WEEKEND RETREATS

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RIZZOLI
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LAKE COTTAGE

New Preston, CONNECTICUT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON FREEMAN

Perched on a rocky bluff overlooking Lake Waramaug is the ideal Connecticut retreat for a single weekender looking for great water views and the chance to take out his 1960s Chris Craft Super Sport any chance he gets. But before pleasure came many months of work restoring the dilapidated 1937 cottage that, over years, had been rented to the ground. "My parents have a cottage on the lake and I fell in love with the area," says the owner, venture capitalist Mark Adams. "When this place came up for sale it had aluminum siding, shag carpeting, and was sagging in the middle." But with its dramatic location, set in a hollow and surrounded by towering stone formations, Adams knew he could provide every room with its own water view.

While the bones of the house (along with the original wood flooring in the living room) were kept intact, every other element had to

opposite: The front porch is filled with vintage rattan furniture that once belonged to Adams's grandmother and now have been restored with care.

opposite: The dining room corner banquette is the ideal way to stylishly seat many guests for meals.

this page: The full-service kitchen is made cheeky with cabinet interiors painted apple green.

be meticulously rebuilt and restored. Adams brought designer Gil Shaefer in to help him and an architect who specialized in historic renovations. "I wanted it to feel eclectic but with an eye toward tradition," says Adams. To achieve just the right touch, he mixed family heirlooms and vintage pieces from Paris flea markets with more contemporary pieces to give the seven rooms a fresh edge. Guests watch the sunsets, gathered around the French farmhouse table on chic aluminum Hudson chairs in the dining room. For the screened-in porch, Adams revived his grandmother's beloved McGuire rattan furniture by painting it white and then covering it with plush pillows. His favorite room is the upstairs main guest room, which boldly boasts pink walls and green floors. "Every lake cottage should have one pink and green room," he says. A 1920s caned lounger would be the ideal repose for Sister Parish, who would feel equally at home in the children's guest

this page: An upstairs children's bedroom features beds covered in antique Indian madras quilts and vintage tennis racquets for wall décor.

opposite: The coveted outdoor shower offers privacy via moss-covered boulders and natural flora.

room (for Adams's nieces and nephews), with its madras bedspreads and vintage wooden tennis racquets (rescued from the garbage at his Manhattan digs) perched above one of the headboards. Visitors and host enjoy views no matter where they are in the house due to the three sets of French doors Adams installed across from one another in the front and back of the house. Besides sunrises and sunsets, Adams likes to entertain his frequent guests with steak barbecues, trips to nearby county fairs, and waterskiing on the lake. And upon return to the now cottage-cozy retreat, he has only one house rule: "Take off your shoes and stay barefoot all weekend."