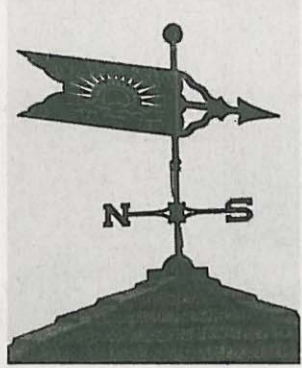


Summer home serves as a family retreat for three generations



A weather vane with a sunset design honors the cottage name.



Sunset Cottage, a 7,965-square-foot home belonging to John and Susan Nash, is a classic 1930s-style lake house on the shores of Lake Maxinkuckee in Culver.

LAKE

EFFECT



MICHELLE PEMBERTON / The Star

Summery stripes contrast with light furniture in this inviting room in the lake house on Lake Maxinkuckee. The home was designed by Gary Nance of Gary Nance Design, Indianapolis.



The black-and-white kitchen is accented by Mackenzie-Childs hand-painted ceramics and splashes of red, including a rooster print crafted by Indiana artist Nancy Noel.

"If you're lucky enough to live at a lake, you're lucky enough."

— Sign hanging in the Nash cottage

By T.J. Banes

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As a 10-year-old, Susan Nash spent summers water-skiing on Lake Maxinkuckee in Northern Indiana's Marshall County.

More than once, she visited the little 1928 cottage built along the eastern shore.

Later in life, when Nash and her husband, John, learned the cottage was on the market, they snatched it up. Five years ago, they expanded the lake-front estate, creating a 7,965-square-foot retreat known as "Sunset Cottage."

"The whole design was to accommodate our children and grandchildren," said Susan. "We have areas that are for grown-ups and areas that are for play. It was built for fun."

She and John met as students at Indiana University. They celebrate their 50th anniversary this month. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

Just inside the front door is a storage area

where every family member has a cubby; hanging on a row of pegs is each child's cap from "Camp Nana Pops."

"They earn stars on their caps when they learn to water-ski, do something nice, or just because," said John, retired from financial service. His cap has five gold stars.

"I'm the general," he jokes. Just a few steps from the hat pegs are storage areas for board games, car keys, backpacks and purses, skis, lifejackets, beach towels and water toys.

The house was built with family in mind, but functionality doesn't overshadow the beauty.

"The first thing I did was knock out the walls between me and the lake so I could see the view," said Susan.

That view includes the prestigious Culver Academies, a college preparatory boarding school and summer camp at Culver. From the dockside, the distinct silhouettes of the campus chapel spire, naval building and library can be seen on the horizon.

Architectural designer Gary Nance of Gary



See more of this Lake Maxinkuckee home at IndyStar.com/home.

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MICHELLE PEMBERTON / The Star

A guest room with a feminine touch is light and airy, with colorful yet muted accents.



The open kitchen and living room are separated by a long dining table that can seat the Nashes' sizable family.

Lake effect

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Nance Design, Indianapolis, took advantage of the view when he expanded the cottage.

Each of the six bedrooms has a window to the lake. The home has two half baths and eight full baths (many with Jacuzzi tubs) and a bunkroom that sleeps eight. The project took about three years to complete.

When family members visit the lake, more than a dozen people gather around a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -foot-by-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -foot granite island in the kitchen to prepare and eat meals together. The room includes a six-burner Wolf gas range and custom cabinetry by Madison County Cabinets, Pendleton.

The black-and-white kitchen is accented by Mackenzie-Childs hand-painted ceramics, and splashes of red such as a rooster print by Indiana artist Nancy Noel.

The kitchen gives way to a spacious seating area, with a harvest table for 10, illuminated by double iron chandeliers from Kogan Antiques, Zionsville.

The cottage's charm is conveyed through its craftsmanship. Amish builders interpreted an architectural blueprint that includes French doors, 10-foot-high beamed and slanted ceilings, shuttered windows with window seats, 150-year-old reclaimed oak flooring, built-in cabinetry in nearly every room, and a mix of wood.

"Our goal was to give it a classic look of a 1930s traditional lake cottage," said Nance, who has worked on 15 cottages in the past five years. "The idea was to make it look primitive, but everything is durable, with washable fabrics, sturdy wood and functional space. It's timeless."

While the couple maintains a year-round home in Columbus, they often visit their lake house in the winter. To create a lodge-like feel, the great room and master suite include stone fireplaces.

The tiered stone extends to the outdoor dining area, where the Nash family often cooks the fresh catch of the day on their grill or roasts marshmallows in the patio fireplace.

Cedar post fencing encloses a bluestone courtyard where two magnolia trees dating to 1954 provide the perfect shade for "Dilly Bar breaks" after a day on the lake.

"One of the best parts about living here now is still the sunset over the lake," said Susan. "People like to sit in the Adirondack chairs and just look out at the water and enjoy the amazing view."

★ Call Star reporter T.J. Banes at (317) 444-6815.



Gary Nance (above) designed the lake house owned by John and Susan Nash (left).

In the master bath hangs a reprint of a picture (photo at right) of homeowner Susan Nash, taken on a lake when she was 16.

