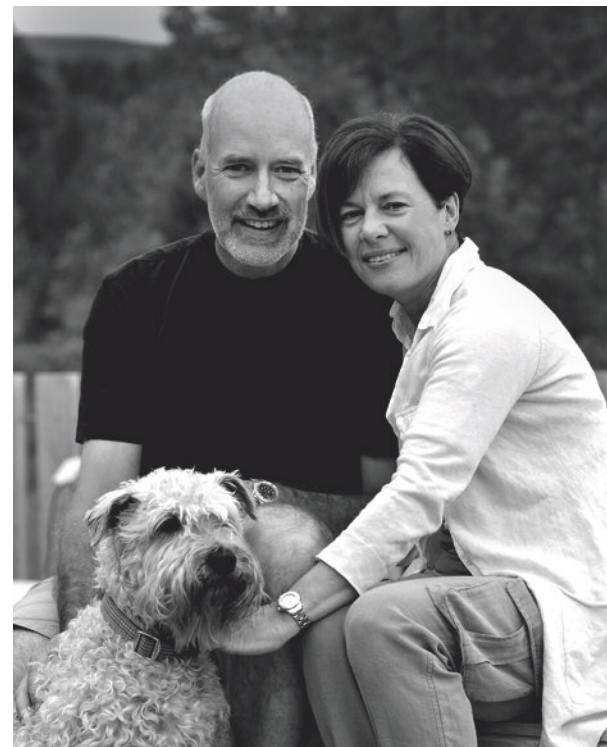




COOKING BENEATH OLD BEAMS



Below: Mary Jo Hind and Fred Vermeulen, the architects who designed and built their weekend home in the countryside of Ontario, Canada. Above: the house at night – here the structure of old wood frame is clearly visible. Left: the interior would seem to have been built around this large Bulthaup b3 kitchen. The rough beams of the old grist mill dating from 1850 are exposed and reach up to the apex of the roof. Kitchen apparatus by Miele; fridges by Liebherr. The hob is by Gaggenau. The four stools are by Bulthaup. The mezzanine floor contains the guest bedrooms and a bathroom.



Architects Mary Jo Hind and Fred Vermeulen specialise in healthcare projects and, more specifically, oncological facilities. The two have designed and built a weekend home for themselves in the rugged countryside of Mulmur township in Ontario, Canada.

They wanted a house that resembled a restored barn. To that end, they bought the wooden frame of a grist mill dating from 1850.

The old frame was to form the exposed skeleton of the structure. They opted for a modern counterpoint to this old structure: a streamlined Bulthaup kitchen, which is now the focal point of the house.

text: Izabel Spike
photos: Ben Rahn/AFrame, Bob Gundu



Above: the master suite and bathroom.

Below: the entrance to the living room, which is framed by old wooden beams and set at one corner of the house. The furnishing is rather Scandinavian and adds to the feeling of space.

The sturdy framework of the old grist mill provides a solid dimension in the space and a pleasant contrast to the smoothly finished, delicate wooden furniture. Above the table, a paper lamp by Noguchi. The chairs are by Carl Hansen, as is the round coffee table.

Right: the dining room on the short side of the L-shaped space – it is in fact an integral part of the kitchen, which takes up most of the ground floor. Dining chairs by Carl Hansen, dining table by Frans van der Heyden.



The exhaustive search for an old barn on which to base their new house took architects Mary Jo Hind and Fred Vermeulen (partners in the Dundas office of the American architecture practice of Perkins + Will) to an old mill. They bought the timber frame and used it as the foundation for their new holiday home in the rugged Canadian countryside. The criss-crossing structure of the beams, which once held the mill in place, is still in evidence in the new building.

The beams have not been hidden away and are veritable art objects, playing a vital part in creating ambience in the interior. The effect is further reinforced by the unimpeded view to the roof apex from part of the interior. Guest bedrooms and a bathroom are situated on the mezzanine floor. The master suite is to some extent separate from the house. Everywhere large windows frame views of the rugged landscape.

The interior walls are mainly white, alternating with expanses of concrete, one of which contains the fireplace, as well as walls built from stacked wooden joists. The overall feel is Scandinavian, thanks to some extent to the Carl Hansen furniture and the pale wood floors. The house emanates a clear spatial flow, with the kitchen occupying an important place, actually taking up much of the ground floor. It is a Bulthaup b3 kitchen, custom-designed for this space and installed by the German kitchen specialist's Canadian flagship store in Toronto. It comprises three work units, with on one side an aluminium wall housing appliances and freezers, and on the other side the concrete wall with the fireplace.

