



# OUTSIDE IN

Timber frame design is built with the outdoors in mind.

When you're building a family home or cottage the wish list can be endless, and it can be difficult to decide which elements have priority. But for one cottage couple, the decision was simple: focus on the view.

There were plenty of other things on the wish list, of course – an open-concept kitchen, a large island, and a covered porch to watch the sunset – but those were secondary to what could be seen outside the window.

"Each room, with the exception of the

bathrooms, has a view of the lake," says the cottager.

They began with one of Normerica's traditional timber frame designs, and then made modifications with the help of Normerica's in-house design team.

Prior to purchasing their lot and contacting Normerica, the couple had called many other cottages their own. "None were perfect," she says. "We went from a farmhouse, to a secluded off-grid cottage, to an older cottage." Although the cottages weren't right for the couple, they learned a lot

about what they did want in a future vacation home. And when it came time to build, the couple knew where to go.

"We had been to Normerica's model home many times before deciding to build, so we knew what we wanted, and the model that would be right for us."

The model itself was a perfect fit for the lot the couple had purchased and already fulfilled much of their cottage wish-list. It had a great room window that let them see the outdoors from the kitchen, living room and dining area, along with a floor-to-ceiling fireplace.

*"Every time we come up to the cottage, we have to pinch ourselves. We can't believe we're so lucky."*

But with Normerica's help, they were able to maximize the view from every corner of the four-bedroom cottage.

"They were so accommodating," says the owner. Working in-person and via email, they only ended up making revisions seven times – which is remarkably few for a custom home.

Once the plans were done, the couple hired Normerica to acquire permits and build the cottage for them.

"I must have sent them a hundred emails over the course of our build. Never once did I feel stressed," says the owner. "I didn't feel stressed. In fact, looking back on it, I feel like they became our friends."

Although the view was paramount, it was also important to get the right design elements, and ensure the final build had a feel that suited the couple.

"We loved the character of the post and beam design."

From the great room's tall cathedral ceiling to the covered entryway and lake-facing porch, Normerica's timber frame construction adds warmth and character to each room.

"Every time we come up to the cottage, we have to pinch ourselves. We can't believe we're so lucky to have this lot – with the blue sky, the sandy beach and the clear water – and this cottage which fits us so well."

Although their cottage is currently a part-time residence, with quality and strength that go into timber frame design it could easily be used year-round.

"If we wanted to be here full-time, our cottage could also be used as a winter chalet – especially with the large fireplace in our great room. Being here is so restful that we can't believe it's real."

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