

INTO THE WOODS

The timber frames are from New Energy Works in Farmington. (Opposite page) The exterior stonework and fireplace were done by Fladd's Stone of Canandaigua, which used cobblestone to make it look as if the stones were pulled from the nearby creek bed.



Inside and out,
this space for
entertaining
is a natural.

STORY BY STACEY FREED
PHOTOS BY MATT WITTMAYER

Susan and Peter Schottland wanted to build a “party barn” in the woods across the road from their home on Canandaigua Lake. But it was important to them to be respectful of the land.

It was overgrown, with four houses in disrepair sitting on it. But once it was all cleared, the property held a hidden gem.

Historic documents showed that the original parcel, made up of 400 acres, had been owned by the Menteth family, which settled the point that now bears its name, in the 1830s. They lived in a large manor house, and they grew fruit, hops and grain on the estate.

It was the woods beyond that held the gem: a 30-foot waterfall with a small pool and a creek that flows under the road to the lake.

“For the main floor, the design vision was all about the view of that waterfall,” says designer Margit Jacobson, who worked closely with architect Tim Tyskiewicz and the Schottlands to create a timber frame barn that settles

into the landscape seamlessly and can be used for large group entertaining and small gatherings.

The back of the structure is nearly all glass. Four tall, oversized windows on the loft level under the roof, and four metal-framed glass sliding doors on the ground level, frame the view of the stone patio, trees, falls and green space (designed by landscape architect Mark Bayer).

When the doors are opened, the outdoors becomes an extension of the interior floor plan. Those back doors are zero-threshold for easy access to the outdoors.

The “indoor-outdoor connection creates one large party space,” Susan says.

In the kitchen, reclaimed wood hides the dishwasher, refrigerator and cabinets.

And the outdoor kitchen rivals the indoor one. Richard Sands, Constellation Brands chairman of the board, built the table for them, which is ideal for entertaining: It seats 20. Sands, through his furniture-making company called Icon, also built the wooden coffee table.



(Above left) When the sliding glass doors are open, the inside and outside merge. (Above) Richard Sands of Constellation Brands built the table for outdoor entertaining. (Below) Engineered wood flooring from ArtWalk Tile and walnut wood on part of the quartz island add to a perfect balance of modern and rustic.



The new space also connected with the surroundings and the history of the land.

"When it came to the architectural materials, we chose large stone and cobbles, cedar shake, Douglas fir beams—all time-honored, conventional materials," Jacobson says. "Our intention was to make the structure feel like it had been there all along."

Inside, the space is, well, a barn—wide open yet with intimate, comfortable areas created by furniture placement and material choices.

The exposed beams draw attention to the structure and speak to the building's style and the site's rustic nature. The muted color palette, dark engineered wood floor, large stone fireplace, and metal elements make the design both contemporary and timeless.

The interior floor, made of engineered wood with a rustic feel and butterfly ties, came from ArtWalk Tile in Rochester and was installed by Ray Case.

"Inside, we also chose simple, traditional materials but created some refreshing 'moments' by using those materials in an unexpected way," Jacobson says. "For example, we used cowhide material as a wall application, small wood slices as a backdrop to the sink, ropes as light cords, a petrified wood bowl as a bathroom sink."



The timber frames are from New Energy Works in Farmington. The light over the pool table, designed by Jacobson, uses Edison bulbs held with dark ropes; John Greico of Rochester built the steel frame. Unusual materials include cowhide on one wall and slices of wood behind the powder room mirror.

Because the house is used for entertaining and has to stand up to high traffic, "nothing can be too precious; everything has to be durable and comfortable," Jacobson says. "We favored materials that would patina over time, from the concrete coffee table top to the copper exterior sconces to the sofa leather."

Upstairs, the open loft holds three large beds. The only doors are the saloon doors on the Jack-and-Jill bathroom.

"It's more like camp quarters," Susan says.

But the basic leather and wool fabrics on the furniture and pillows, and the French grain sacks turned into bedding, all define a simple elegance that goes way beyond camping.

They started building and designing the project three years ago, Susan says, and finished just in time for their daughter's wedding.

"Three days before, Margit was moving furniture," Susan says.

Of course, the celebration was held outside at the falls—the feature that makes this custom-built beauty a truly unique spot, inside and out. **R**

Stacey Freed is a writer living in Pittsford.

