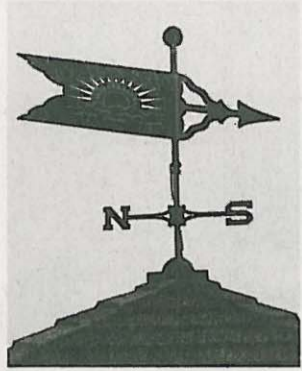


Summer home serves as a family retreat for three generations



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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