

problem:solved



Great Camp 2.0

a family vacation home turned elegant retreat



AFTER



BEFORE

by janet reynolds | after photo by scott bergman

The Problem: The Lake George Great Camp had been in the family for generations. Now it was the "new" generation's turn and they wanted to update the retreat without losing family history or the structure's authenticity. "Sometimes that's difficult to do when you're still trying to hang on to the past," says Erika Gallagher, co-owner with Denise Palumbo of Plum & Crimson Fine Interior Designs of Clifton Park.

Gallagher started with some TLC. She brought in Teakwood Builders of Saratoga Springs to clean up the fireplace and the wood paneling. The fireplace offers a strong focal point but the "before" seating was too spread out to bring the room together. Gallagher created more intimate conversational seating options by placing a coffeetable in the center of the room by the fireplace and placing four chairs, rather than the more traditional sofa or loveseat, around it.

As with many camps, this one was dark. "You couldn't believe water was right outside the window because it was so cavelike," Gallagher says. Now strategically-placed recessed lighting brightens the room and further showcases the fireplace. An area rug, rather than bland wall-to-wall carpeting adds to the warmth through its color and design.

Top Tip: Be selective. "You have to choose things that mean the most or have the most sentimental value or dollar value," Gallagher says. And be open to new eyes and ideas. "When you do it one way for so long, you have to let go of that." @