

TRADITIONAL HOME



Hello, Summer!

ROOMS THAT SAY RELAX & STAY AWHILE

YOUR GUIDE TO
ENJOYING THE
GOOD LIFE,
INDOORS & OUT

25

**ENTERTAINING
IDEAS TO INSPIRE
YOUR STYLE**

**+ GETAWAY HOMES FROM CAPE COD
TO THE CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY**





home there. “I fell in love with the place,” Betty says. Within the year, the Schaefers bought two acres with a small house on the water. Protected by the bay from high waves, the property is one of the few in the area with a sandy beach, a sandy lake bottom, and a good stretch of shallow, wading-depth water. As a bonus, it’s next to the home of their friends, who offered to split the use of their dock, boats, and other water gear with the Schaefers.

“We said, ‘Perfect! We’ll take it!’” Betty recalls. For four summers, the Schaefers vacationed there, but the modern log cabin-style house was too small to accommodate more than one of their children’s families at a time. The style of the house wasn’t exactly to Betty’s liking either, and she and George began planning a new Nantucket-inspired house, where all of their immediate family—eight adults and 10 children—could be together at one time.

In another stroke of luck (maybe Raminentz really is magical), Betty’s friend and interior designer Elizabeth Schmidt owns a Lake Michigan vacation home just 15 minutes from the Schaefers’ place. Schmidt had decorated the Schaefers’ Cincinnati home and was in tune with Betty’s style preferences. “Betty and I both love bright colors and aren’t afraid to use them,” Schmidt says. The designer also knew the enchanting qualities of a lake home.

“From the very beginning, this project was very special,” she says. “This was Betty and George’s dream house. It was a summer-house built to share with friends and family in one of the best places on Earth—Northern Michigan.” The Schaefers and Schmidt teamed up with Michigan-based architect Robert Ben Begley and



Dining room The shell chandelier from Made Goods is a nod to the lake setting. Chairs are accented with pillows covered in a Lilly Pulitzer fabric for Lee Jofa. **Living room** The blue-and-white palette is updated with blasts of lime green on the rug designed by Jonathan Adler. **Homeowners** Betty and George Schaefer. **Exterior** The master suite and kitchen open to covered porches. Guest bedrooms and a playroom have second-level balconies. **Preceding pages** White bullion fringe accents the ocean-blue sofa, while a Sister Parish floral fabric upholsters matching armchairs. The Schaefers’ 10 grandchildren watch sailboats in the bay.





Of course, grandkids get the royal treatment too. The six granddaughters share a Tiffany-blue-walled room with three matching four-poster trundle beds. The four grandsons sleep (eventually) in a nautical-inspired bedroom with two bright red trundle beds. Plus, there's an upstairs playroom and a teen-getaway room with kitchenette and large-screen TV behind the boat garage.

To keep life organized (George is a West Point graduate and loves order, Betty points out), the grandchildren have their own monogrammed towels, drinking glasses, and colorful buckets for their shoes and sports gear.

With so many people and so much activity, durability is an issue, and fabrics and furnishings were chosen accordingly. The pink carpet in the granddaughters' room is made for outdoor use and can be scrubbed down with water if necessary. Floors throughout much of the house are wood with a factory-finish whitewash. "I wanted the light floors to be prefinished so I didn't have to worry about repainting them," Betty explains. Tile floors in the kids' mudroom and baths are equally no-fuss.

Daily life revolves around sailing classes, swimming, boating, golf, tennis, and just lounging on the patios with a book and a cool drink. "The whole point was to bring everyone together, so the cousins can play and build lots of wonderful memories," Betty says.

Who knows? Those memories may be woven into magical stories of a place called Raminentz. ■

Architect: Robert Ben Begley **Interior designer:** Elizabeth Schmidt

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Bedroom A vacation home calls for bold color combinations such as the orange-and-pink fabric on the Mario & Marielena headboard, the designer says. The Lee Industries X-base bench is covered with a playful orange zebra stripe by Bruschi & Fils.

Granddaughters' bedroom Three four-poster trundle beds sleep the Schaefer's six granddaughters. Walls are "Cool Lagoon" from Pittsburgh Paints. **Guest bath** Glass knobs from Rejuvenation accent the Caesarstone-topped vanity. **Playroom** The kids enjoy the barefoot-comfort of the fuzzy "Grizzly" rug from Surya while they play games on the large table made from reclaimed wood.