

A Magnificent Home in the Woods

A small log house is transformed into a luxurious home for gracious living



The Spencer Home

FORESTBURGH, NY

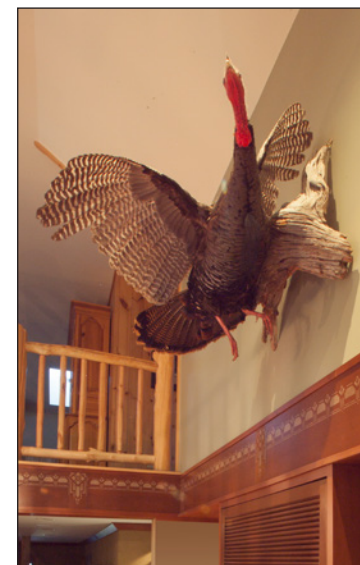
FROM THE TIME GRAHAM AND DIANE SPENCER DECIDED TO RETIRE AND MOVE TO THEIR LOG CABIN, THEY KNEW IT WOULD BE AN AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKING. Their small cabin is located within the Hartwood Club, a private 7,000 acre hunting and fishing preserve. The concept was obvious- extend the bucolic, natural features of the site into a comfortable and practical home, with all of the modern conveniences required for gracious living.

The established plan called for tripling the existing footprint, adding guest suites and dramatic vaulted ceilings above. The kitchen/family area was opened into the dining room separated by a built-in furniture piece, functional from both sides. See through glass china cabinets were included, creating an open feel, while providing definition to each room.

The 20-foot high ceiling and large clerestory windows were grounded by a stenciled, well appointed cherry frieze. A suspended canopy was added above the large island, bringing the space to a human scale while disguising the ductwork for the bronze vented hood.

Naturally a luxurious master bath incorporated all the requisite functional amenities and featuring a unique walk-in shower and double sided island vanities.

All of the individual components and finishes have their own personality, while maintaining continuity throughout the home. ■■



“I got the first good night’s sleep in months once Masterwork became involved in renovating our new home.”



The Spencer Family

When we retired from our traditional home in the suburbs to a log house in a rustic, wooded environment we knew we had our hands full.

Architectural plans in hand, we visited numerous retailers and contractors, but always felt processed and limited by the products they carried. It was very unfulfilling and frustrating.

Almost accidentally, we stumbled on to Masterwork and Joe Matta. From the very beginning, Joe made the whole process fun and exciting, suggesting creative solutions and designs no one else had thought of. Every question became an opportunity for something interesting and exciting and each idea evolved into the next. The end result was truly customized around our tastes and wants — a distinctive home like no other.

Every detail was judiciously considered and the Masterwork team was extremely professional and conscientious. The entire team was devoted to pleasing us and creating something magnificent and they succeeded on both counts.

Every day we are still awed by the work and not once have we felt, “If only...” ❏



Joe’s Viewpoint

WHAT A CHALLENGING AND STIMULATING PROJECT. The rustic vernacular is not one we had worked with previously. We were able to utilize many organic individual materials including the timber rail and desk, backsplash tiles featuring cast animal figures, along with custom designed furniture doors with carved wildlife. We incorporated several examples of Graham's unique wildlife specimens.

We collaborated with Dan Mack, a local nationally recognized Adirondack artisan, creating a rustic timber rail in the office above, overlooking the kitchen. A built-in desk storage was added, and Dan provided a maple slab with a live edge, which we supported with a tree trunk base.

The end result blends the many natural elements into a refined but functional home. It was a unique project for us, and working with the Spencers made it an enjoyable process from start to spectacular finish. ❏