Loewen

PERSPECTIVES

CYPRIUM HOUSE, WHITEHALL, MI

Founded in 1990, J. Visser Design is an award-winning residential design firm committed to helping clients realize their vision. Operating with less than half a dozen associates, they are a small firm and have no intention of growing beyond this size.

J. Visser Design appreciates the opportunities of a small firm, those that allow them to come to the table with no pre-conceived design styles to create properties that grow into themselves as time goes on.

"BECAUSE OF THE AMAZING TERRAIN, THE PLANS WERE DESIGNED TO SHOW OFF AS MUCH OF THE PROPERTY AS POSSIBLE."

Their philosophy hinges on the fact that homes should be guided by spectacular vistas, topographies and their clients' lifestyle rather than design trends.

That's exactly how the Cyprium Project came about. Located on 18 acres of pristine land overlooking Lake Michigan, most buyers considered the land unbuildable. The unique and challenging site took more than 18 months of planning and engineering expertise in order to find a suitable build site. The home, located over 60 feet above the lowest point of land, was inaccessible by regular walkway.

One of the first challenges was building a quarter-mile long boardwalk to access the home. Despite the logistical problems, J Visser Design was keen to help the client. In fact, the firm felt so strongly that they were the right people to take on the project, they completed the design at no charge and told the homeowner that if they weren't completely satisfied, they wouldn't have to pay for the renderings. Thankfully, the homeowners fell in love with the plans and the project moved forward.

Because of the amazing terrain, the plans were designed to show off as much of the property as possible. The goal was to keep the land undisturbed around the site to preserve the dynamic topography. To continue the natural theme, the firm incorporated warm earthy materials that would change in look

over time. Since so much of the project hinged on the view, Loewen's copper Cyprium collection was a perfect fit, as the windows would take on a patina over the years and evolve with the rest of the property. From there, the firm selected Buechel Stone for the exterior, hardwood decking with galvanized steel railings and additional copper accent pieces spread thorough the exterior to complement the windows.

The interior of the space is warm and inviting with Douglas Fir and white oak, complemented by walnut floors. The house is divided into two 20'x 20' guesthouses and a 20'x 60' main house, all connected by decks. From initial design to completion, the project took over two and a half years. The result is a home that the clients' love: a homage to its surroundings and a testament to the firm's desire realize their clients' vision from within. ■

LOEWEN PRODUCTS USED

The Loewen Cyprium™ Collection features copper and bronze clad windows and doors that are unique in design and construction. This collection is artisanal in detail — down to the soldered exterior joints and rich, tactile depth of texture in the thick metal cladding and deep profiles. These hand-wrought living surfaces develop distinctive patinas that adopt and define individual aesthetic character of the homes to which they belong. They are treasured as a mark of lasting value.

HIGHLIGHTS

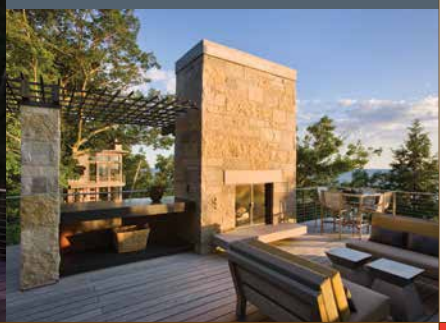
- Distinct and ever-changing patinas
- Nominal .040" thick copper and bronze cladding
- Lead-free soldered joints add a hand forged, authentic apperance

ABOUT LOEWEN PERSPECTIVES

Loewen Perspectives showcases the dedication and craft of the passionate design professionals who use Loewen products. Our goal is to provide a snapshot of the process and materials that go into creating great buildings and the people who make these projects come to life. If you're a passionate firm looking to share your vision, we'd love to hear from you. Email **perspectives@loewen.com** to begin the experience.

J. VISSER DESIGN

5500 Cascade Road, SE Suite 210
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616 954 2509
contact@jvisser.com
jvisser.com



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