

House Talk

From Southern Michigan to Northern Michigan and back again, see how this couple chose to settle down & nestle in to their dream.

Over the years we've helped many families realize the dream of lake-front living. However, here's a couple who lived that dream for years and then decided to move off a lake in Northern Michigan back to their inland roots in Fenton, closer to their children and grandchildren.

As the American population continues to age, much focus is being put on universal design. Many couples

with carefully selected trees remaining in just the right locations (note: landscape design by Creative Scapes). Together they created a striking and warm home with much care taken to choose exterior materials that brought the design intent to life.

Weeks were spent, and countless samples were considered, before



Concept sketch comes to fruition!

are opting for living in a ranch rather than a multi-story home—knowing that as they age, a single story home may come to be a necessity. To combine the best of both worlds, we disguised this home to have the look of a two story home with the ease of having the main living space on one floor.

She brought a portfolio filled with eye-catching details that formed the character of the home. He brought a tractor—and a vision that turned a wooded lot into an open landscape,

the decision was made to formulate a custom color of stone. The builder, Patrick Widing Custom Homes, worked with various craftsmen to assure that all the selections were beautifully constructed together to convey the English Cottage character of the home.

See the article on the next page for more details on selecting exterior materials.

Patrick Widing Custom Homes & Creative Scapes
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project sketchbook



Back Patio



Partial Front Facade



Family & Friends Entry



Tractor parking or a nice shade spot

Carriage Garage



drawing from your experience

We would like to know more about your personal experiences going through the design & construction process. Everyone has a story to tell about it, some good & some bad. The first thing we would like to know is ***“what you would have done differently if you were given another chance to do it again?”*** Would you have added more square footage? Spent less money? Hired different people? Been more patient? That should jog your memory.

We will pull together some of the responses we get over the next couple of months and publish them while maintaining your privacy. Email your stories to me at chris@macklindesign.com



Chris Macklin

Simplifying the process of selecting exterior materials

The key to making selections is taking your time to collect larger samples and searching for real world examples.



cedar shake siding—in the sun

cedar shake siding—in shade

stone veneer—in shade & sun

Selecting exterior materials can be the most frightening process of home design & construction because you feel like you have only one chance to get it right. This process should never be rushed or thrown together therefore it should be started in the design phase not during construction.

Collecting larger sample boards and mockups of the stone or brick, siding with color and roofing is the first step. However, most stone sample boards obtained from suppliers are not large enough to see the full color and pattern spectrum. Have the

stone mason build a 30"x30" mockup on plywood after you narrow your selection (note-this will be heavy and won't travel well). Also, talk with your local building supply stores and get a list of addresses that have the materials you like installed on them. Real world examples say everything.

Finally, make sure you view the samples & examples in different lighting conditions because material color & texture can change greatly from sun to shade like the photo above illustrates.

What we do ...

Founded in 2001, Christopher S. Macklin Design, Incorporated is a residential design firm that specializes in the design of fine new homes, renovations and additions. Our focus is to provide each client with creative and personal solutions for their unique needs. Each client is distinct; therefore each project should reflect this by being one of a kind. Throughout the design process, we work to polish our client's dreams and ambitions to arrive at a functional and aesthetically pleasing home.

Design Services

- New Homes
- Remodels & Additions
- Facade Renovations
- Feasibility Studies
- Existing Conditions Analysis
- Universal & Aging-in-Place Design
- Interior Design
- Renderings (Concept & Character Drawings)

Scope of Services

- Pre-Design & Planning
- Preliminary Design
- Zoning Board Submittals
- Schematic Design w/ Cost Estimate
- Construction Documents
- Bidding & Negotiating
- Construction Observation