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A Home for Life

Rob and Chris Schumacher's home on Whitefish Lake is not a place for mere residing. It's a home made for laughing, loving, swimming, entertaining, relaxing, dancing, and playing. *Living.* It's a home for life. The 7500 square foot, timber and rock accent home is a place the family expects to enjoy for many generations. When the West Coast couple and their three children began searching for an area in which to build, a friend sent them to Whitefish where they immediately discovered a great ski area, beautiful lake, quaint town, gorgeous mountains and even more importantly, fantastic people. What's not to love about that? "We never considered a summer or winter home. We were after a place that addressed everything," says Rob. While closer places like Lake Tahoe boasted similar amenities, part of the charm of Whitefish was in getting here. "It was well

worth the journey." The Schumachers had been in the valley for almost 7 years when Rob took a rainy day bike ride along Whitefish Lake and saw the "For Sale" sign on their current home site. He immediately recognized it as a unique piece of property. "It's sloped, but not too steep. It was also very important for me to be close enough to Whitefish have city services," says Rob. Most importantly, as much as the family loved some of the area developments and golf communities, they wanted to be on the lake.

Patience is a virtue when building your own home. It took seven years to find "just the right location" and the Schumachers were in no hurry to rush headlong into a building project that wouldn't do the site-or their family- justice. A thorough search for an architect resulted in a short list of three candidates, one of whom was

Jerry Locati. In the end, the choice was clear; while driving out of Iron Horse one day, Rob saw a golf ball bouncing down the road next to the 10th fairway. This, by the way, means it was a *very bad shot*. Amused, Rob stopped to pick it up. It was a Titleist 1 with a Locati Architects logo on it. The next day Rob nailed a hole-in-one on the second hole in Iron Horse using that ball. He immediately called Locati to tell him he was hired. Finding a builder for the project proved to be just as easy. After interviewing multiple contractors and visiting their finished home projects to gauge quality, execution, and complexity, Rob again narrowed the list to three. When he started calling references, a clear winner emerged; Casey Malmquist of Malmquist Construction. "To sustain a relationship with a builder years after the project is completed is truly huge and



rare," says Rob, who was impressed by the homeowners' feedback. Next came landscape architect, Bruce Boody who Casey describes as being "...invaluable in the whole process-as always. He was very intuitive in fitting the home to the site." Hunter Dominick of Hunter & Co. Interior Design completed the team.

Form and function unite gracefully in this casually elegant home. As you descend the driveway, the home rises modestly from the landscape without obscuring the lake view. Reclaimed barn wood siding and rock wainscoting add texture to the home's exterior while echoing the surrounding elements. Timbers frame the covered entry, drawing visitors down slab rock steps to the front door. Once inside, a panoramic view of Whitefish Lake spans the great room. *In case you hadn't noticed, you're at the lake.* Natural light pours in, punctuated by

timber posts and trusses. Interior designer, Hunter Dominic added cool hued furnishings to complement the warm toned timbers and further echo the home's lakeside theme. Hunter's touch shines throughout the residence. All the artwork in the home is original and depicts various water scenes. Over the mantel, an oil painting portrays a lone swimmer pulling himself up from a pool. In the den off the kitchen, a giant painting of the three Schumacher children playing on the dock slides up at the flick of a switch to reveal a flat-screened TV. The den was Chris' idea. The area was originally laid out for dining but instead she proposed a space where she could interact with her children while cooking. The spacious kitchen is a cook's dream featuring ample work surfaces and cupboard space as well as dual ovens and a connected pantry. A partial rock wall houses the kitchen hearth and, on the backside,



Page 46: Interior designer Hunter Dominic drew inspiration from the lake when selecting blue-toned furnishings, water themed artwork, clear glass table and fish rug. She even designed the "shimmering" chandelier. Page 47: Tons of fun- DB Masonry created a tiered fire pit, hot tub, and trampoline area right off the back patio of the home. Page 48: Birch bark paneling adorns the master bedroom. Outside, aspen trees echo the interior and the lake beckons. Bottom left to right: Brett Miller camouflaged the outlet in the master bedroom. All the outlets in the home were faux painted to blend into the wall. Page 49 Kiln dried, dead standing timbers, antiqued to look reclaimed, add strength and beauty to the dining area just off the great room. The lower ceiling along the bank of windows overlooking Whitefish Lake creates a more intimate space for the sitting and piano areas. Bottom -Form and function unite in this cook-inspired kitchen with granite counters, a pass-through to the outdoor kitchen, dual stoves and sinks, water-toned tile back splash, and contrasting cabinetry.



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frames a bar that separates the kitchen and great room areas. Each functional space combines to create a striking whole.

Rob Schumacher was very involved from the start. "He really had a vision going into the project but was open to suggestions and collaboration. This always produces the best results," says Casey Malmquist. Rob envisioned something "other" for the master bedroom and asked for birch bark wall coverings. Wayne, Malmquist Construction's project manager, worked to deliver just that. "No one would touch it," says Wayne. "I finally found a birch bark canoe maker out of Oregon. He wound up spending a month on site with us." They procured the bark from Siberia and vacuum glued it onto plywood sheets, taking care to smooth out the edges and match up panels. Brett Miller of Preferred Painting followed up by faux painting the transitions as well as the electrical outlets. The whole meticulous process produced captivating results. "Wayne is awesome," declares Rob.

Each aspect of the Schumachers' lifestyle and personalities was addressed. 1200 square feet of covered outdoor living space include an inset rock barbecue, large fireplace, sitting and dining areas, and a kitchen pass-through that took considerable engineering to make it useable all four seasons without the granite counter transferring exterior temperatures to the inside. Rock patios radiate from the timber-framed outdoor kitchen and rear of the home, providing views of and access to the lake as well as a tiered rock fire pit and hot tub. A sunken trampoline provides an endless source of entertainment for the kids. The basement, which was finished out a year after the initial construction, houses a dance studio and movie theater much to the children's delight as well.

In the end, the Schumacher residence is truly a testament to the thoughtful ingenuity, artistry, and craftsmanship of all involved. "I would call all three of them my friends," says Rob of Casey Malmquist, Jerry Locati and Hunter Dominic. All of the Schumachers' friends are calling them-so they can come and visit.

