

AMERICAN FARMHOUSE Style

15+ Entertaining Essentials

Inspiration
to Make Your
House a Home

Cozy Up
Your Home
for
Fall

**Very Vintage
Collectibles**

Thermoses,
old photographs,
kitchen accessories
and more!

The décor in this space is minimal and natural, with its simple greenery and a teak root sphere on the hearth. This encourages visitors to take in the surrounding views, rather than being distracted by busy décor.

Cabin Comfort

This lakeside cabin in Ontario, Canada, pairs the best of lakeside living with farmhouse style.

BY EMILY IRBY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN THOMASON



Stunning views of clear Lake Muskoka and the lush forest in Ontario, Canada, might make you think there's less work to be done on the interior of a lakeside home. But that's not the case. Designer Sascha Lafleur of West of Main took it as a challenge to create something as special inside as the landscape is outside. Sascha has plenty of experience in strategically approaching what patterns, textures and materials she'll use to foster the harmony between a stylish and a comfortable, livable interior. "You can have this beautiful build with all the finishes, but until you finish it with furniture and décor, it doesn't feel like a home," she says.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

Sascha and her team worked in collaboration with Muskoka Lumber, the architectural design company responsible for the home's noteworthy architecture. Some of the features include high-vaulted ceilings, an open floor plan and a modern sunroom.

(above) Muskoka Lumber is behind the home's striking architecture, like the floor-to-ceiling windows, modern iron details and reclaimed wood.

(opposite) Sascha pulled from the tones of the home's organic materials when choosing fabrics and décor. She says: "You can mix in ebony, and it gives you a wood tone in texture, but it doesn't introduce another color of wood. It complements it nicely in a neutral way."

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Tip

IN NARROW SPACES, KEEP THE BULKIEST FURNITURE TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE ROOM. THIS WILL CREATE A WALKWAY AND DRAW THE EYE TO THE CENTER.



Material WORLD

4 materials to add for texture

- 1. BRICK** is a great choice when selecting a material for the interior or exterior of your home. It's durable if installed correctly, comes in a variety of colors and creates dimension on walls that is often lacking with the typical plaster wall.
- 2. SHIPLAP** is dynamic; it can be used for entire walls or just a portion, and a huge perk is it can be a budget-friendly DIY project. Depending on where you utilize it, shiplap can play up a room's shape and draw the eye to focal points you want to highlight.
- 3. CLAY** is simple, natural and a good way to incorporate texture without any major renovations. Earthenware vases are the ideal departure from glossy glassware if you want something a bit more organic and unfinished looking.
- 4. WOOL** is another easy addition to add dimension to flat surfaces. A wool rug over a tile floor or a wool throw over a leather couch can soften and warm an entire space.



(opposite) The dining room rug has an antique look, but without any of the fuss. It's new but made to look worn. "The rug is polyester and it has no pile, so you can easily clean it as you clean the rest of your floors," Sascha says.

Sascha used the cabin's clean lines and rustic materials when deciding how to style the spaces. For example, the vintage-inspired rug in the middle of the dining area plays off the texture of exposed brick in the kitchen, alongside the rich wood details on the ceiling. "There's the richness of the terra-cotta tone in the brick and cedar, so we brought in the dining room rug to ground the space," she says. And of course, there's the rest of the décor and furniture to take into account. "Dining rooms are full of hard surfaces, like the live-edge table with metal legs. If the rug wasn't there, it would float and it wouldn't feel as cozy."



The sunroom acts as an additional living room. “We set it up as a living space because you can go out on the deck and eat outside, open up all the doors to the sunroom and have the space feel like one,” Sascha says. She worked with the room’s floor-to-ceiling glass walls and added a console table with vintage pottery so the view from the staircase would be more interesting than the back of a sofa.



Designing for ENTERTAINING

3 ways to create a party-friendly space

- 1. THE FLOW.** To anticipate what Sascha refers to as “the phases of the party,” try looking at each room your guests will be occupying and imagine when and how the rooms will be used. For example, you can expect that in the beginning guests will congregate near the entryway, but towards the end of the night, the sitting areas should be prepped for winding down with cards and conversation.
- 2. DURABLE MATERIALS.** Even with small, relaxed gatherings, accidents are bound to happen. If you’re worried about wine spills on your antique armchairs or cream-colored couches, consider putting smaller items away for the evening and covering any larger pieces of furniture with a throw.
- 3. CONVERSATION PIECES.** When hosting a party full of people who may not yet be acquainted with one another, it’s good to anticipate lulls in conversation and have some statement pieces set out to give your guests something to discuss. Artwork, interesting vintage items or souvenirs from your travels are all great decorations that encourage banter among strangers.

(above) The kitchen island is the perfect place for gathering while someone is cooking. The bar counter on the left makes whipping up drinks a breeze for the host, and not being in the middle of the kitchen, it doesn’t get in the way of cooking. With the living area so close, Sascha knew there would be a natural migration from kitchen to living room, and vice versa.

PERSONAL TOUCHES

Sascha had more than aesthetics in mind when planning the design—she also had to consider the family who will live here with their unique personal needs. The home can entertain plenty of friends and family after long days on the lake, which means the furniture can’t be too precious; it must withstand damp bathing suits and muddy footprints. “Material-wise, we wanted to go with slipcovers that are washable so it was easy when people were going indoor to outdoor,” Sascha says. “You’re going to live.” The sofas aren’t just easy to clean—they’re also perfectly positioned in the open concept home. “Having two flanking the fireplace allows you to enjoy the view and allows for a natural space divider of furniture.”



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Sascha also had to consider the open floor plan when deciding on the color palette. "You have to have reference points throughout," she says. "You have to make sure you're doing that in each of the spaces so it all organically works together." The charcoal dining chairs mirror the charcoal coffee table on the other side of the couch, which complements the cool tone of the brick fireplace. To finish the look with a pop of color, Sascha opted to use greenery, a timeless way to connect an interior to the beauty of the exterior.

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