

Boston

# home

## *Summer Escapes*

A NEW HAMPSHIRE  
VACATION RETREAT

FIVE EXCEPTIONAL  
OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES

A FAMILY MANSE ON  
THE NORTH SHORE

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THIS PAGE Kids relax in an upstairs reading nook with built-ins and a Saarinen work table.

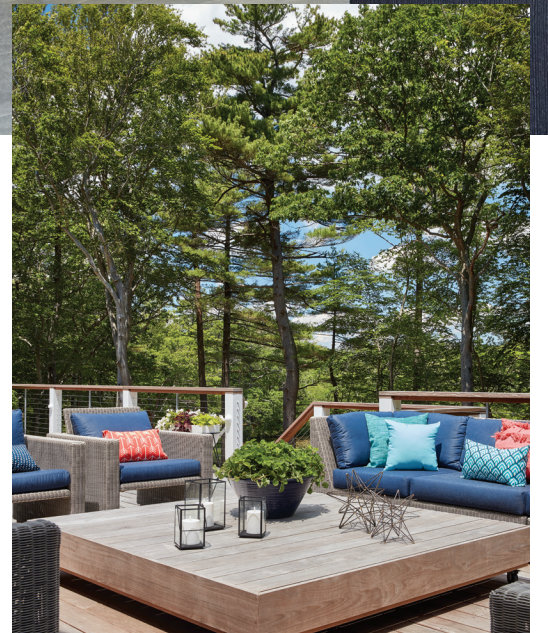
OPPOSITE This home is its own vacation retreat: The 10,000-plus-square-foot estate even came with an indoor pool.



# ROOM TO ROAM

*Interior designer Kristina Crestin remakes a rambling North Shore home for a big, active family.*

BY KARA BASKIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JARED KUZIA



#### IT'S A MODERN DESIGN RIDDLE:

Is it possible to make a 10,000-square-foot manse feel like a cozy family home?

Yes, if you hire interior designer Kristina Crestin, who describes the original structure—a lakeside abode on the North Shore—as a “McMansion on steroids.” “This was an early-1990s or late-1980s ‘builder special,’” Crestin says. “The builders decided that bigger was

better.” To make matters worse, the home’s materials were cheap and the design was outdated. (Crestin still shudders over those bathrooms festooned with red melamine and black-and-white tile.) And despite its size, the house lacked such essentials as a mudroom.

Crestin’s main goals were updating, refreshing, and adding a “by-the-water feel.” “The owners wanted

a house that people can live in, where they can be themselves—but where they can dress things up when they want to entertain,” the designer says.

The makeover began in the foyer, where new shiplap walls—chosen to evoke a sense of water—pair with an elegant blue-and-sea-glass-green painting from Gregg Irby Gallery in Atlanta. “I liked the movement and

#### THIS PAGE, FROM TOP

Offset by sea-glass-colored pendant lights, a white-oak-and-granite kitchen island forms a gathering place for the busy family.

Outside, a deck overlooks a lake and expansive woodlands.

#### OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT

A bar area in the kitchen creates intimacy in the expansive space, complete with a sitting area.

A palette of grays, blues, greens, and whites in the foyer evokes a playful cottage atmosphere.



the interpretation of water, which is playful but a little modern,” Crestin says. The central staircase off the entry boasts an antelope-themed carpet from Landry & Arcari, a cheeky element that showcases the owners’ down-to-earth sensibilities.

The work continued in the kitchen, which was completely redone to eliminate an awkward kitty-cornered range and misplaced

cabinetry. “It was a large kitchen, but inefficient,” Crestin says of the original space. She worked with Howell Custom Building Group to create an open, functional floor plan made intimate through different zones, including a lounge area with windows overlooking the lake. The revamped room—now home to scratch-resistant (read: kid-friendly) ceramic flooring—

also includes an eating area with a handmade Oly Studio chandelier; a bar area with a built-in end panel to conceal a Sub-Zero fridge and freezer drawers; and a white oak island accented by a granite top and painted pendant lights. A pantry off the kitchen hides such necessities as coffee makers and groceries, while a second pantry—transformed into a mudroom—offers

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A new mantel in the living room adds scale to an existing fireplace.

The dining room features a denim wallcovering from Phillip Jeffries.

A “Muriel Cloud” chandelier from Oly Studio brightens the kitchen.

OPPOSITE In the family room, tall windows and a glass door offer views of the lake.



additional storage space. “Every family needs a mud-room,” Crestin says. Family-focused elements dominate the home’s upper level, too. A second-floor bath, for example, features bright coral cabinetry and wallpaper with squiggly frames that the kids can draw on. (In this house, it’s okay to scribble on the walls.) There’s also a reading nook, complete with a

window seat, slanted ceilings, built-in bookshelves, a work table by Saarinen, and spunky renditions of Hans Wegner’s “Wishbone” chairs from Lekker Home. “This nook gets used a lot—one or two kids go up there at a time to do homework. It’s a magical space that the kids love,” Crestin says. Bedrooms are equally child-centric: In one, Room & Board canopy beds—strung

with candy-colored dots—rest easy on a hot-pink shag carpet. Built-in bunk beds steal the show in another kids’ bedroom, dressed up in a bolder version of the home’s blue-and-green color scheme. Of course, with a house full of children, there’s also plenty of laundry. Thankfully, a sunny second-floor laundry room boasts double stackable washer-dryers,

**OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT**  
A kids’ bedroom leads to a private study area with a built-in desk.  
  
Howell Custom Building Group constructed the kids’ bunk beds, designed by Crestin.  
  
**THIS PAGE, FROM TOP**  
A custom stone climbing wall provides access to a top bunk.  
  
Crestin worked with B&G Cabinet to design the laundry room’s custom cabinets.



plus laundry baskets for each child, laundry carts, and semi-custom cabinetry by B&G Cabinet. Crestin worked with Breuker Design and Howell to create this space, which features a new dormer and windows, Caesarstone quartz counters, and matching porcelain pendants from West Elm. And, of course, there's that ceramic flooring again to withstand wear and tear.

The room connects to the rest of the house via a massive barn door that Crestin sourced from Real Sliding Hardware, perfect for hiding everyday messes to keep the lakefront vibe alive.

The designer says that guests are often amazed at the home's size—and at the quirky decorating details.

"This is a full-time house, and they use every inch of it," Crestin says. ●

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Schumacher's "Waves" wallcovering is a fitting choice for the bathroom near the indoor pool.

Walnut panels add texture to the tub in the master bathroom.

The eclectic master bedroom includes a sofa from Crate & Barrel, a headboard from Room & Board, and Moorish bone-inlay chests from Wisteria.

OPPOSITE Turquoise West Elm deck chairs and two long tables suit the big family.

**ARCHITECT**  
BREUKER DESIGN  
**CONTRACTOR**  
HOWELL CUSTOM BUILDING GROUP  
**INTERIOR DESIGNER**  
KRISTINA CRESTIN DESIGN

