

# CABIN FEVER

Designer **DAVID KLEINBERG** and architect **TOM KLIGERMAN** compose a naturalist's paradise in Connecticut with bursts of red, blue, and woodland ingenuity.



INTERIOR DESIGN BY **DAVID KLEINBERG** • ARCHITECTURE BY **TOM KLIGERMAN**  
LANDSCAPE DESIGN BY **SAM SABIN** • PHOTOGRAPHY BY **RICHARD POWERS**  
STYLING BY **ANITA SARSIDI** • WRITTEN BY **ALICE WELSH DOYLE**



A Dutch door (painted Benjamin Moore's Classic Burgundy) serves as the main entrance, opening to a white oak-clad library hall. Chair, Carl Hansen & Son. OPPOSITE: Kleinberg stained the cabin's western red cedar siding Benjamin Moore's Black, allowing it to sit quietly within the wooded landscape.





CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE: Kleinberg mixed midcentury furnishings like 1970s Danish wingback chairs and a 1940s French Roger Capron coffee table in the living room. Rug, Patterson Flynn. • Instead of clearing the land for expansive vistas, landscape architect Sam Sabin designed views to the lake around the existing lush vegetation. • Rattan Bielecky chairs gather around a cobalt Richardson Allen dining table for summer suppers overlooking the lake. Sconces, Visual Comfort & Co. Chair cushion fabric, Élitis. • Ruby-trimmed windows awaken a guest bedroom. Shade fabric, Peter Fasano



# “WE CALL IT THE TREE HOUSE,”

says the homeowner of a wooded lakeside retreat nestled into the landscape as if it grew up out of the earth. Tucked away on an undeveloped parcel overlooking a Connecticut lake, the cabin was designed as a refuge from the sultry climes of the family’s primary residence in the South. But the enviable location surrounded by water and trees came with a catch, as architect Tom Kligerman explains: “When I first got the survey, I thought it was a mistake; here we had all these acres and this big lake, and yet there was this small little diagram in the middle of the property.”

He realized he had to fit the house into that tiny space because of local restrictions

for building along the edge of the lake. “It was this funny little rectangle with a 15-foot curved shape coming off the top of it that looked like it was waving at you,” recalls Kligerman. As is often the case though, challenges can yield the best results in the end. “No other architect we consulted made use of the curved tract at the end of the cul-de-sac,” say the homeowners. The funky extension to the footprint ultimately became the entrance to an extraordinary library for these bibliophilic clients. “It’s a surprising way to walk into a house, and there’s a feeling of anticipation as you look through floor-to-ceiling windows out to the lake,” says David

Kleinberg, who spearheaded the interior design for his longtime clients.

The owners wanted something that would slip seamlessly into the landscape, but Kligerman knew he could raise the bar by designing a distinctive home that still maintained its organic feeling of belonging on the peninsula. “They didn’t want something that stood out or necessarily looked expensive; rather it was important to them that driving up to it, you knew you were at a lake house. However, there are certain elements that refer to more important buildings—classical moldings and pediments that are often seen on libraries and post offices in the area,” he explains.

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—LANDSCAPE DESIGNER SAM SABIN





With a limited palette to choose from for the exterior due to community protocols, the team landed on black with a barn red Dutch door. “We waited to have a color conversation with the clients until much later in the process. If you tell someone that they are going to have a black house, you are not sure how they will react, but they were on board once they could see how quietly it sits in the landscape,” says Kleinberg.

Kligerman, a self-professed “tree hugger,” along with locally based landscape architect Sam Sabin and builder H&Y Construction, Inc., made sure to keep every tree possible. “It was important to the owners to preserve the wooded ecology of the site and to have a light touch on the land,” says Sabin. “We preserved the feeling that the home was set down in the woods, rather than clearing the land to make room for a house with expansive views and lawn.” With a range of native plants in place, as trees fall, more are added to maintain the wooded environment. “We wanted the landscape to have a naturalistic look—nothing *Continued on page 118*



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—INTERIOR DESIGNER DAVID KLEINBERG



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Benjamin Moore’s Van Deusen Blue cloaks the upstairs family room, echoed by the sofa’s navy strié Holland & Sherry fabric. ♦ Vintage steel-and-leather stools pair with a 1940s Swedish pine table in the breakfast nook. Chair cushion fabric, Perennials. ♦ An oak island brings warmth to the Carrara marble countertop and glazed tile backsplash (Clé).