

NICE UPON A TIME...HOW QUICKLY THOSE WORDS ENGAGE

the imagination. For designer Kay Root, they instilled a lifelong passion for scavenging. "When my sister and I were little," she recalls, "our father made up an ongoing bedtime story about a small animal who finds a hollow tree. He goes about building a home inside, and it's all out of found objects in the woods—nature items or odd little things like a butter-scotch candy wrapper."

Night after night, the story lulled the girls to sleep, but Kay's mind busily continued the narrative. "My eye was always looking for that thing that could become something else." Today, she has a growing reputation for artistic "assemblages" and miniature rooms she puts in box frames. On a larger scale, her creative collecting adorns the home she and husband David built in Harbor Springs, Michigan. "I really like to arrange and rearrange, so my house is constantly in motion." She maintains a neutral palette to showcase her eclectic treasures.

When the Roots began turning the vacation home they had built in 1988 into their full-time residence, David came up with the master plan and enlisted the help of a neighbor, architect Frederick Ball. The project included a guesthouse with a tower for watching boats on Lake Michigan. Then there was an addition to the main house. Ball tied the components together through the roof pitch, porch details, limestone columns and cedar-shake siding. Beautiful woods, most of them indigenous, create softly rustic interiors.

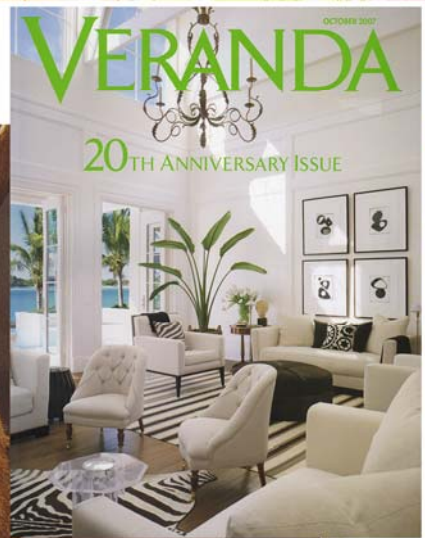


the main house

ABOVE: Cotton slipcover on Arhaus chair. Galbraith & Paul floor lamp. Antique European pine table; antique pine and hickory handmade stools. Tramp art twig table. Antique wood swimmer. Merida hemp rug. Basswood floors. LEFT: Fieldstone wall; limestone caps and pillars. OPPOSITE: Walls of pickled aspen. Basswood custom doors. Antique pine trestle table. Antique English farm table cut down for coffee table. French lacquered chair, c.1860; slipcover from vintage linen tablecloth. LEE Coveralls cotton on LEE Furniture seating. Galbraith & Paul silk pillows. James Peery oil above French pine chest, 18th c.

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