

home of the month



Cabin in the Hills

Photography by Susan Teare

After twenty years of vacationing in Vermont, Erwin and Laurie Rogers of Long Island were finally at a moment in their lives when they could find a place in the hills of Stowe to call home. They had sold Erwin's manufacturing business and were ready to make the leap. But after looking at, what Erwin estimates to be about 30 homes, they were beginning to feel like the one for them just wasn't out there.

"We wanted to have a second home in a place we really loved," says Laurie, "but we couldn't find exactly what we wanted. One day we were leaving the real estate office and we drove by this nice piece of property overlooking the Worcester Mountains with a little 'For Sale By Owner' sign." They decided to take a look and loved the property and the view, but the house was too small. After much consideration, the cheapest and easiest plan would be to rebuild.

The Rogers went to work with architect Paul Rousselle and builder Brendan O'Reilly (of Gristmill Construction). Building on the same footprint of the original home, Paul and Brendan worked together to build a house with the cozy cabin feel the Rogers were looking for. Their combined sense of beauty brought it all together.

"They wanted lots of wood," explains Brendan, "the flooring, paneling and ceiling are all pine and the timberframing is hemlock." Laurie didn't want the house to be like their regular home with lots of sheetrock and painting. The large amount of wood creates the warmth she was hoping for.

In the kitchen, some of the pine cabinets feature copper panels, which reflect light in the evening, giving off a warm glow. The countertops are small, allowing the Rogers to splurge on granite with a cutting board counter on the side of the stove, an idea of Brendan's.

Throughout their winter visits, the Rogers enjoy a fire almost nightly in the Vermont fieldstone fireplace – one of their favorite aspects. But no matter what time of year, Erwin and Laurie agree that the large windows throughout the home are one of its best features. They are constantly surrounded by gorgeous views, even when coming down the stairs in the morning.

Distinctive touches throughout the rest of the home, including the stained glass accent in the bedroom, the stainless steel appliances, the lighting, the unique living room rug, and all the furniture, came from local shops from Burlington to Stowe and the Rogers wouldn't have it any other way. "I love the lodge atmosphere," says Erwin. Laurie agrees. "We chose to have our second home in Vermont because we love it," she says, "so we wanted the home to feel like Vermont."