

Discovering Your Home Away from Home



The Getaway Home

DALE MULFINGER *Author of The Cabin*



To cultivate the feeling that this cottage has been here a long time and that the ground was never disturbed, several inches of pine needles were raked and stored before construction and then redistributed when the project was finished. Shingle and clapboard siding stained an earthy taupe blends with the encircling trees.

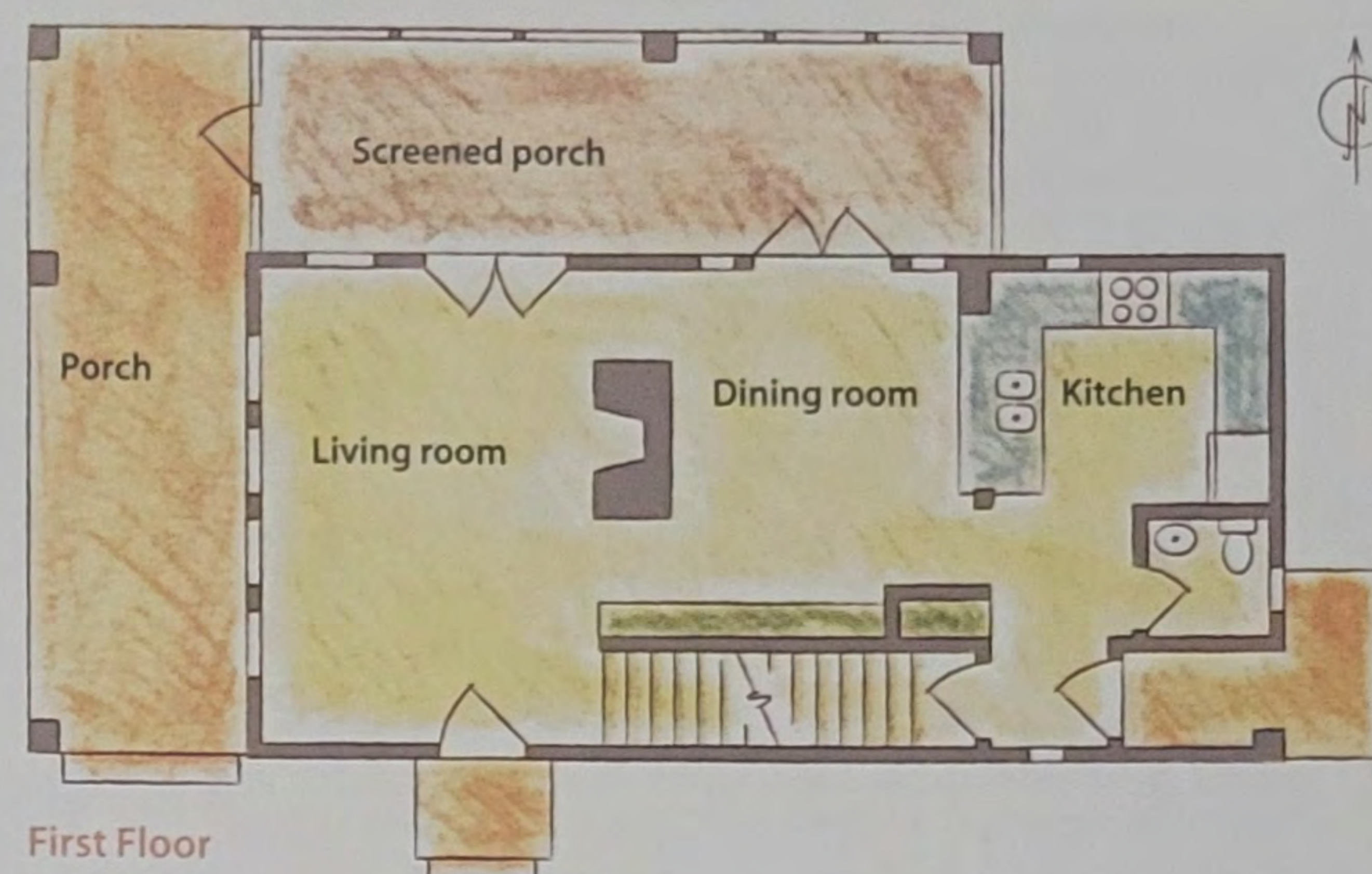
Standing Tall

The Bolands were drawn to the property, which is four hours north of their home in Detroit, because it is in a woodsy, recreational area. The cottage's tall, rectangular form doesn't take up much space on the ground. The rooms are stacked in three levels, giving the top two floors spectacular views in all directions.

