

# REGIONAL FEATURE

# EASTMARK CONSTRUCTION

WRITER | ERIC DAROOGÉ PHOTOS | ASHLEY AVILA PHOTOGRAPHY

## A Place to Gather... and To Get Away

Having a place to retreat to from the rigors of daily living is what being ‘Up North’ in Michigan is all about. No place on earth quite captures the essence of this like Glen Arbor, a destination to be sure, as you’re never just passing through. You stop and pause and take a breath. Behold the sugar sand beaches, the lingering sunsets, crystal blue waters. Consider the opportunities for family fun. To carve out a place of your own amongst all of this is truly a fitting reward.

This beautiful home design consists of a 5,200 square foot home and a detached 560 square foot coach house. The overall architecture is a unique blend of styles that fits in well with the lakefront cottage lifestyle of Northern Michigan. The home and grounds are as breathtaking as the backdrop of Big Glen Lake and the Sleeping Bear Dunes. It is at once a place to gather and to get away.

For Eric Daroogé of Eastmark Construction, the process of building on the lakeshores and resort properties in Northern Michigan is nothing new. They have built a



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reputation of top-quality construction and exceptional customer service from Big Glen to Walloon Lake to Lake Charlevoix. The hallmark of their offering lies in the combination of service and experience. “We try and navigate the inherent difficulties of building a custom home through communication and attention to detail. A relationship built on trust is paramount to a successful building project,” says Eric.

The home needed to accommodate the prospect of a growing family, comfortable for a couple on a weekend retreat, and able to host large gatherings with ease. Interesting features fill the home and enhance the lake-living lifestyle. The home's design was a collaboration between the homeowners and architect, with heavy influence on the



part of Interior Designer Tracy Hickman, of Chicago. Light and airy, the interior woodwork is of the best fit and finish. Subtle colors are introduced throughout with furnishings, wall paint, and décor. The materials used both inside and out were chosen to complement the surroundings. The cedar shakes, creek flat stone work, copper gutters, bluestone patios, and bright white millwork on the exterior create a look of rich detail, yet simple and subtle to the eye.

The main level features an open living area, allowing for maximum togetherness of the owners and guests. The kitchen has a serving island and seating area that flows into the dining room, which flows again to the living room. The living room features a large wood-burning fireplace accented by a reclaimed steel surround and a beamed ceiling with shiplap paneling that blends with the applied wall paneling and moldings. This open living area affords unbelievable lake views.

The kitchen is as strong on form as it is on function. Beautiful thick marble countertops contrast with a walnut prep area, which compliments the walnut interiors of the cabinetry. Rich white cabinets with horizontal detailing have been designed to match the shiplap paneling throughout the home, while custom polished hardware keeps this area feeling light. A large refrigerator and freezer are built-in side by side to mimic an old time ice chest and are adorned with custom hardware that finishes off the look. A professional grade oven and range, dual dishwashers, an ice maker, and a double stainless farm-style sink make this a kitchen to die for.





The master suite is open to the living room via doors on either side of the fireplace and a separate door to the sleeping area off the front entry. This allows for a typically open feel that can be closed for the privacy of the owners. The suite includes a sitting room with desk and private wood-burning fireplace, a large master bath, his and hers closets, and built-ins. Special features in the master bath include a large walk-in shower with marble entry surround, in-floor heat throughout, and custom millwork with integrated mirror/medicine cabinets.

The second story features an additional living area with fireplace and lakeside balcony. A ladder accesses the third-story hideaway ship watch. Four individually designed and appointed bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms accommodate family and guests. An additional second floor laundry room features dual washers and dryers for a quick re-set of towels and linens... a great idea following a weekend stay.

For the visitor requiring a little extra privacy or an extended stay, the detached coach house is fully equipped. Cozy but still spacious, this area features a living room and bedroom separated by a large custom barn door, wet bar, and a full bathroom. The coach house lower level provides ample storage for the owners' boat and beach furniture.

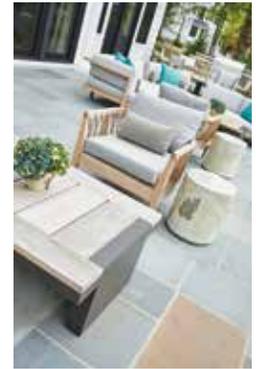
The landscape design and construction by Robinson's Landscape has just enough structured elements to connect this home to the surrounding natural landscape. Native trees and plants hand selected by the owners adorn bluestone pathways and boat house. The beach deck integrates with the boat dock, framing the sugar beach sand of Glen Lake. For this is what it is all about; to make the most of the gorgeous lakefront and clear blue waters.

Eric Darooge and his talented Eastmark Construction team have once again exceeded expectations in completing a high quality and exceptionally finished home. The advantages of having a top-notch subcontractor and vendor team, along with the area's most skilled carpenters and other key tradesmen and Eric's daily oversight and management, are on display here in Glen Arbor. This home is truly a jewel of the north. It is in perfect harmony with the surroundings and has a modern floor plan with ageless appeal. This project was a success on so many levels. Beautiful inside and out with an owner that couldn't be more pleased with the end result. □



## COACH HOUSE





## EASTMARK CONSTRUCTION

PRINCIPAL OWNER: Eric Darooge

YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: 21

BUSINESS ESTABLISHED : 2007

**BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:** Our business philosophy revolves around the concept that the homes we build are our personal impression on the landscape of our community for generations to come. We build every home with this sentiment in mind.

**WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?** Experience. The experience derived from many years of building homes on the lakeshores and resort properties of Northern Michigan. We put this experience to work for our clients. We have developed a process that helps our clients navigate the critical aspects of building a custom home by setting goals, achieving unique design, using a customer integrated construction process, and building lasting relationships. I take a hands-on role in every project and we employ the areas very best craftsmen and trade contractors. Ultimately our experience, coupled with solid communication and good old fashioned hard work, will in turn create a pleasing experience for our customers.

**HOBBIES:** Eric Darooge lives in Boyne City with his wife Sara, enjoying all of the opportunities that Northern Michigan has to offer.

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