



SKYFALL

Cutting-Miller Residence | Saratoga Springs, NY

Urban loft meets horse country. Homeowners Stephen and Richard Cutting-Miller, one from upstate New York and the other akin to the contemporary urban loft design of trendy DUMBO, Brooklyn, created a home that brings together the best of both worlds.



THE STORY

Stephen Cutting-Miller was born and raised in upstate New York and grew up in a traditional Cape Cod style home. After his undergraduate at Siena College, Cutting built a craftsman style home when he found four nicely wooded acres near Saratoga Lake.

In 2009, Cutting took a position with a financial services firm in New York City where he met Rick Miller. Miller, who had been living in the city for 25 years, was working as a consultant to the international travel and tourism industry.

Before they married, the couple maintained Cutting's upstate New York home as well as Miller's loft apartment in DUMBO that afforded spectacular views of the iconic Brooklyn Bridge, downtown Manhattan and New York harbor. During this time, the couple would travel upstate regularly to check in on Cutting's house and visit family and friends. In the process, Miller fell in love with Saratoga Springs and they decided to bring two households and two styles together into one signature home.

"Rick wanted a view to match our loft in DUMBO," said Cutting. "This was an opportunity to start our life together in one place, so we set about finding a piece of land where we could enjoy the beautiful country side, the privacy of upstate and the amazing sunsets, yet be close to everything that Saratoga Springs has to offer."

From City Skyline to Rolling Mountains

For the Cutting-Millers, finding a piece of land with the perfect view was of utmost importance. Fifteen minutes outside of Saratoga Springs just north and east of Saratoga Lake, they found it. Spread over six acres, a span of old farmland with meadow and natural, untouched hills. With unobstructed views of the Adirondack Mountains and sunset, the location was perfect in every way.

Blending Two Styles

With the vista secured, the next task was bringing two styles together into one living space. Miller was urban loft apartment. Cutting's background was traditional craftsman.

"For our first home as a married couple, we wanted to blend our two styles. We felt it should celebrate traditional New England architecture but include modern elements and open living."

They also set out to design something that was built within the context of the property, as opposed to on top of it. While the aesthetic had to meet both men's needs, they didn't want the house to intrude on the natural surroundings.

The homeowners envisioned keeping the space as natural as possible and were able to do so by having a local farmer cut the surrounding meadow and use the grass to feed his horses.

An Open Concept

Balzer + Tuck Architecture was tasked with designing and placing the home to celebrate the land and the views. Cutting and Miller sought open spaces, combined kitchen, dining and living room, plus plenty of venues to showcase Miller's extensive art collection from his travels around the world.

Architectural Elements:

- Bluestone terrace with steel pergola
- Open-riser steel and oak stairway
- One outdoor wood and two interior gas fireplaces
- Custom fiberglass pool/outdoor shower
- Two-car garage completely lined with reclaimed hemlock wood
- Metal roof, cedar siding
- Granite quarried in Cutting's hometown

Energy Efficiencies / Green Technology:

- Geothermal heating and cooling
- Solar hot water
- Closed cell insulation
- Living fence/wind break







A Stunning Interior

In designing this 4,700-square-foot home, designer Leah Margolis worked with the homeowners to achieve a joint vision of a cohesive space.

Margolis selected three flooring materials which run throughout – white oak hardwood flooring, slate and carpet. A common color palette also supports the cohesive design.

“We wanted everything to flow together so we picked one trim color and one wall color for all spaces,” said Margolis. “We wanted modern but warm.”

Margolis introduced the Cutting-Millers to mid-century modern design beginning with an original Saarinen Tulip Table. The table started the ball rolling and they fully embraced it, seeking out and purchasing vintage, well-made furniture for the home.

The interior and exterior were designed for comfort and entertaining. The top level encompasses the main living space with an elegant dining area, showcase worthy front and back kitchen, butler’s pantry, four seasons room and 125 windows to ensure full enjoyment of the spectacular view. The finished lower level includes a guest bedroom suite, home office and theater room with surround sound and wall-to-wall projection screen.





The Ideal Kitchen

Brookhaven cabinets by Wood-Mode are found throughout the home. Oak cabinets with vertically matched grain in Matte Eclipse Finish make up the kitchen, dining hutch and entertainment area built-ins. Paired with hardwood floors and a neutral color scheme, the mixed materials work together to reflect the home's naturally beautiful location. The front kitchen features open shelving to display china and glassware.

A back kitchen provides additional utility space, which keeps the front kitchen uncluttered and primed as a gathering space. The back kitchen includes pantry space for sundry goods, additional cabinetry for baking and cooking dishes as well as a second dishwasher, sink, icemaker and wine refrigerator for ultimate entertaining capability.

The back kitchen, pantry and mudroom feature Brookhaven by Wood-Mode maple cabinets in Opaque Painted Alpine White.







A Private Retreat

The master bedroom suite is annexed from the rest of the home through a breezeway for optimal privacy and view. Bright pops of color are achieved through area rugs brought from the couple's loft in Brooklyn as well as Miller's extensive art collection.

As a travel and tourism professional, Miller has travelled the world and has built an impressive collection of ethnic art objects and unique carvings.

The suite includes a bath with dual showers and vanity and walk-in closet with stacked washer and dryer for quick loads. A full laundry room is found on the lower level.



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Homeowners:
Stephen and Rick Cutting-Miller
(available for interview)

Interior Design Firm: Leah Margolis Design, LLC
Kitchen Design Firm: Columbia Cabinets
Architect: Balzer + Tuck Architecture
Lighting Design: Nelson Reeds
Builder: Witt Construction, Inc.

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