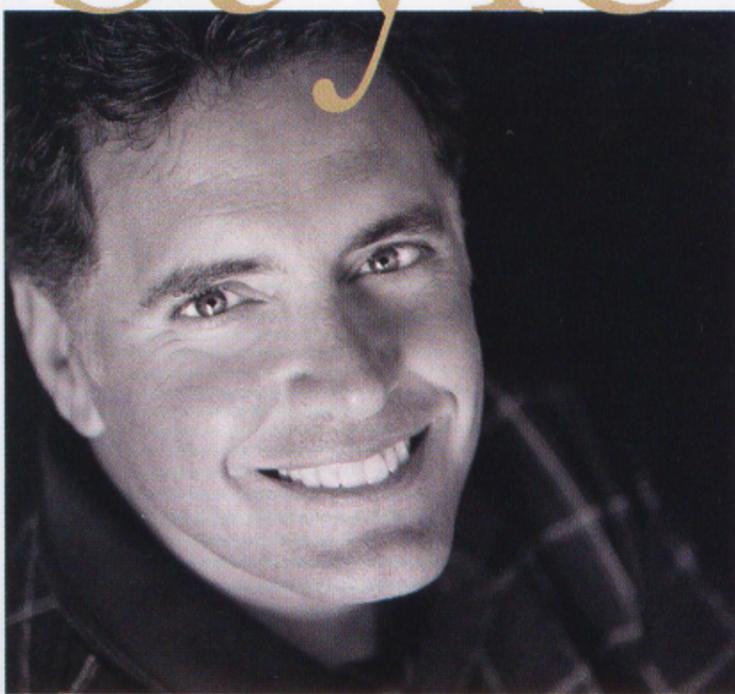


NORTHERN style

COURTESY BRAD BUTCHER



The Pro File: Brad Butcher, AIA

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Bio: A practicing architect for 20 years, Brad Butcher moved to Gaylord in 1996 where he lives with his wife and three children. While Butcher and Associates has designed commercial and residential projects throughout the state, the focus of the firm's work is in Northern Michigan.

What do you find most exciting about a project? The connection between architecture and the natural world. It's great when a homeowner can tell people they can see the sun set in this window on June 21st.

You began your practice downstate.

What is different about working in the North? Much of what we design up here belongs up here and nowhere else. It's designed for the more natural features of the site. I used to work downstate and designed thousands of subdivision homes, and I took pride in them. But now I look back, and they all look the same.

So you value one-of-a-kind designs?

One of my homes was on a home tour, and someone who took the tour called and wanted to buy the plans. I'm not going to do that. The emotion that went into those plans can't be reused for someone else.

Your dream style? A cottage—2,000 square feet—in the woods. The exterior would have natural cedar shingles. Those just scream home to me. And it's got to have a fireplace and a screened-in porch. 🏡 —Elizabeth Edwards