



# Capturing A BIT of MACKINAC ISLAND

Inspired by Childhood Memories, This Summer Home Inspires New Dreams

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**K**evin and Mary Beyer were enchanted by the Island House on Mackinac Island. Its period architecture, turrets, and shingled appearance featuring multiple railings and porches became the inspiration for their Gull Lake home.

Kevin's childhood memories are a collection of fun-filled summer days and lakeside adventures. So, when the couple's quest to return to the pleasures of lakeside living began, Gull Lake was decided upon as the perfect destination. They stumbled across a lot with an old cottage that was built in 1912. It was love at first sight. After purchasing the property, the antiquated cottage became their summer home for three years.

The property offered an exceptional view, but its topography posed challenges that only experience and ingenuity could remedy. Falcon Custom Homes embraced the challenge as an opportunity for creative resolve and to develop a memory-filled destination for the couple. The home was designed by Visbeen Associates.

The property had a dramatic, steep hill with the cottage situated at the base. Once, the street ran between the cottage and the lake. The entrance to the house needed to be moved up to the street level without moving it too far from the water's edge. The new home was designed



with three wings; the one at the street level is the entrance to the home; the foyer, connected to a bridge, is the passage to two large living areas. Passing under that bridge, a driveway gives access to the lower of the three-story attached garages.

The carriage house placement had to be reconfigured to accommodate set-back restrictions. The artful designing of outdoor living spaces and green areas soften and shoulder the three-winged home giving it illusionary proportion to its surroundings. "The view of the home from the lake is phenomenal and it's a perfect fit with the lake setting," share Kevin and Mary.

The exterior has an appearance of wood siding; in actuality, con-

crete fiber board is painted soft hues of yellow and white to create an Island House aura. The interior color palette was selected to instill a feeling of welcome and warmth. "Overall we went for a clean, uncomplicated and casual look with a hint of nautical," shares Mary.

Hickory flooring, a cathedral ceiling in the great room, and multiple cedar beams define the main floor living areas in the home's open and spacious floor plan.

The focal point of the lower walkout level is a bar which replicates the stern of a Chris Craft Cruiser— aptly named "Bottoms Up." The chrome exhaust pipes are even functional! The bar alone exemplifies the Falcon team's ingenuity and superior craftsmanship.

The stainless-steel railing further defines a sophisticated definition of nautical design. The lower level is complete with a sunken family room and billiard area.

The kitchen design marries a strong aesthetic value with functionality. A raised table at the end of the island allows Mary to entertain guests, while using the island for food preparation or serving. Custom cabinetry with matching appliance panels contribute to the warmth and coziness of the space.

Exceptional views are everywhere, including the view from the luxurious master bedroom afforded by a private screened-in balcony; this balcony mirrors a balcony on the dining-room side of the house.

Built-in furniture was incorporated to keep the room open and spacious. The master bath features his-and-hers custom vanities with granite counter tops. The clear glass walk-in shower is accented with glass tile and a matching granite bench.

Amazingly, this home, which boasts the Falcon craftsmanship and decorative elements for a strong sense of grandeur, is able to maintain a summertime nonchalance—an Island House reborn.

