



The architect says the home reminds him of a plane taking off from the landscape. "The roof almost touches the ground in the back and lifts off toward the lake," DiPietro says. "It's almost sort of poetically sited on the lot."

## A MARRIAGE OF FORM AND FUNCTION

BY EMILY LE COZ  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANFORD MYERS

THIS 3,500-SQUARE-FOOT HOUSE NESTLED INTO THE ROLLING HILLS OF MT. JULIET IS MORE THAN JUST A WEEKEND RETREAT FOR OWNERS ROB AND SANDY BEATY—IT'S THEIR SHARED HOME.

Rob is a Detroit-based airline pilot; Sandy is a New York-based pharmaceutical company executive. "I have a 350-square-foot apartment in New York," Sandy Beaty explains. But each weekend, the two meet at their lake-front property for a few days together before returning to the grind.

Because this is where they spend time as a family, the couple made sure the house and its surrounding four acres reflected their unique tastes. They hired architect Marcus DiPietro, builder Dave Custer, and interior designer Denise Simons to bring their ideas to life.

"I wanted austere and modern, and my husband wanted something more rustic, so it was a little bit of a compromise," Beaty shares. "He wanted a cabin in the woods, and I wanted a modern, white palace."

But both agreed the house, which was completed in 2008, would have one large kitchen-living area as its central space. They rejected the formal living room and dining room concept because, Beaty says, those spaces don't match the way she and her husband live.

The result is a spectacular three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath structure that hints at the architectural marvels of Frank Lloyd Wright but also plays off an air-plane theme, says DiPietro, who explained that Rob's career inspired his design.

"I thought that was so terrific that a commercial airline pilot wanted to live on the lake, and they just said, 'We like Dwell magazine, and we want you to just go for it. Do whatever you feel is right.' I thought of a silvery wing sitting on the lake. That's where that roof comes from—a silvery wing taking off and soaring over the lake," DiPietro describes.



Rob Beaty's collection of arrowheads hangs in the office, where Denise Simons chose a silver-and-cream color scheme to accent the exposed duct work. The retro-looking chairs came from Sandy Beaty's New York office.





ABOVE: A lot of the family's furnishings are recycled from their previous house, including the glass library table behind the couch that used to be the couple's dining room table. Some of the couple's favorite art hangs on the custom faux finish wall leading to the stairway. Although Sandy Beaty says few pieces are worth much, she and her husband enjoy collecting paintings wherever they go.

TOP RIGHT: Rob Beaty installed the half-inch-by-half-inch mosaic tile in the powder room. It wraps around from ceiling to floor, adding a lot of texture and a warm, coppery look.

OPPOSITE PAGE BELOW: The kitchen features not only a stellar view, but also a wooden Rulon ceiling, visually appealing tile work and a custom, silver banquette that seats about six adults.

DiPietro used a variety of elements to achieve his unconventional look—stone, wood, metal and industrial materials—while Simons made the home look cozy and inviting.

"A big focal point of the home is that the exterior becomes the interior," Simons explains. "Like the outside wood comes in and wraps around the interior of the home—you see that in the hallway and in the dining and kitchen area. My challenge was to then complement the architect and builder by repeating this same continuity on the inside."

Simons and Beaty started this task by selecting a color scheme. Their three main hues were "Stardust Gray" and Copper Sunset" by Benjamin Moore and "Fresh Olive" from the Ralph Lauren collection. The colors married with the stone, wood and metal features of the house while establishing a cozy and inviting setting for the furnishings. Most of these items, Simons says, can be classified into three categories: custom-made, Internet-found and previously owned.

The living room provides an example of all three: The walls boast a custom paint job, the area rug was found online, and the furniture came from the couple's former home. Beaty says she and her husband saved a lot of money by re-using their old furnishings and by doing a lot of the construction work themselves.

"That's where Denise really helped us make it work—by using what we already had in a new way," Beaty recalls. "She didn't make me feel bad because we couldn't buy a lot of furniture. She said, 'That's fine, we'll work with it.'"

And Rob got his hands dirty purchasing raw materials wholesale and then doing a lot of the installation himself. He laid the tile in the laundry room and





The family wanted one great room instead of several formal areas, and this one offers a spectacular view of the lake. Denise Simons said her challenge was to arrange the furniture to complement—and not obscure—the view.





ABOVE: The master bath boasts a variety of tile—glass tile around the vanity that Sandy Beaty found online and custom tile around the tub by an Atlanta artist. Also unique is the ceiling-mounted tub filler, which pours water into the bath from a spigot in the ceiling.

BELOW: Outside architectural elements enter the interior in this unique home, as seen best at night. Stone, wood, glass and metal are featured prominently on the exterior as well as the interior.

put in the hardwood floor. The couple also did some of the painting.

"He even flew up to look at some stone and bought it straight from quarry," Beaty says. "And he saved 30 percent rather than buying from the broker."

They also save money in utilities because DiPietro encouraged them to build as energy-efficiently as possible. He added a lot of foam insulation in the walls and ceiling to better regulate indoor air temperature. And the roof's metal surface reflects the heat of the summertime sun to keep the home cool.

Windows contain a high-tech glass to shun certain types of rays to reduce heat, and the HVAC system is all contained inside the home so that it can't leak.

"My approach to green is just down to earth," DiPietro explains, adding that, in addition to the insulation and windows, the home is "well-built and pretty durable, and that's a green notion, too."

Beaty says the couple's electric bills are half of what they were in their former house and with more square footage, adding that DiPietro "did a good job of making us being a little green up about that part of it."

The house, Beaty says, is the couple's favorite place to be.

"We wanted to live casually," she explains. "We have three dogs and didn't want a house where we couldn't come in with the dogs, so we wanted it rough and tumble but also something that was really cool. I think it worked out. We really love it." \*