

Crystal Mountain Resort – Vision 2010

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Crystal Mountain Resort, a popular ski and golf resort community in Northern Michigan, is working through their plan for a \$60 million master expansion plan entitled Vision 2010,

The first of the Vision 2010 real estate projects is “The Cottages at Water’s Edge”. The first phase of the cottages was eleven cottages completed June 2004.

Vision 2010 and The Cottages at Waters Edge look to reflect an authentic Northern Michigan community rich in culture and history. It is the desire of Crystal Mountain to be a world class destination community and it is their belief that this happens only when the true story of the land and locale are celebrated.

A goal of The Cottages at Waters Edge was to “borrow on the spirit of the past and refer to the past, but be a product of their time”, explained consultant Kathryn Eckert, Michigan historical consultant.

Three historic types of cottages inspired the architecture and design.

Rural farm homes which inspired “The Garden Cottage”
Forest and woodland cabins inspiring “The Family Cabin”
European cottages creating “The Vacation Bungalow”

For the entire *Cottages* team – which includes Mark Johnson of Johnson and Hill Studio, land planners of Ann Arbor MI, Bob Holdeman of aai Architects in Traverse City; Mary Witte of Grand Rapids-based r.o.i. Design; Sandy Clinton of Clinton & Associates PC, Landscape Architects; and renown Michigan historian Kathryn Eckert – the first step in the project involved researching the history and architecture of the region surrounding Crystal. The team felt strongly that the *Cottages* should adhere to the small town vernacular that characterize northern Michigan. .

“We insisted on the ‘grown not built’ notion,” said Witte, whose team designed the cottage interiors to give the sense that the details and nuances happened over time. With research and a shared and clear vision as the basis for the design, this affect was accomplished in a variety of ways.

Furnishings, finishes, cabinetry and lighting were intentionally selected as if collected from different generations and members of an extended family and while pleasingly coordinated, not meant to match.

The wall décor and accessories were created from the work of Northern Michigan artists, writers and historians.

The richness of colors and textures balance out the simple detail in both the interiors and exteriors.

The views from the Cottages into the interior of the site are intimate and appealing.

While not the only reason, but the Cottages at Waters Edge contributed to Crystal Mountain's ability to be named "the #1 Resort in the Midwest" by Ski Magazine in 2005.

For more information on Crystal Mountain, Cottages at Waters Edge, go to www.crystalmountain.com