

# RESTLESS LIVING

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## INDIAN LAKE HOUSE

Indian Lake, New York, United States

Inspired by the simplicity of a Japanese Tea House and the home from the movie “On Golden Pond”, husband and wife retired Metropolitan Opera singers Rob Maher and Deborah Allton-Maher had strong but conflicting visions for their dream of a lake retreat in the Adirondacks. To reconcile the opposing ideas of a clean-lined aesthetic and a cottage feel with articulated details, the couple approached New York-based PJCArchitecture.

“We worked diligently to mediate these conflicting visions, gathering imagery from both concepts and establishing methods of merging elements of both. We ultimately decided to clad the house in ‘Shou Sugi Ban,’ an eco-friendly, charred wood siding that the couple had experienced in their travels to Japan”, architect Philip J. Consalvo says. By combining Shou Sugi Ban, clean moldings around large linear windows and doors, and a metal roof, Philip and his team were able to simultaneously respond to the natural surroundings and Rob’s desire for clean lines. “The design of the home nods to the vernacular architecture of the Adirondacks with its pitched roof, wood siding, and stone walls, though we wanted to provide a fresh take on its familiar forms and materials.

Its clean lines and contrasted siding help add a fresh, contemporary









element without feeling out of place”, Philip explains. While the aesthetics of the home was based on two conflicting visions, the external impression of the Indian Lake House is also influenced by opposition. “The home is modest and unassuming from the street and driveway, but upon crossing the bridge to the front entrance, visitors find that they are on the top level of the home and there are two more below. From the lakeside direction, the home appears as a tall form that grows up from the lake with the surrounding trees and hill.

Deborah’s request for a cottage aesthetic was thoroughly explored throughout the interior of the home; using wrought iron railings, powder-blue kitchen cabinetry, a stone fireplace, and wood-planked walls. “Entering the home on the third level, the space opens up into a main living area and kitchen. The large cathedral ceiling space is flooded with light streaming in from floor-to-ceiling windows. A sculptural volume in the middle of the open level echoes the exterior massing of the home and organizes the space by storing mechanical equipment in the top and forming portions of the kitchen, closet, and powder room at the bottom”, Philip tells. Following the sunbeams penetrating the four skylights, the staircase leads to the primary bedroom facing the lake. Here, Rob and Deborah can conclude their day restfully assured that both their dreams of a lakeside retreat were united.

Architecture by **PJCArchitecture**

Photography by **Tom Stock**



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