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The outdoor firepit overlooks breathtaking views of Lake Muskoka. Photo by: Kelly Tomlinson

A Lakeside Cottage Retreat Infused with Scandinavian Spirit

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SABRINA AT THE NORTH STUDIO & KELLY TOMLINSON

Based in Port Carling, Red Bean Interior Design focuses on a design ethos driven to create homes their clients will love.

A style that values minimalism and functionality inspired the vision of Red Bean Interior Design's principal Amanda McLennan when it came time to tackle her own family's vintage 1970s cottage renovation. Located on 200 feet of Lake Muskoka shoreline, McLennan and her husband sought to transform its dark and dated interiors to create a spacious, light-filled getaway for their family of five. Merging Scandinavian design principles with the comforts of a farmhouse cottage was the ideal pairing to create a clean look and a contemporary space inspired by the family's recent trip to Sweden.



The granite fireplace was painted white to modernize the open-concept living room and adjacent kitchen. Photo by: Sabrina at The North Studio

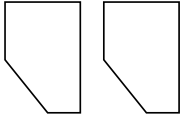
"We are a family of five and creating lots of space for our growing family was important," says McLennan. "Renovations always pose challenges and inspire great creative thinking to tackle limitations," she says, "from existing structures as well as implementing additions."

With its overall vibe rooted distinctly in Scandinavian style, there's a serenity here that matches the natural landscape of the Muskokas. Marked by its clean, simple lines, and with hidden functional features tucked beneath the exterior beauty of natural and bright woods, a soft neutral colour scheme with pops of black and tan allow the indoors to echo the outdoor calm.

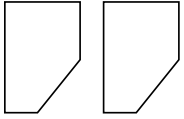
The most surprising part of this project was in the unfolding of the finished cottage and its invitation to welcome the beauty of Muskoka into the very essence of the space's infrastructure. ➤



McLennan worked with Otley Design to create custom front doors and sliding barn doors in the entryway. Photo by: Sabrina at The North Studio



Living in Muskoka is such an incredible gift, and being inspired by bright airy spaces that allow the beautiful landscape to fully emerge is what we do best.



The kitchen island provides additional seating while waterfront views can be enjoyed by the chef and diners alike. Photo by: Sabrina at The North Studio

It was particularly breathtaking for McLennan to discover “just how incredible the views are of the lake from the comfort of the living room.” Bright spaces that become a part of the day’s natural rhythms from sunrise to sunset make living in a Scandi-modern space all the more appealing, and in particular when nestled amid the sights and sounds of mother nature.

The interior designer credits the process of change as her favourite part of this project – letting go of the old space in favour of accepting something much more thoughtful and useful to accommodate her family’s needs and desires. McLennan created new floor plans to elevate the flow of space while thoughtful furniture layouts truly redefined the entire experience of family time at the cottage.

With custom cabinetry designed by Red Bean, hardware by Emtek and Top Knobs, and lighting by Hudson Valley, the fixtures and appliances have a recognizable stamp of Red Bean’s style in every room, and the design house supplied all the furnishings as the perfect complement to its pleasing, modern aesthetic. The shiplap throughout the entire cottage was supplied by Muskoka Lumber, giving that rustic yet crisp appearance to the space.



The main floor master bedroom boasts double doors to a private deck overlooking the lake. Photo by: Sabrina at The North Studio



The laundry room and mudroom keep everything tucked away in a wall of cabinets and can accommodate plenty of visitors. Photo by: Kelly Tomlinson



A large loft with bathroom was added above the two-car garage. Photo by: Sabrina at The North Studio

Based in Port Carling, Red Bean Interior Design focuses on a design ethos driven to create homes their clients will love. The majority of its projects are local cottages where they apply a mix of coastal style and modern farmhouse—a reflection of what McLennan has achieved within her own getaway. "Living in Muskoka is such an incredible gift," she says, "and being inspired by bright airy spaces that allow the beautiful landscape to fully emerge is what we do best." 

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