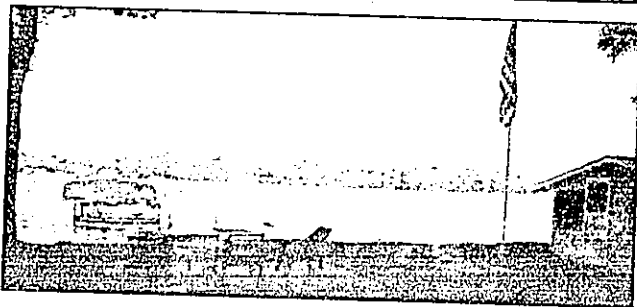
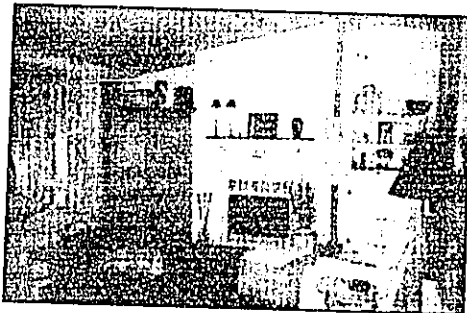


Cozy condo: The Roys have decorated their Boyne condo with pictures of Hemingway and the San Francisco Bridge.



Simple pleasures: Right, the Maddens have worked hard at decorating their Clare cottage. Below, the small town and quiet lake at Lake Odessa, appealed to the Streckers.



Architect's dream: The Dziurman cottage on Lake Charlevoix was designed with economy and style in mind. The cottage was completed for \$120,000.

## Retreats from page 9D

traditional Shaker design were also guiding principles during the design and furnishing of the 1,714-square-foot cottage."

The results have been rewarding for the Dziurmans.

"We believe this cottage is one of the most wonderful places in the world. It has provided our family, and all those who visit, the perfect atmosphere to enjoy Northern Michigan and Lake Michigan sunsets," John Dziurman writes.

Dennis Fitzgerald of Farmington Hills worked with his brother-in-law Vincent Thompson to design and build their own vacation home on Lake Bellaire, northwest of Traverse City. They completed work in summer of 1991.

"It's the right distance away, you don't have to get tired getting there," Fitzgerald said. "And the lake isn't dense, there are only 200 homes on the lake."

The Fitzgeralds and Thompsons, who each have two children, enjoy golf, fishing and boating, including access to Lake Michigan through the interlake system.

For the Maddens of Troy it is interior design that has been important at their cottage near Clare. After buying a

"shell" in 1988, the Maddens set about putting in drywall, electricity and plumbing. They also installed floors, carpeting, cabinets and furnishings from flea markets and clearance centers.

"It's cozy, it's a great place to escape to, especially in winter to read and sit by the fire," John Madden writes.

A small town for escape from the city is one of the charms of Lake Odessa, between Lansing and Grand Rapids, for Ann Strecker and her family. She grew up there and bought a house on the lake.

"I work at Beaumont Hospital and in a very busy area and I find it is a life saver to be able to return to a small town and get centered," she writes. "Life is at a much slower pace and my roots are still very much in this charming village."

Though most cottages that Michiganders escape to are "up north," some people prefer to stay a little closer to home or go a little farther afield.

The Barrs of Rochester Hills summer on McDonald Island, near Harsen's Island on Lake St. Clair, an hour by car, ferry and motor boat from their home.

"McDonald Island has 14 cottages and

no cars. We arrive in early spring, as soon as the ice is out of the channel or we dodge the ice flows," writes Karen Barr.

In this idyllic setting the Barr children learned about nature catching frogs and toads while the adult Barrs enjoyed boating and golfing.

Milton Dzodin of Southfield and his family leave the country to enjoy the summer. Their cottage is in Colchester, Ontario, the southern most village in Canada.

"The cottage has been in the family since 1952 and my children are the third generation to enjoy it," Dzodin writes. "The highlights are fresh vegetables from the farmers down the road, lots of real Canadian beer, the peace and quiet and the great exchange rate on the dollar."

Instead of lake views, the Watson family of Southfield enjoy ocean views at their cottage along the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

"Our family takes delight in arising early to watch the sun rise over the ocean," writes Margaret Watson. "We enjoy our long walks along the ocean sand, collecting sea shells and investigating the array of sea creatures the surf has deposited on our shore. The

restaurants are a treat, serving crab legs, shrimp, lobster tail, and the catch of the day."

And for the Berendts of Farmington Hills, summer means the Dells of Wisconsin, where the adult Berendts had summered as children.

"In addition to its sentimental appeal (we honeymooned there), the Dells are known worldwide as the waterslide/fudge shop/bungee-jump capital of the Midwest," writes Linda Berndt. "Equally appealing are the lakes, pine forests and rocky formations along the Wisconsin River, but we chose a cottage in the heart of the action downtown."

After battling ticks, cobwebs and disarray in their new cottage, the Berendts finally settled into cottage life.

"In these hectic days of double incomes and cellular phones, kicking back in the summer for regrouping is a wonderful stress reliever. It's not always apparent while traveling on the highway in a 1989 Aerostar loaded with kids, pets, rocks and dirty laundry, but eventually..."

Obviously, our readers love their retreats and we thank them for sharing them with us.