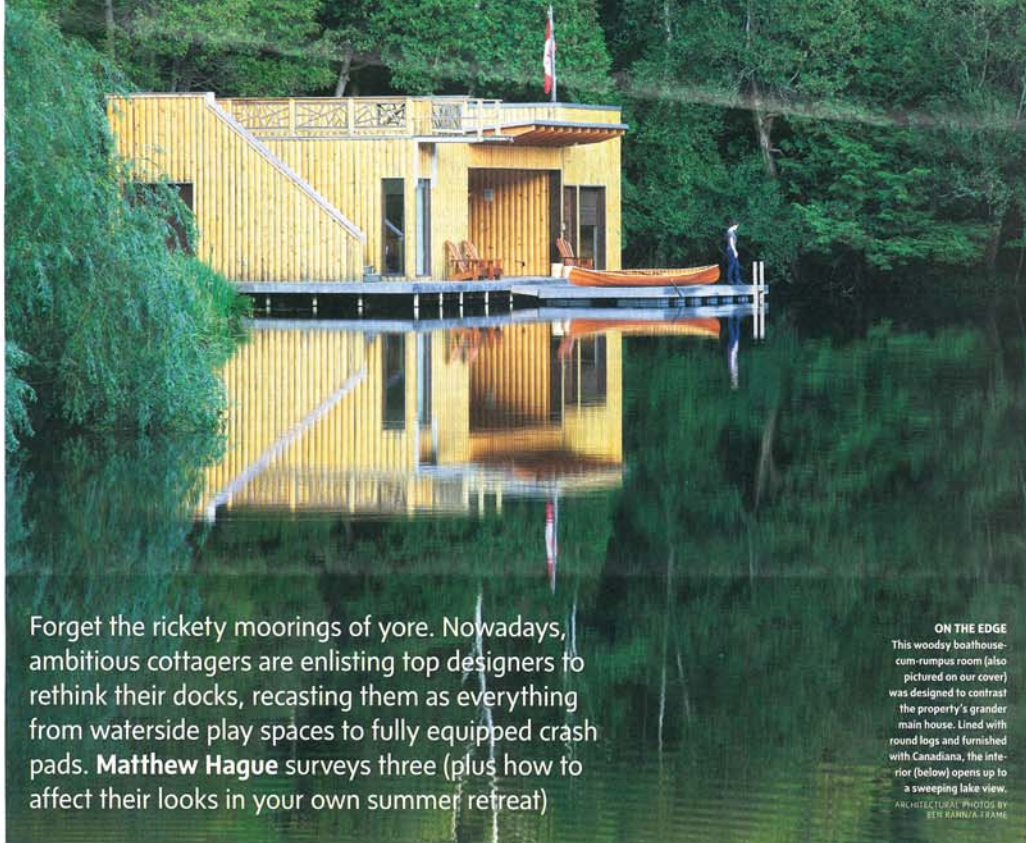


WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOATHOUSE



Forget the rickety moorings of yore. Nowadays, ambitious cottagers are enlisting top designers to rethink their docks, recasting them as everything from waterside play spaces to fully equipped crash pads. **Matthew Hague** surveys three (plus how to affect their looks in your own summer retreat)

ON THE EDGE
This woody boathouse-cum-rumpus room (also pictured on our cover) was designed to contrast the property's grander main house. Lined with round logs and furnished with Canadiana, the interior (below) opens up to a sweeping lake view.

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOS BY
EEN KARNIJA-FRAME

THE RUSTIC COUNTERPOINT

In certain ways, Toronto architect Tom Wilson, associate partner at +VG Architects, designed this Niagara Escarpment boathouse as an antidote to the cottage on the same site. In fact, the word cottage is somewhat misleading here, as the main lodge is a modern home with soaring glass walls, an infinity-edge pool and statement-making lawn art (the property is 90 acres and includes a private lake).

Because the cottage is in no way pastoral, Wilson's clients – a husband and wife who work in finance and retail, respectively – wanted the 1,600-square-foot boathouse to be the exact opposite. (There was already a dock on the site, "but it was sinking into the lake," Wilson notes.)

And it is the opposite. Well, mostly. The digs are still pretty luxurious: There's a games room, a small kitchenette used to serve and prepare midday drinks and snacks and a rooftop deck with a diving platform (the water drops off steeply immediately offshore). But there are no oil paintings and Eames loungers, as there are in the main building. And the walls of the living room are lined in simple, round logs.

The furniture fits in with the rustic story. It was all sourced through the Toronto-based store Made, which specializes in decor designed and manufactured in Canada. Lumberjack-plaid prints, Coleman sconces and tree-stump stools add warmth and a sense of wilderness chic.

But for all the handsome architecture and furnishings, the view from within is the most spectacular part of the dockhouse. "It's pretty easy to spend a day there, looking out over the lake," Wilson says admiringly. "It's as unspoiled and lush as a Group of Seven painting – a luxury that simply can't be designed or built."



GET THE LOOK

Akin to the stump stools in the +VG boathouse above, Hinterland's **LITTLE GEM SIDE TABLES** (from \$1,100 each through www.hinterlanddesign.com) are hand-carved in B.C. from reclaimed western-red-cedar logs.

Want an instant hit of classic Canadiana? Toronto-based Made, which sourced all the furniture in the +VG boathouse, designed these **CANUCK-THEMED FEATHER-FILLED PILLOWS** (\$125 each through www.madedesign.goodsie.com).

Defined by its cast-aluminum cage frame, Troy Lighting's **WILMINGTON OUTDOOR WALL SCONCE** (\$346 through www.troy-lighting.com) has a nautical look, making it ideal for a lakeside refuge.