**PREVIOUS PAGE:**

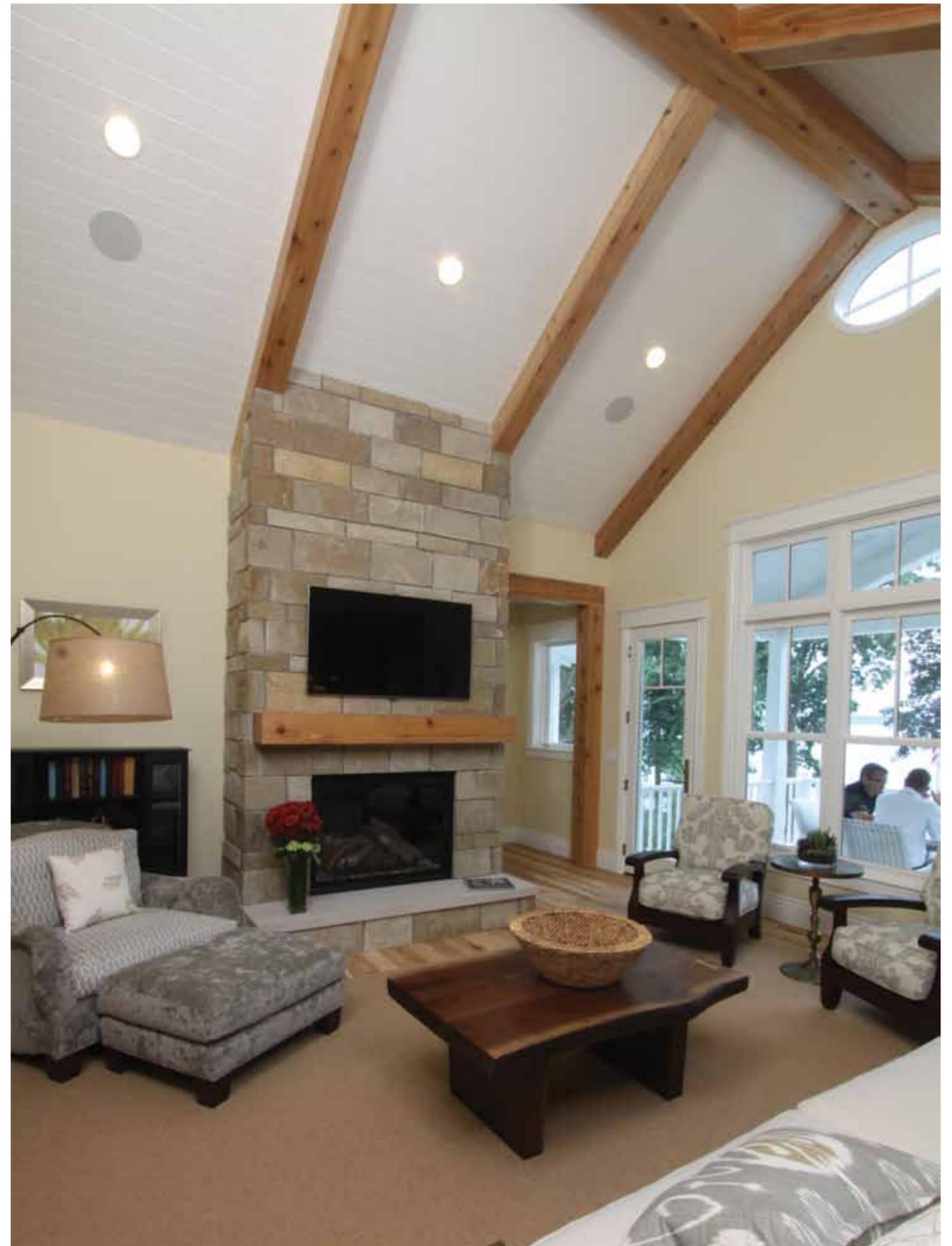
**TOP:** The Island House on Mackinac Island was the inspiration for this exceptional lakefront home.

**INSET:** The bridge is the passageway from foyer to the primary living areas.

**THIS PAGE:**

**TOP:** Interior detailing includes a touch of nautical.

**BOTTOM:** The island's two tiers are ideal for entertaining and food preparation.





This home exemplifies lakeside living at its best.

TOP: Lower level amenities include living and billiard areas along with a bar.  
 MIDDLE LEFT: The bar is an exact replica of a Chris Craft boat named "Bottoms Up."  
 MIDDLE RIGHT: Outdoor entertaining is a pleasure in this luxury kitchen.  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: A spacious apartment offers independent living in this "Island" oasis.



LEFT: His and her vanities add luxury to the master bath.  
 RIGHT: A walk-in shower combines creativity and function.



An outdoor kitchen ensures that time won't be wasted on trips back and forth to the house when the fun begins.



This elevated fire pit will keep everyone warm as they enjoy the view.



## FALCON CUSTOM HOMES INC.

OWNER:  
 Nathan Abbott and Dustin Carpenter

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:  
 2003

YEARS IN BUSINESS:  
 9

EDUCATION:  
 Both Nathan and Dustin graduated from Michigan State University and hold degrees in building construction management.

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:  
 Our highest priority is customer service. Our relationship with our clients is paramount. We ensure satisfaction.  
 In keeping with our goals, we surround ourselves with people who we consider to be the best in the industry and continual search for high quality, state-of-the-art products and technology.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?  
 The Falcon team combines their high construction standards with a competitive price structure. This is a direct result of their business knowledge, and keeping overhead to a minimum with unit pricing. Another contributing factor is a cohesive team with a common goal to build homes at the best price.

AWARDS:  
 Falcon Custom Homes has received more than 20 awards from the Home Builders Association, including People's Choice Awards and an Award of Excellence (an award given from peers and business associates).

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER & WEB ADDRESS:  
 For additional information, call (616) 682-1700, or visit [www.homesbyfalcon.com](http://www.homesbyfalcon.com).