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FRONT ENTRANCE

Beth Keim's weekend home takes cues from nature. Exterior paint in Benjamin Moore's Iron Mountain helps the house visually retreat into the woods, while a natural wood wraparound deck creates outdoor living space.

THE WEEKENDERS

A MODERN MOUNTAIN HAVEN SITS TUCKED AWAY IN THE NORTH CAROLINA WOODS.

STORY BY SARAH COFFEY PHOTOGRAPHY BY MEKENZIE LOLI PRODUCED BY ANDREA CAUGHEY

For four generations, the women of Beth Keim's family have spent their teenage summers hiking, swimming, and practicing archery at Rockbrook Camp for Girls in Brevard, North Carolina. "My daughter Lucy attended Rockbrook for three years, and my daughter Kate is in her seventh year now," Beth says. She dreamed for years about owning a weekend getaway in Brevard. When a run-down mountain house five miles from camp went on the market, Beth, a designer by trade, resolved to turn her dream into reality.

Enlisting the help of longtime colleague and contractor David Reese, she made a plan to modernize the dated 1970s bungalow. "I built a team of all my best people," Beth says, "and I drew my ideas on a napkin."

Reese and his crew drove up from Charlotte and lived in the home's basement during the renovation. They removed walls that separated the kitchen, dining, and living spaces, ripped out drop ceilings and old carpet, and gutted the bathrooms. Beth sourced fixtures and finishes from her favorite suppliers: tile from Walker Zanger, plumbing from Waterworks, wallpaper from Harlequin. Asheville artisan Eli Orling poured the concrete counters, Charlotte woodworker Jacob Wolfe made the front door, and Tuan Le, a friend who agreed to help split the renovation costs and shares the summer home, created a custom metal stair screen and installed the white oak floors on the main level.

After a long winter of hard work by the team, the 2,000-square-foot cabin with panoramic views of the woods through the original windows was ready for Beth's touch. She designed clean, simple, and organic interiors that wouldn't compete with the sight

of sunlight filtering through leaves. "I love every bit of the house," she says. Walnut base cabinets with brass hardware wrap the kitchen, bringing warmth without the additional visual weight of upper cabinets. Throughout the home, Benjamin Moore's light and airy China White alternates with accent walls in Iron Mountain, a nod to the surrounding landscape.

The decor comes from a career's worth of trips to furniture outposts in High Point, North Carolina, and years of collecting at flea markets and estate sales. "The whole house is sentimental," Beth says. Her grandmother, a fellow Rockbrook alumna, inspired the guest room's floral wallpaper and white wicker chair. An antique pine cabinet holds the family's china, and a painting by Beth's husband, Keith, leans casually against the wall above. Works by artistic friends and acquaintances are everywhere. An image of swimmers by design photographer Ron Royals hangs above the sofa, and a weaving by fiber artist Meghan Purcell adorns the fireplace.

On weekends, when the family makes the two-hour journey from Charlotte, they like to sleep late and spend days outdoors—kayaking on the lake, hiking trails, and visiting nearby Sliding Rock waterfall in the summertime. Keith grills outside and Kate helps prepare dinner. Daughter Lucy returns from college to spend family holidays at the cabin. But it's Beth who visits most often, to hole up in the house and concentrate on client projects, with no distractions but the birdsong outside. On the cabin wall, a map of the nearby camp depicts a little hand-drawn hideaway for "the sharp-shooting girls of Rockbrook Camp."

KITCHEN

Beth removed walls to create conversational flow between the kitchen, dining, and living areas, divided only by the large fireplace. She mixed handmade and off-the-shelf pieces: Kitchen accessories from West Elm and Crate and Barrel decorate custom walnut cabinets and hand-poured concrete counters.

(Opposite Top) Wood stained to match the cabinets forms an old-fashioned plate rail for storage above the countertop. The dark stain contrasts with white subway tile and pale concrete.



DINING ROOM STORAGE

A metal screen by Tuan Le forms the backdrop for an antique pine storage cabinet that holds dining accessories from John Derian and Crate and Barrel.

LIVING ROOM

To bring the outdoors in, Beth incorporated a ton of texture, including faux sheepskins and a wool weaving by Meghan Purcell. Beth also made the chandelier by wrapping bark-free branches in LED string lights. A photograph of swimmers by friend Ron Royals sets a laid-back tone in the living room.





BEDROOM

Beth describes the guest bedroom as “an homage to my grandmother, who had a room like that.” Wallpaper by Harlequin mingles with flea market finds, like the inlaid chest of drawers and antique bed, which Beth refreshed with new fabric and trim.



LAUNDRY

Leading into the kitchen, the home’s rear entryway is reimagined into a laundry area and coffee bar. Beth worked with Charlotte-based Top Shelf Cabinetry to create the custom cupboards and sliding barn doors.