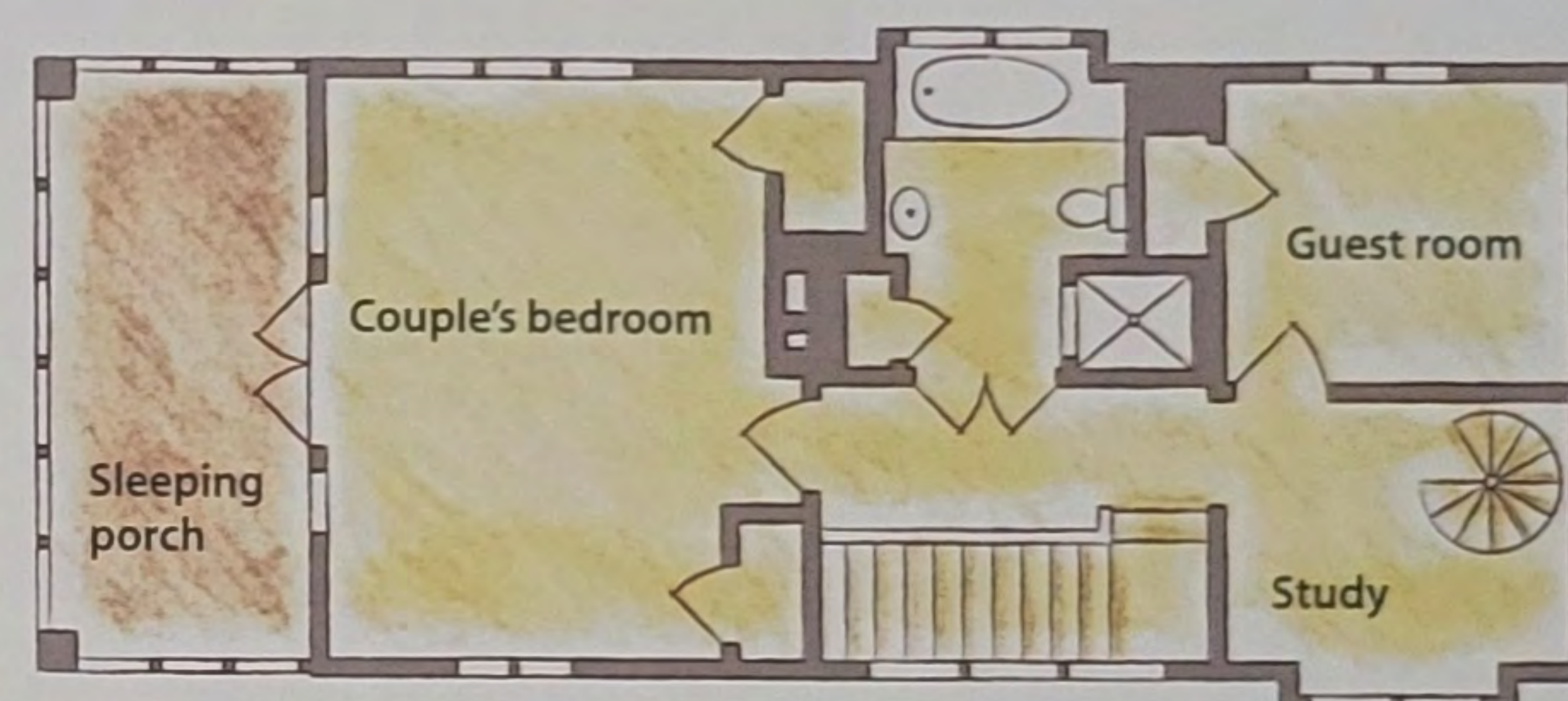
The cottage is surrounded by trees, some almost within arm's reach out the second floor-windows. The third-floor guest area and billiard room is the place where visitors can gaze out over the treetops at the harvest moon. The couple refers to their three-story cottage as a tree house since it reaches high up into the leaves. But its presence complements the surrounding forest.



