

Discovering Your Home Away from Home



# The Getaway Home

DALE MULFINGER *Author of The Cabin*

# A New Camp Compound

A campsite nestled in the Maine hills overlooks a nearby lake. Typically, cabin interiors tend to be dark because trees block out the sunlight. Here, double doors with sidelights facing a clearing out to the lake pick up light reflected off the water, brightening the interior.



THE TERM CAMP CONJURES A RANGE OF IMAGES, FROM A LONE woodland hunting cabin before a smoking campfire to a weathered fisherman's cottage settled on the shore of a lake to a group of log buildings nestled deep in a pine-scented forest. This getaway in Maine's hilly terrain embraces the spirit of these old camps while including a twist or two that gives the enclave a handcrafted and contemporary look.

Architect Will Winkelman designed a compound of three buildings for a Canadian couple that embodies the feeling of an old-time Maine campsite. The new camp sits in a forest clearing on the edge of the lake, with boardwalks, decks, and terraces connecting the main cabin, a guest house, and a garage.

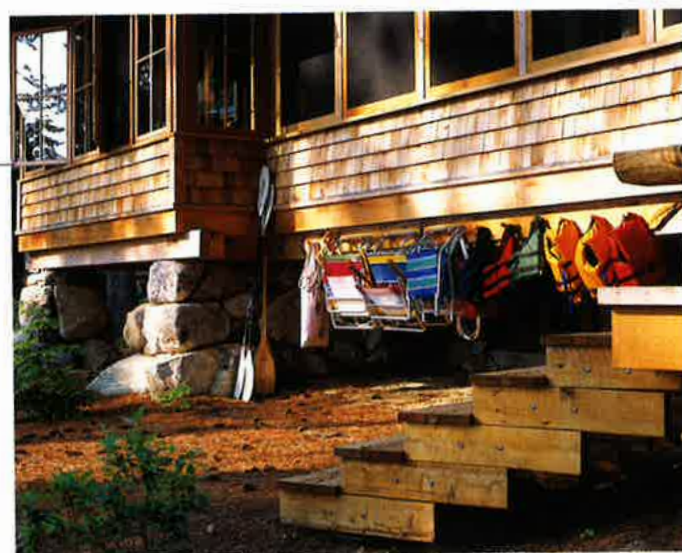


As you approach the camp along a winding trail, the varied rooflines make the large getaway seem smaller in scale, giving it the appearance of a collection of several cabins.



A steep, sheltering roof over a stone terrace establishes the entrance to the main cabin.

A series of wooden hooks on the lake-side of the house is the place to hang up life vests and other gear after a day at the lake.



## Rambling Rooms

Traditionally, campsites were built over time in a patchwork way; structures were typically placed on the land at angles so rooms captured views. People avoided cutting down old trees, taking advantage instead of patches of light streaming in between the foliage. This sprawling 5,800-sq.-ft. campsite, including a house flanked by a studio, garage, and guest bunkhouse, was designed to look and feel timeless, as though the additions were added onto the central buildings over the years.

To give this getaway its authentic look, local materials were used. The wood visually connects the buildings to the surrounding forested site. Fieldstone and granite ledge found in dilapidated old stone walls and rundown barn foundations in the area were used to build the fireplace and foundations of the new camp. Roughsawn wood from spruce trees was harvested locally and milled to build the framing of each structure.

The central part of the camp, which the owners call the main camp, is accessible by a covered entry that is marked by a slab of cut stone placed intentionally to blur the transition between indoors and out. It also creates a sheltered spot where family and friends convene early in the morning to enjoy the first sights and



The custom-tailored Douglas fir window frames and triangular glass fit the rounded contours of the stone fireplace.

**MAXIMIZING SUNLIGHT** While this retreat shares many of the same design characteristics of traditional camps, there's one notable difference that gives this New England-style vacation home its updated look. While older camp buildings could rely on only leaky, single-pane glass for windows, this cabin features large windows of energy-efficient glass.

Big windows fill the cabin interior with light and views to the outdoors. Floor-to-ceiling windows flank the fireplace in the living room. There are windows in unexpected places as well, including the gable ends, which further transform this cabin into a contemporary camp.





One of the cabinets in the main cabin is handcrafted with chunky, rough-hewn birch. The cabinet naturally fits into the setting.

scents of pine trees and to experience the rising sun before heading inside for a hearty breakfast.

