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THE SPECIAL ISSUE

design at home

NATURAL + AIRY
Behind the Design
OF A EUROPEAN
FARMHOUSE

REVIVE

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5 TIPS

to Get Organized

Q&A WITH KANDRAC & KOLE INTERIOR DESIGN:

Personalizing your LAKE HOME

Design by KANDRAC & KOLE
Photography by LAUREN RUBENSTEIN
PHOTOGRAPHY

Kelly Kole, Principal Designer of Kandrac & Kole Interior Designs Inc., gives a peek behind the scenes of designing her own lake house.

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Q: *Tell us a little bit about the purpose behind the design of this house.*

A: This was a complete gut and remodel project for us. Our intention was to design it as a second home—not just a cabin or a vacation home—so I approached the design just like I did for our more permanent home. The only twist was that this house is very geared toward entertaining—lots of dogs and kids and wet bathing suits. So getting as many “heads in beds” as possible was important, as was using beautiful but durable products so that I wouldn’t be fretting all the time over something getting damaged.

Q: *We love this fresh take on a lake home style. How did you decide on this design style, and how did you personalize it to your own taste?*

A: My permanent home leans more contemporary and is very colorful. I love an all-neutral style and the farmhouse aesthetic, so I took this opportunity to dive into it. The vintage rugs throughout the house were my color contribution but in a gritty, subdued way that I love. Having grown up in Long Island, NY, I always wanted a home with shiplap walls, so that was one of the first decisions I made.





Q: *This is a unique project because the home was created specifically for you, Kelly. Given your experience in designing many other projects, what were some must-haves that you knew you'd want to incorporate into your space?*

A: I would never hear the end of it from my husband and kids if the house was beautiful but not super comfortable. I'm a stickler for quality upholstered furniture and comfortable beds with nice bedding. I'm also an amateur art collector, so having original art all over the house—and being able to tell the story of how it came to be or where and why I bought it—was important to me.

Q: *We sense a theme in the living room, with the cowhide rug and the cow artwork hanging above the fireplace. Tell us about your inspiration behind the cow-print details in this room.*

A: Our home is up the street from an old rundown farm, which may be a turnoff for some people, but it brings back many childhood memories for me. We go on walks and talk to the cows and feed the horses. Years before, I had seen the work of Atlanta artist Dawn Raulet and knew I wanted to commission a piece from her. The entire fireplace wall was designed around that art. I chose the hide rug because it's very durable and an interesting contrast to the wool rug that is in the next area over.





Q: *This reading nook is especially genius, with its cozy blankets and charming wood-framed photos. How do you go about designing hidden spaces for hobbies in homes with a smaller footprint?*

A: Remember, “heads in beds” was the name of the game! I love a trundle bed for extra guests. They don’t take up much room and can double as a TV sofa. I always include a small table for a drink of water and a phone or book, plus a good reading light for bedtime.



We love everything about the kitchen, from the trendy subway tile to the bronze light fixtures and rattan bar stools. What are some things you consider when designing a kitchen for multiple guests?



This kitchen footprint is actually quite small, so I gained a lot of storage opportunities by having the floating shelves and the tall pantry cabinets on the far wall. With so many guests, they need to be able to serve themselves and help empty the dishwasher, so the floating shelves with our everyday dishes make it really easy. I always invest in oversized, interesting pendant lights over an island because they are like art to me. I got the idea for the vintage bread board gallery from a cute café in Charleston, SC, and I spent a year finding them one by one at antique stores, flea markets, and antique salvage stores. By putting legs on the island, we were able to squeeze in one more counter stool at the end, so now we can fit our family of four. If I'm going to cook for you, you need to hang out at the island and talk to me!



How did you choose this beautiful flooring that's installed throughout the home?



I was looking for a floor that was durable, plus scratch resistant, stain resistant and waterproof, so I found a quality luxury vinyl tile that looks just like hardwood. It was one of the best decisions we made for the house.





There's so much texture and color throughout the double-bed guest room. How did you decide on this almost Moroccan color scheme and successfully blend contemporary style with vintage details?



If you are going with an all-neutral aesthetic, texture is the most important element. I had to buy everything new for this home, but I didn't want it to look new. I also think that the best designs mix old and new because a house needs to have a soul and tell a story, even if it is new. I had collected the vintage trunks years ago—they hold extra sheets, blankets, and pillows—because when you are my guest, you change your sheets before you leave. The contemporary artwork came to be because, once again, I fell in love with an artist—this time, it was Kimberly Zukley out of Alabama.



Q:

The master suite is gorgeously styled and tailored to your own taste. How do you create a space that's unique to your style and also functions well?

A:

I have to have a super comfortable bed and quality sheets, coverlets, and pillows as well as 150-watt reading lights and pretty art to look at when I lie in bed. These are my prerequisites. Once those details are figured out, it's just a matter of deciding on colors and finishes.



Q:

There are so many outdoor spaces at this lake house. How do you make the most of the outdoor space in a home that's designated for lake activities?

A:

The nice thing about this house is that it's not that big, but there are lots of places to escape. Sometimes, I might want to be doing yoga while others are reading or making cocktails and food. We made sure there was a variety of seating (including hammocks) and tables, so every porch area is usable in some way.



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