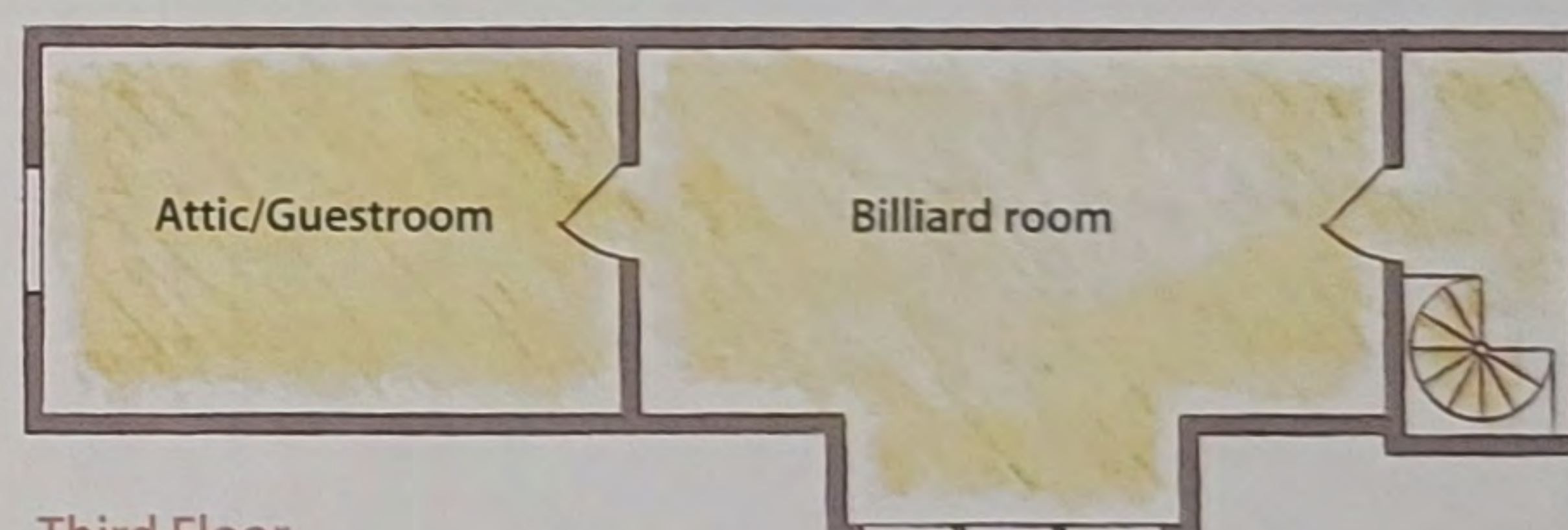
A Compact Cottage



First Floor



Second Floor



Third Floor

The use of natural materials, such as slab stone stairs, diminishes the presence of a modern structure in the landscape.



The cool air moves through the sleeping porch at night, making the couple feel as if they were sleeping outdoors.



The second-floor sleeping porch in this lakeside cottage offers the homeowners a way to surround themselves with the sights and sounds of their forested property. It has three different views out to the lake and into the woods.

Porchside Oasis

The couple's second-floor bedroom suite is a retreat that includes a breeze-filled sleeping porch overlooking the lake. It's accessible only through their room. On this porch, they watch the sunset or sleep while listening to the calls of the whippoorwill. The second-floor bathroom has its own lake views through a large window over the bathtub. A small guest room is also on this level.

Informality Encouraged

One section of the covered wraparound porch is open and the other part screened to give homeowners and guests places to relax whatever the weather. Both parts

A CONTEMPORARY COTTAGE The Bolands wanted their lake home to have a traditional, rustic character but with a light feel and modern touches throughout. Brightening up the rooms was especially important in this cottage since a deep porch wraps around two sides of the house. All of the wood in the interior is light-colored pine finished with a clear varnish. Wood trim is finished with a coat of clear, water-based urethane rather than an oil-based product, which would darken over time. The cottage's modern touches are evident in the oversize panes of glass in the French doors that lead out to the porch.





A spiral staircase leads to the third-floor attic and game room. Nestled under the roof, the attic space is the place for a game of billiards when the weather keeps guests indoors.

IN FOCUS

A south-facing porch is usually desirable in forest settings because it will get more sunlight. But because the south side of this house is in the forest's understory, both porches were placed on the north side of the cottage. As a bonus, scenery viewed in northern sun appears sharp and clear.



The bathtub on the second floor has a serene view out to the lake where the colors, shapes, and textures of nature are illuminated by a southern sun.

