

cottage

home no. 01

by kelly



*location*

575 EAST BAY STREET, COTTAGE 9  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

*designer*

COTTAGE COMPANY  
231.526.9000  
COTTAGE-COMPANY.COM  
INTERIOR DESIGNER:  
COTTAGE COMPANY INTERIORS



Fifteen years ago, when Rob Mossburg, founder of the Harbor Springs construction and design firm the Cottage Company, proposed 18 high-end cottages set 15 feet apart on about an acre in downtown Harbor Springs, the local skepticism was nearly palpable. But Mossburg has always pushed his own build-and-design envelope, melding luxurious style and detail with cutting-edge sustainability concepts. In this case, his plan was to make the elegant little homes that he called Bay Street Cottages, shining examples of New Urbanism—a movement to bring back old-fashioned-style neighborhoods that foster community, walkability and land conservation.

Flash forward to the 16 storybook cottages with their Dutch doors, shingle-and-clapboard siding, gables, dormers, exposed rafters and myriad other details that now grace this in-town property. (Plans to build the final two are currently in the works.) Brick walkways lined with lush landscaping thread from a small village green that is resplendent with a towering spruce in the center. Vee Mossburg, Rob's wife and principal at Cottage Company Interiors, matched exquisite interior designs to the exteriors on the first 14 cottages. The interior on the newest cottages, including our tour cottage, #9, introduces their daughter, Kelly Mossburg, and her own spot-on design sense.



With an eye for clean, simple and elegant, Kelly melded the interior details using a neutral palette, natural materials and textured fabrics. In the great room, creamy shiplap paneling, character-grade white oak floor, jute lighting and rugs, grass-cloth wall coverings and a Calcutta marble-faced fireplace harmonize for a sensibility that Kelly sums up as “warm and inviting, yet sophisticated and edgy.”

The furniture, from her private label collection, Cottage by Kelly, is brilliant. Covered in high-performance indoor-outdoor fabrics that look and feel like linens, the furniture is made to stand up to the sand and wet bathing suits that are part of a Harbor Springs summer lifestyle. Furniture legs are exposed to keep the feel “light and airy,” Kelly explains. Standout pieces include walnut dining chairs, a living room chair and bedroom rocker that all channel mid-century modern lines.

The kitchen exemplifies the versatile-luxury concept found throughout the rest of the home, with an upholstered banquet that partly frames a large round table (that fits more people than a similar-sized square table). Appliances are all hidden in creamy cabinetry to maximize the sense of airiness. Quartz countertops look like marble but hold up to anything. A fabulous rope and polished nickel pendant light over the table pulls the living area's style theme into the kitchen.

There is more but we don't want to give it all away. Tourgoers are going to be amazed at the perfectly thought-out detail that the Mossburgs have incorporated into this 1,700-square-foot gem.

Elizabeth Edwards is managing editor of *Traverse*.  
lissa@traversemagazine.com. // Photos by Dave Speckman.

