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historical influences

# In character

There has been a resurgence of interest in architectural styles that have endured for generations – increasingly homeowners are opting for quality over quantity





# Fairy-tale ending

A cabin perched high above the lake beneath towering pines is transformed into an Arts and Crafts-style house that remains true to tradition

**There are many reasons to** opt for a remodel rather than a new build, and one of the most compelling is being able to utilize the existing footprint of a house.

And when that house sits in a magical setting right on the shore of a misty lake, there's an imperative – especially when a new build could never be built as close to the lakefront.

Such was the case for this

remodeling project, designed by architect William Harrison and associate Robbie Pich of Harrison Design Associates. The house was originally a small camp-style cabin nestled beneath the tall pines.

"The owner did consider demolishing the cabin and rebuilding, but regulations would have meant building back from the lake," says Pich. "So, a decision was made to

use the shell of the cabin as the base for a remodeled house in the Arts and Crafts style.

"Based on natural forms and materials, this is a very organic architectural style – one that was embodied by the work of legendary architects Greene & Greene in California and Frank Lloyd Wright in Chicago. And, of course, it is especially appropriate for such a lake and woodland setting."

It is also an architectural style that depends on fine craftsmanship. Every detail of the millwork needed to be customized and handcrafted by builder Dovetail Homes.

"Key features of the Arts and Crafts style can be seen in the entry porch – in the rafter tails, the double half columns and the mortise-and-tenon joints where the beams protrude," says Harrison.

*Preceding pages and these pages:* This lakefront house was remodeled to reference the Arts and Crafts movement. Architect William Harrison and associate Robbie Pich say no detail was spared to capture the traditional character.

*Following pages:* Fine craftsmanship is a hallmark of the architectural style. The millwork was carried out on site by specialist builder Dovetail Homes. The hall mural replicates a Gustav Stickley design.









**These pages:** The family room reinforces the Arts and Crafts tradition. Much of the furniture and fixtures were designed by interior designer Rabun Martin – fabrics were inspired by William Morris and Frank Lloyd Wright. The custom-designed light fitting incorporates a tree pattern in metal – another reference to the organic nature of the Arts and Crafts movement. The owner's existing barley-twist furniture adds further character.

The substantial look of the house is reinforced by another traditional Arts and Crafts feature – a stone base that helps to anchor the house to the land visually.

"We wanted the house to look as though it had grown out of the site," Harrison says. "It didn't need to be grand, overpowering or overly ornate; it just needed to retain that link with nature, just like

the Arts and Crafts movement around the turn of the last century, which was a reaction to the industrial Modernism of the times."

Pich says the house is not especially large; its size gives it a sense of comforting intimacy.

"We have noticed a revival of interest in this type of finely crafted detail – people are looking for quality over quantity."

The house did get another

story, but the position of key rooms remained as before.

"The owner really liked the way the morning light came into her original bedroom, and the view from that part of the cabin," says Pich. "So we chose to put a large screened porch in this prime spot, and placed the new master suite directly above this. This means she can still enjoy the same view and light from her bedroom."







**Above:** Solid wood cabinets in the kitchen are painted in sea blue-green and have a traditional flat-panel door style. The color complements the Typhoon Green granite countertop. Other key features include a handcrafted wood hood made by Dovetail Homes, and a tiled backsplash with fossilized fish.

**Facing page:** Soft green tones are also evident in other rooms, including the master suite and guest room. At top left is the screened porch.

The full impact of the Arts and Crafts style is evident in the entry hall, which features wood wainscoting and arches, and a handcrafted wood staircase. Wood wainscoting also features in the family room.

Ashley Martin of Dovetail Homes says all the exposed wood was stained, glazed and given a Briwax finish.

"We wanted the wood to have an aged look, as though

it could have been there for the past 75 years," he says.

Rabun Martin, the interior designer for the project, says all the millwork detailing replicates traditional designs.

"We also replicated a mural designed by Gustav Stickley last century. This was hand-painted on the wall, which has a faux paint finish that helps to soften the dark-stained wood stairs and wainscoting.

Lantern-style light fixtures hang above the mural. We positioned these at different heights to focus attention on the mural of the tree."

The tree form – a common design element in Arts and Crafts architecture – also features in the family room, on a custom light shade. Other light fixtures incorporate a dragonfly shape, a signature design for the owner.





**Architect:** William H Harrison AIA, and Robbie Pich Assoc AIA, Harrison Design Associates (Atlanta, GA)

**Interior and kitchen designer:**

Rabun Martin, Rabun Mary Interiors

**Builder:** Ashley Martin, Joe Daniels, Dovetail Homes

**Landscaper:** Buck Cofield

**Siding:** James Hardie Artisan

**Roofing:** Weatherwood asphalt shingles

**Doors and windows:** Jeld-Wen

**Stained glass window at front:**

Theodore Ellison

**Exterior railings:** Rabun Metal Products

**Exterior lighting:** Old California Lighting

**Outdoor fireplace:** Copper surround designed by Rabun Martin, built by Lee Johnson

**Flooring:** Oak

**Paints and varnishes:** Benjamin Moore Nantucket Gray on exterior, with trim in Coastal Path; Sikkens Dark Oak stain

**Lighting:** James Mattson;

Old California Lighting; Currey & Co

**Furniture:** Antiques; and custom designed by Rabun Martin, built by Holly Woodworks

**Mural in hallway:** Designed around 1910 by Gustav Stickley for Crab Tree Farm, painted by Barbie White and Holli Stephens

**Living room chandelier:** Etched copper, designed and hand made by James Mattson

**Kitchen cabinets:** Custom five-step paint finish

**Countertops:** Typhoon Green polished granite; Marmi Natural Stone

**Backsplash:** Tile with inset petrified fish fossils by Green River Stone Company

**Kitchen faucets:** Newport

**Kitchen appliances:** KitchenAid

**Bathtub:** Bain Ultra Air Tub from City Plumbing

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**Above right:** A balcony off the master suite on the top floor features an outdoor fireplace with a handcrafted copper hood. The stone columns and chimney enhance the sense of substance and permanence. A novel feature is a coffee table made from a slice of a tree trunk.

*Story by Colleen Hawkes*

*Photography by David Christensen*

Custom furniture designed by Rabun Martin includes a dining table in two parts, and built-in banquette seating.

"We incorporated many of the owner's existing antique pieces as well, including the barley-twist furniture."

The kitchen features solid wood cabinets, also built by Dovetail Homes. These have traditional Shaker-style flat-panel doors, and are painted

in a sea green-blue, a color that reappears in other rooms.

"Both the paint colors and the furnishings were inspired by the wooded lake setting," says the designer.

Other special features of the kitchen include a decorative wood hood, and a tiled backsplash that incorporates petrified fish fossils estimated to be 50 million years old.

Bedrooms on the upper

level continue the Arts and Crafts feel, with traditional wainscoting that is either painted or stained wood. In the master suite, the wood-lined ceiling follows the roof gable, but flattens out to enclose the room, making it more intimate.

Another focus of attention is the tub, which is positioned right beneath a large bay window, ensuring the view is always within reach.