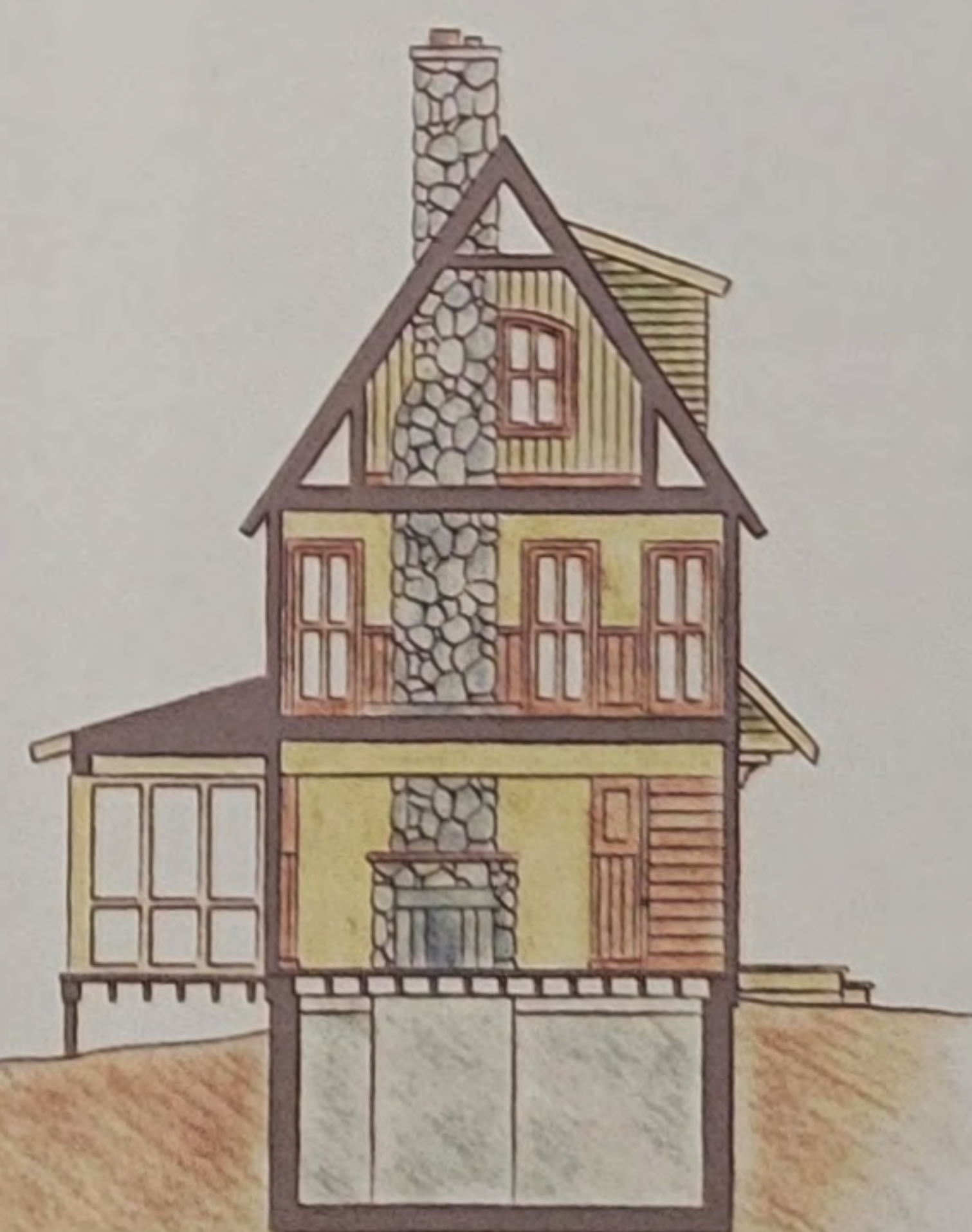
An open porch has advantages that make up for the lack of enclosure. It provides a place for outdoor cooking and storage of frequently used gear.



Most of the couple's shoreline property remains wooded for privacy, but they selectively opened some views, including an area around the dock.

of the porch have sweeping views of the lake. The porch becomes part mudroom when homeowners and guests drop off the hiking boots, beach clothes, and fishing poles they used down by the lake.

The 8-ft.-deep porch offers a choice of spaces for relaxation, each capturing a different view of the site. After a day of activities, there's nothing more rejuvenating than sitting down on the porch, inhaling the fresh fragrances of the forest, and taking in an all-embracing view of the lake.



Tall and Slender above the Lake