



Above: Custom elements create a functional and inviting dining space overlooking the lake.

Opposite: Opening off the living room, the screened porch becomes an important part of this lakeside home to be enjoyed in all the seasons.



A LAKESIDE VERMONT HOME DESIGN CHALLENGE

DISCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES
WITH GILBERTE INTERIORS

For Cheryl Boghosian of Gilberte Interiors, a new-construction lakeside home in Vermont was an opportunity to create a light and cohesive interior, making this home relaxing and spacious. While on the surface that would seem simple, the overall footprint of the house was not large because of lot-size limitations. To gain sufficient square footage, the house had to be three floors, a challenge for Cheryl.

BY ANNE RICHTER ARNOLD | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROB KAROSIS PHOTOGRAPHY
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Cheryl's task was to create spaces that flowed and were suited to how the family would ultimately use each floor. Providing ample space was key: the family includes young adults, each bringing friends. The house can be occupied by anywhere from two to ten people easily within a week. The layout had to be comfortable and relaxing as well as functional for the family and guests.

HONORING LIFESTYLE AND LOCATION

"A lake house is all about space, light, and letting everything focus on the location," says Cheryl. "It is easier to create an open, spacious design when the house is on one or two floors. My goal was to listen to the clients, to understand how they live and how they would use this home. I was then able to design an interior that works for them, visually and physically."

The clients had a vision of this house and requested Cheryl design an interior that was updated yet gave a nod to the history of the Vermont lake lifestyle. Cheryl incorporated materials for countertops and lighting that she felt would encourage a natural sense of place.

Above: Cabinet hardware and custom countertops punctuate the clean white color palette.

Right: Gilberite Interiors worked with New England-based studios to fabricate lighting.





Far left: Incorporating elements with a nod to the history of this home adds interest.

Left: A relaxing living space captures plenty of natural light during the day and features well-placed lighting at night.

Bottom: The selection of the wood flooring, wall finishes, lighting, and overall palette were all part of Gilberte Interiors' design process. Gathering areas to enjoy the lake view were important goals.





Top: Gilberte Interiors fabricated custom window seats using materials that stand up to the sun and invite family and friends to relax and enjoy.

Above: It's all in the details: custom bed and bedding, bedside niches with outlets, and Vermont-crafted lighting are important to Gilberte Interiors.

Architectural Firm:
Smith & Vansant Architects
www.smithandvansant.com

Contractors:
O'Hara & Gercke, Inc.
oharagercke.com

She also made sure the overall palette felt fresh and did not compete with the lake and natural setting.

“This project is a great example of our design firm’s ability to take a project from concept to completion,” continues Cheryl. “We took plans conceived by a local architectural firm and enhanced the spaces, working hand in hand with the clients and contractor. From review of layouts and lighting to selection of every finish, plumbing fixture, and light fixture, we were able to lead the aesthetics and flow of this home to produce the home our clients envisioned.”

A TEAM EFFORT

Gilberte Interiors focuses on a team approach to projects. Cheryl’s brother Aharon consulted on all the plumbing and door hardware. The design staff kept the project details and material orders on track. Together, Cheryl and the team were able to turn the discussions with the clients into designs to create a home that will continue the family’s tradition and love of lake living.

“Our team really was able to shine through this project timeline. Meeting with the clients (in person and by Zoom) starts off the design process, but there is so much that goes into a successful project. From experience, knowledge, and an understanding of scale, light, and space, we produce a design plan. We then integrate this into a functional process of selecting elements that will work. This involves calculating all the materials needed (tile, plumbing fixtures, lighting, door and cabinet hardware) and detailing everything for the contractor and tradespeople.

We maintain a ‘notebook’ of all products selected, specification sheets, and layouts to help the prep and installation process. Our team handles ordering, tracking, and storing products until the project site is ready. This is such an important part of a project, and it is easy with a team that understands the steps involved.”

A VISION COMES TO LIFE

Cheryl successfully met the challenge by designing spaces and layouts that flowed as per her clients’ vision. Part of that involved choosing furniture that focused on scale, comfort, and durability. Since the house is compact, she paid special attention to carrying the eye to highlights in a space, without stopping the eye from experiencing the beautiful location and light.

Cheryl added unique features to the home, including custom countertops with integrated slab sinks. She collaborated with a local craftswoman to create custom-designed lighting. The Gilberte team also fabricated the home’s bedding, pillows, and cushions in their in-house workroom. Beds, lounging areas, and an extra fridge and beverage nook on a separate floor from the kitchen was another design choice made by Cheryl to ensure the house would be comfortable and flexible for multiple guests.

“Each project is different, as well as each client’s needs and each location. One of the most satisfying parts of design is getting to know the clients, their lifestyle, tastes, and family and translating that to superior design. This house reflected a sense of place and thus the materials and layouts we used worked to enhance the views and lakeside location. When you are in it you know you are at a lake; the interior and exterior flow, the outside is a continuation of the inner environment. The simplicity and spaciousness make this house a distinctive home for the family that will be enjoyed by generations.” TW

Gilberte Interiors
 Cheryl Boghosian, ASID
 10 Allen Street
 Hanover, NH
 (603) 643-3727
 www.gilberteinteriors.com



The homeowners can relax and enjoy the lake view on the screened porch.



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