## Bright Interiors

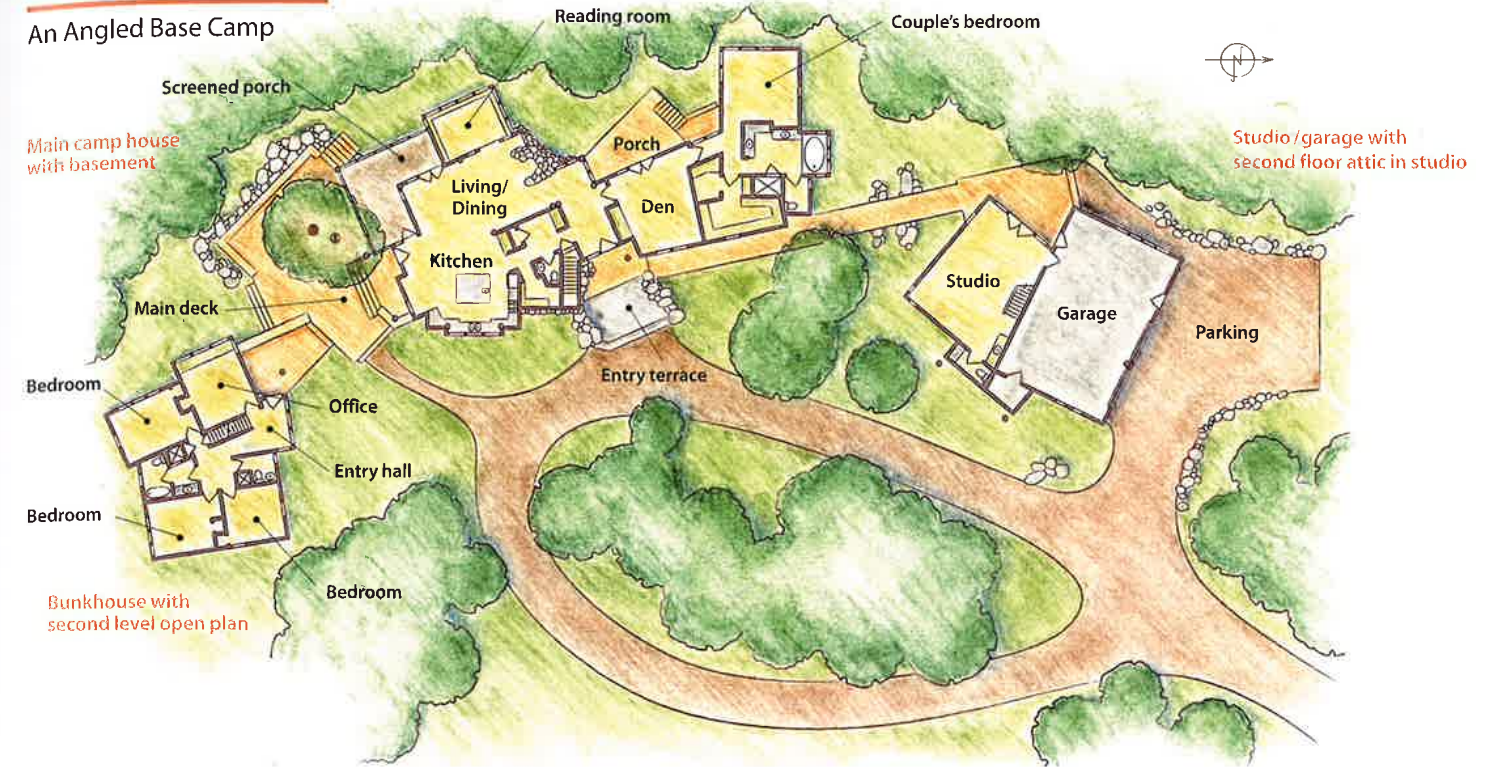
Long ago, camp dwellers were most concerned about basic shelter and keeping out the cold, so it was common to find cabins with small windows that offered little opportunity for enjoying outdoor views. Nowadays, with the variety of energy-efficient glass available, it's possible to use large picture windows in even the most challenging climates.

The lodge-like living room, with its tall ceilings and massive stone fireplace, brings a hint of traditional camp architecture to the getaway. But the influx of sunlight from an abundance of windows makes this interior

Camp cabins tend to have warrens of rooms. This cabin's open floor plan makes it easier for family members in the kitchen to converse with guests relaxing on the screened porch. The addition of transom windows is another way light is let into the interior—during the winter, the sunlight is reflected off the snow into the cabin interior.



## An Angled Base Camp



## IN FOCUS

A hand-peeled birch wishbone king post is more than just decorative; it holds up the roof on this gable end in the main cabin.



Raised decks connect the campsite buildings while allowing the groundwater to drain naturally down to the lake. This deck joins the main cabin to the studio. A bank of operable doors installed at grade level makes it easy to move large objects and projects into and out of the space.



An outdoor mudroom at the entrance to the bunkhouse includes a built-in bench where guests can take off their shoes. The terrace in the foreground between the main cabin and guest cabin is the homeowners' favorite gathering space.

differ from those of olden lodges. Even the wood used—roof trusses of fir and plank wood flooring of light-colored white oak—adds to the brightness of the interior.

## Boardwalks Form Outdoor Rooms

A number of wood decks, boardwalks, and stone terraces provide outdoor connections and gathering spaces among the parts of the camp. There's one terrace off the couple's bedroom and another off the studio. The largest terrace, between the main and guest cabins, is a central, multitiered space for relaxing or socializing.

The second floor of the bunkhouse is a bedroom for the homeowners' three children and five grandchildren. There's enough separation between the bunkhouse and the main cabin so the kids can raise a ruckus without disturbing anyone else in the camp.



On many mornings, the homeowners can be found on this entryway terrace or on the back deck sipping coffee under the early sun. Come evening, they adjourn to the dock to watch the sun set over the lake.

During the day, the owners can retreat to their private worlds, the husband to an office in the bunkhouse and the wife to her sculpture studio. The 600-sq.-ft. studio is 50 ft. down the boardwalk from the main cabin, just far enough away so the vacationing artist feels as though she's walking off to a private hideaway where she can experiment with her art without interruptions from family members and guests.

Besides the office in the bunkhouse, there are also three bedrooms on the main floor. To complete the guest space, there's an auxiliary kitchen—with green cabinets painted the color of local hemlock trees—so visitors can brew their morning coffee.



After years of searching, the homeowners found the perfect spot for their retreat in central Maine, a 12-acre parcel of land along an undeveloped lake and a small stream that flows into the lake.