

Refined and Rusticated: Using the Arts and Crafts Style

Project: Hayes Cottage, South Haven, MI
Architect: Sandra Vitzthum, Architect, L.L.C.,
 Montpelier, VT

When engineer and collector Charlie Hayes decided to devote each of his homes to a different period, he turned to Vermont architect Sandra Vitzthum to design an English Arts and Crafts cottage to house his Arts and Crafts, Mission and Southwestern collections. The new 5,300-sq.-ft. home in South Haven, MI, overlooks Lake Michigan and is suitable for both family getaways and entertaining large groups. In addition, it has two garages for Hayes' vintage sports cars, another collection.

Although the house has a simple rectangular shape, it features English triple gables adorned with climbing roses. The entrance on the east elevation is situated between the two garage doors. Bruce LaRose Custom Millwork of Vermont made the mahogany front door, which features hand-forged straps added by blacksmith Lucian Avery, also of Vermont. Clad in red cedar shingles, the exterior is accentuated by a flared diamond pattern skirt that separates the upper living floors from the utilitarian ground floor. "The idea is to move your attention up to the second floor, which is the *piano nobile*," says Vitzthum. "The shingles above the skirt are more refined, with a single thickness and a narrow exposure. The ground floor is rusticated with double shingling and a wider exposure."

The house is approached via a driveway that leads to a formal entry court with a large iron planter in



This close-up of the garage doors highlights the diamond-shaped detail in the shingles on the upper portion of the house. Bruce LaRose Custom Millwork made the doors. All photos: Carolyn L. Bates, Burlington, VT

the center. The ground floor is comprised of two large garages, the entry hall, a large family room and kitchenette and a porch that extends off the kitchenette. A staircase connects the ground-floor entry hall with the main floor. Modeled after the staircase in William Morris' home, Red House in England, it

guides one up to a sun-filled second floor and continues around the wall to become the balcony overlooking the living room. "I am not normally a copy artist, but in this case it seemed best to reproduce the stairs as accurately as possible," Vitzthum says. "They're in a different setting and they continue as a balcony,



Nestled in the woods near Lake Michigan, the cottage offers spectacular views of the lake from the west façade, especially from the second-floor living room and deck.



The main entrance to the triple-gabled Hayes cottage, in South Haven, MI, is quite formal, with the house sitting on the entry court. The exterior doors and garage doors were custom made in mahogany by Bruce and Paul LaRose, who did all of the millwork for the cottage, including the stairs, columns and the bed for the master bedroom.

and, like the Red House's stairs, they define the central well of the cottage."

The primary rooms, including the living room, library, dining room/kitchen and three bedrooms, are located on the second floor. With a balcony on the west façade of the house, the living room offers an expansive view of Lake Michigan, as does a screened-in sun porch off the kitchen. The attic-like third floor houses a billiards room, bunk room, a balcony that overlooks the living room and a library. The attic is accessed by a hidden staircase.

The house boasts two massive fireplaces, one in the living room and another directly under it in the family room. "One of the challenges was the chimney stack with two fireplaces," says Vitzthum. "The

client wanted a 60-in.-tall fireplace upstairs, and I was determined that it be open on three sides with a limestone corbelled hood."

Downstairs, a Lutyens-inspired vaulted fireplace dominates the family room. It was made using salvaged brick and a 12-in. Batchelder Studio (ca. 1910) original tile supplied by the Michael Fitzsimmons Gallery of Chicago. This room has furnishings such as an Ambrose Heal linen press, which has been converted into a media center, an antique mission rocker and a new Stickley coffee table.



The Indiana limestone fireplace with a 60-in.-tall opening and 19th-century Bradley Hubbard andirons dominates the living room on the main (second) floor. Also found here are items such as a Prairie-style sconces, an antique secretary that was hand crafted in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and an antique caned-back oak rocking chair with a Morris Chrysanthemum pattern on the seat. A corner slipper chair and the sofa also feature Morris patterns.

Vitzthum eliminated hallways wherever possible in her design by providing circulation through public rooms, such as the library and front entry hall. She created long vistas through the house and into the landscape. Nooks and crannies are also incorporated into the design. "The house's wealth of nooks and details are meant to entertain both relaxing vacationers and party-goers," she says. "I also strove to make the circulation in the public spaces work well for small and large groups, and I kept the private areas at the end of the house."

The house is furnished with many of the items Hayes has collected over the years, including George



The Arts and Crafts-style staircase, a copy of the one in William Morris' Red House in England, defines the center well of the house, weaving from the ground-floor entry hall to the main floor. It continues around the wall to become the balcony overlooking the living room. The owner's original Morris Sussex chairs and Morris wallpaper welcome visitors into the home.



The screened-in octagonal sun porch off the kitchen is a popular room for watching sunsets and playing cards. Directly under it is another porch, which also provides views of the lake.



This chair in the living room reveals the scale of the corbelled limestone fireplace, which has a 60-in.-tall opening.



Constructed of salvaged brick, the vaulted fireplace in the ground-floor family room incorporates a hearth and a 12-in. original Batchelder tile at the vault's springpoint. The Ambrose Heal linen press on the left has been converted into a media center. Other furnishings include an antique Mission rocker and a slant-top desk by Limbert of New York City.



Although simple, the master bedroom on the main floor is enriched by the handmade quartersawn oak bed, an original Stickley chest and Morris textiles. Designed by Vitzthum, the bed has a Morris Compton spread.



The informal kitchen/dining room features a table designed by the owner with 12 antique Arts and Crafts chairs. Reproduced by Conant Custom Brass of Vermont, the light fixtures were based on those found in a cottage in Lake George, NY. The columns provide separation between the kitchen and living room. Hayes displays his 19th-century Romanian pottery and two Stickley sideboards in this room.

Aldrich's painting "Autumn" and works of other Hoosier school artists such as Alexis Fournier and Clarence Bell. The cottage also houses a selection of stained glass, such as "Ben Franklin Discovering Electricity" by the Charles Connick Studio and "William Shakespeare" by the Wilbur Burnham Studio. Etchings and paintings by artists such as Gene Kloss, Howard Cook, Emil Bistram and Barbara Latham grace the walls, while Stickley and Mission furniture and William Morris patterns are sprinkled throughout the house, blending in with the style of the cottage. Supplied by Conant Custom Brass of Burlington, VT, almost all of the lighting fixtures are antique. A few new fixtures came from Portland, OR-based Rejuvenation and Conant.

The house was completed in April 2002 at a cost of \$660,000. While many of the craftspeople involved came from Vermont, the contractor, Rick Johnson, hails from South Haven. Mike Wallace of South Bend, IN, was the construction consultant. "The house's design reflects my own training with its rigorous, simple spatial sequence," Vitzthum says. "I am a traditional architect; most of my projects reflect my more classical New England background, but I was excited to steep myself in the Arts and Crafts tradition. This house has a symmetrical rigor that is balanced by casual, rustic materials." ♦

— Martha McDonald



The daughter's bedroom, also on the main floor, features Morris' honeysuckle-pattern wallpaper, along with family heirlooms. The windows throughout the cottage are standard, MN-based Marvin Windows casements with custom leaded inserts made by Bert Conlisk of Texas.