

# 1 VALHALLA AGAIN

*text by elizabeth edwards | photos by cottage company*

01125 Forest Ave., Boyne City

Cottage Company, 131 E. Bay St., Harbor Springs, 231.526.2537, [cottage-company.com](http://cottage-company.com)

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RELAX





As a child, Sue Damman vacationed in a rustic resort on the shores of Walloon Lake called Valhalla. It was an American plan resort, and Sue recalls the dinner bell ringing, signaling that meals were ready in the big lodge. Her parents had honeymooned there, and then vacationed there with their children until the resort closed in 1971. After Sue married, she and her husband, Warren, continued the Northern Michigan tradition by taking their family to vacation on the big, beautiful lakes of the region from Torch to Glen.

By this time Valhalla had become Wildwood on Walloon condominiums. Eventually the Dammans purchased one—and were thrilled to find out that the owners of Wildwood had left one of the old Valhalla cabins standing to use as a beach changing room. “It’s like being lost in time when I go in,” she says. Her Northern Michigan memories had come full circle—but then it got better. When a private lot went up for sale adjacent to the condominium association, the Dammans snapped it up: it was dream home time.

Sue had no trouble deciding what style of home she wanted—she has spent years collecting ideas from home magazines including our very own *Traverse Magazine/Northern Home & Cottage*. (When we met her son Tripp he recognized our publications as the magazines he’d had to lug around in big boxes several times for his mother!). Sue knew she wanted the Walloon lake-house look—lots of white

beadboard, windows with big lake views, a loft-area for her grandkids. Most of all, she and Warren wanted to build a home that created Valhalla-type memories.

The Dammans hired Cottage Company of Harbor Springs (Rob and Vee Mossburg and Rob’s sister, Jill Nuding) to build the home. “We really liked the Mossburgs. It’s a family-run operation. We loved what they’d built in Harbor Springs, and we knew that with their attention to detail we wouldn’t have to worry—everything would be perfect,” Sue says.

And it is. The Dammans’ new vacation home glows with glossy white beadboard, deep molding and generous banks of mullioned windows framing watery views. And while there is no dinner bell to call in the family, there is a to-die-for brass and white enamel La Cornue stove, trusty enough to keep up with the family and friends who gather at the lake. Warren, too, got something he’d remembered from his childhood—a secret door. This one leads from the guest room through a closet into the Dammans’ bedroom. The grandkids love it—although their 4-year-old grandson Christopher, did comment to one person he was escorting through the door: “Nanni needs to clean up her shoes. She has too many in the way.” 🏠

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## DIMINUTIVE DAZZLER

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Eleven years ago, Jeff and Julie Towner were one of the first couples to purchase a cottage in a new Harbor Springs development called Bay Street Cottages. What a fabulous investment it was. Bay Street Cottages are the brainchild of Rob and Vee Mossburg, owners of Cottage Company, a build-and-design firm whose creations have left a smart and charming influence on the Harbor-Petoskey area. In the case of the Bay Street project,

the Mossburgs redefined condominium living. While the cottages are technically condominiums, they are actually stand-alone homes—sweet individual residences with sidewalks and lush gardens around them. Each cottage is as charmingly different as a fresh storybook illustration.

From the get-go the Towners were in love with their new cottage. At 1,300-square-feet (which is about average for the development) the three-bedroom, two-bath home



so efficiently designed they have plenty of room for their three kids and two grandchildren. With proximity to the beach and the downtown, the Towners stow their car (in the development's carriage-house style garages) when they arrive from their Grand Rapids home and travel nearly everywhere by bike or on foot.

After a decade of happy year-round vacationing in the home, it was time for a décor update. The busy working homeowners left it all to Vee Mossburg. "I wanted it all done from the knick-knacks right down to the soap holders—I didn't want to have to finish anything up," Julie says. Vee began the re-design by making the seating in the home more flexible—exchanging a sectional for a couch and three chairs, twin beds in their daughter's room for a trundle, adding poufs that can be stored in a bedroom but brought out for entertaining, and swapping a banquette for a dining room table that seats five.

As far as style—well let Vee Mossburg do your décor and you will never want for style again. The Towners' formerly green-and-yellow color scheme is now a modern neutral with navy and dramatic splashes of orange—as seen in side tables, lamps, leather dining chairs and two fabulous island stools. The French provincial-style fireplace received a contemporary makeover with white WalkerZanger Labyrinth Thassos Select Polished tiles, and the pink-and-green bedroom the Towners' daughter dreamed of is fit for a princess. "The first time we saw the house after it was finished we got in at around 10 p.m. on a Friday night and didn't go to bed until about 3 a.m. because we couldn't get over how perfect it is," Julie says. 🌟

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