others are my moral values and the priority I place on building a home of exceptional quality and on time.

Most of my homeowners tell me that the reason they chose me to build their home is because they could see my honesty and integrity right from their initial consultations with me. Building a home for someone is a long process with many decisions to be made along the way. Many decisions are made by the builder which the client isn't aware of. There is a lot of potential to increase the "bottom line" and sacrifice the integrity of the home. I refuse to do that! My conscience does not allow me to operate that way and my clients know, respect, and appreciate that.

HOBBIES, VOLUNTEERISM, ETC.:

My wife and I are family-oriented people. When we aren't working, we enjoy spending time with our 3 children. We spend numerous hours outdoors with our young boys biking, going on nature walks, riding ATV's and snowmobiling. Our daughter is an avid horseback rider so we spend many weekends participating in equestrian events and shows. Our entire family also loves spending time at the lake.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER & WEB ADDRESS:

For additional information, call (231) 564-4678 or visit www.DLHbuilders.com.