

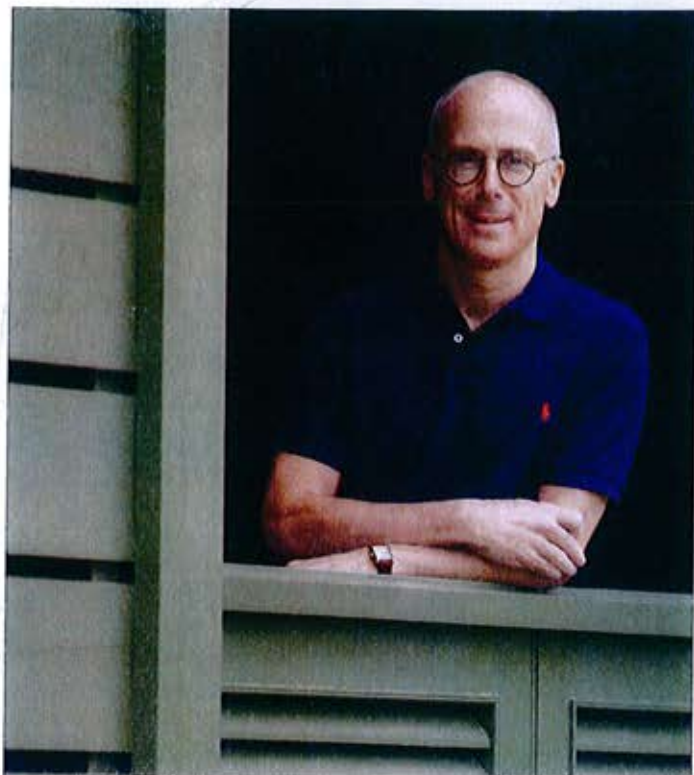
APRIL 2010

LakeMartin

Living







Simplicity and Order

ARCHITECT BILL INGRAM HAS DESIGNED
SEVERAL PLACES ON THE LAKE – BUT THIS
ONE IS ALL HIS OWN

Architect, Bill Ingram designed and built his very own dream home on Lake Martin, but the house was certainly not the first he had completed on the lake. Ingram is the architect responsible for designing many other properties on Lake Martin, including one he built with the intention of moving in but sold at the last moment. ▶

| by JENNY ADAMS, photos GEOFF KNIGHT |



At the lake you can get away with less than you do at home, and simplicity and order are important in the design.

After selling that home, he purchased an acre and began building his dream lake home, which incorporates many of the elements he admired in several of his past designs.

"I have designed many homes on Lake Martin," he explains, "so I am very familiar with Trillium. I have a lot of friends there too, and it seemed like a logical place to build for me. I still live in Birmingham, but I spend every chance I can at the lake."

WATER, WILDLIFE AND A SENSE OF SIMPLICITY

Ingram's lake home offers wonderful water views from three sides. The property once had a cabin, and when he purchased it, he only had to clear a few older trees. This was done more to ensure the health of the younger trees, and he saved every existing plant on the property that he could. The result is an abundance of shade on a hot summer day and a diversity of foliage that blends with the natural exterior palette of the home.

"I guess the view to the water is always the most important thing in a lake home," Ingram remarks. "But beyond that, it is important that it be a fairly open house without any dark hallways. There is no reason for any of that. In my experience, you spend most of your time in the main room or on the porch and then sleep in the bedroom. At the lake you can get away with less than you do at home, and simplicity and order are important in the design. That's what you are seeking. So if it's a complicated design, it is going to be difficult to have anything less than a complicated time." ▶



This page and opposite are representations of Architect Bill Ingram's perfect design style for lake living.



NATURAL.

Ingram's home has a nod to rustic living in the natural elements incorporated in his seamless yet striking composition. The floors are all antique oak, and the outside of the home is cedar. He also used painted pine from Alabama and some cypress from the marshes to the south.

"I love painted wood as much as I love stained wood," he admits. "I am not a fan of just using one type. I wanted this house to be very light, so I used a lot of painted wood. The interior is a very off-white color. I had a little cabin for years, and it had — as cabins do — very dark walls, low ceilings and stained wood paneling. This house is much more open and light. The ceilings are 13-feet high, and the doors and windows are all very tall."

Many of his building supplies came from within the state, including the rock work at the chimney base. The cedar, however, was shipped from California. All of Ingram's windows are the old-fashioned weight and chain sliders, there is a grand staircase coming down into the main room and French doors lead to a screened porch facing the water. The porch has a copper roof to create a wonderful, natural tempo when it rains. Ingram also tore down the old dock beyond the house and built a new one for his boat.

"Every chance I get, I love to get out on the boat and visit other people or have company over," he says.

Take note of the abundance of all natural materials and colors used at Bill Ingram's lake home.

