A Home in the Hollow

A Massachusetts couple found their slice of heaven in Stowe Hollow.

Photography by Carolyn Bates / Edited by Joseph Healy

found their getaway home in Stowe Hollow. Now, the husband and wife spend most of their days in Stowe and commute back to Cambridge, Massachusetts, when they need to. "My husband and our children love to ski, and my husband always wanted a second home, so that's what brought us up here" the homeowner said. (The couple asked that their names not be used, for the sake of privacy.) "We fell in love with the land, not necessarily the house. We had been looking, and looking, and looking in Vermont—originally, we thought we wanted a farmhouse, but we didn't see

any that were isolated or set away from the road. A realtor showed us this house, and we fell in love with the property and the views."

The couple recently renovated the entire interior, with the design help of Milford Cushman of Stowe. "He has such vision," the homeowner says. "He listens, he hears what you want, and he gets so excited about everything he does." Patterson and Smith Construction of Stowe did the building work; the couple kept the original footprint, adding on only the dining room. "Our main criteria in renovating our home was to maintain the footprint of the house. The

house is sited so perfectly on the piece of land that we didn't want to destroy that."

The roughly 6,000-square-foot house has four bedrooms and 4½ baths and is set on 15 acres, with views of Sugarbush, Camels Hump, and the Worcester Range. "We love living here because we feel away from everything." The couple had the property landscaped by Jane Werley of Montpelier. "She transformed the landscape—when we bought the house there was nothing here except rocks," the homeowner says. "We feel like we're in heaven all the time."

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No shortage of windows, and a front porch and deck off the side, on this Stowe Hollow house allow the owners to take in the spectacular views from any vantage point. "It's like we're living outside, we have the views all the time," the homeowners say. The house is ideally situated on the side of a hill overlooking a pond; rock gardens filled with perennials abound.



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Before renovations, the fireplace (left) was brick with a sandstone mantle and hearth. It was resurfaced with stucco and stainless-steel reliefs, which mirror the reliefs in the kitchen islands (see page 76). The mantle is now diamond plate metal, as is the woodbox. The result is that the fireplace is a less-massive presence in the house.

The "sun space" (opposite) is where the homeowners spend the majority of their time. It offers a 180-degree view of the Worcesters, Sugarbush, and Camels Hump; a sense of living outside is felt throughout.



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The kitchen has three islands, two of which are free standing on stainless-steel legs. The master bedroom windows (lower right) provide incredible views of the mountains and the opportunity to watch the magnificent sunsets. The dining room (upper right) was the only addition to the house during recent renovations.