

LINDA HENRY'S
NEXT ACT

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INSIDE THE BUNKER AT
BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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HOW WALLY'S
BECAME WALLY'S

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READY TO RENOVATE
YOUR HOME?

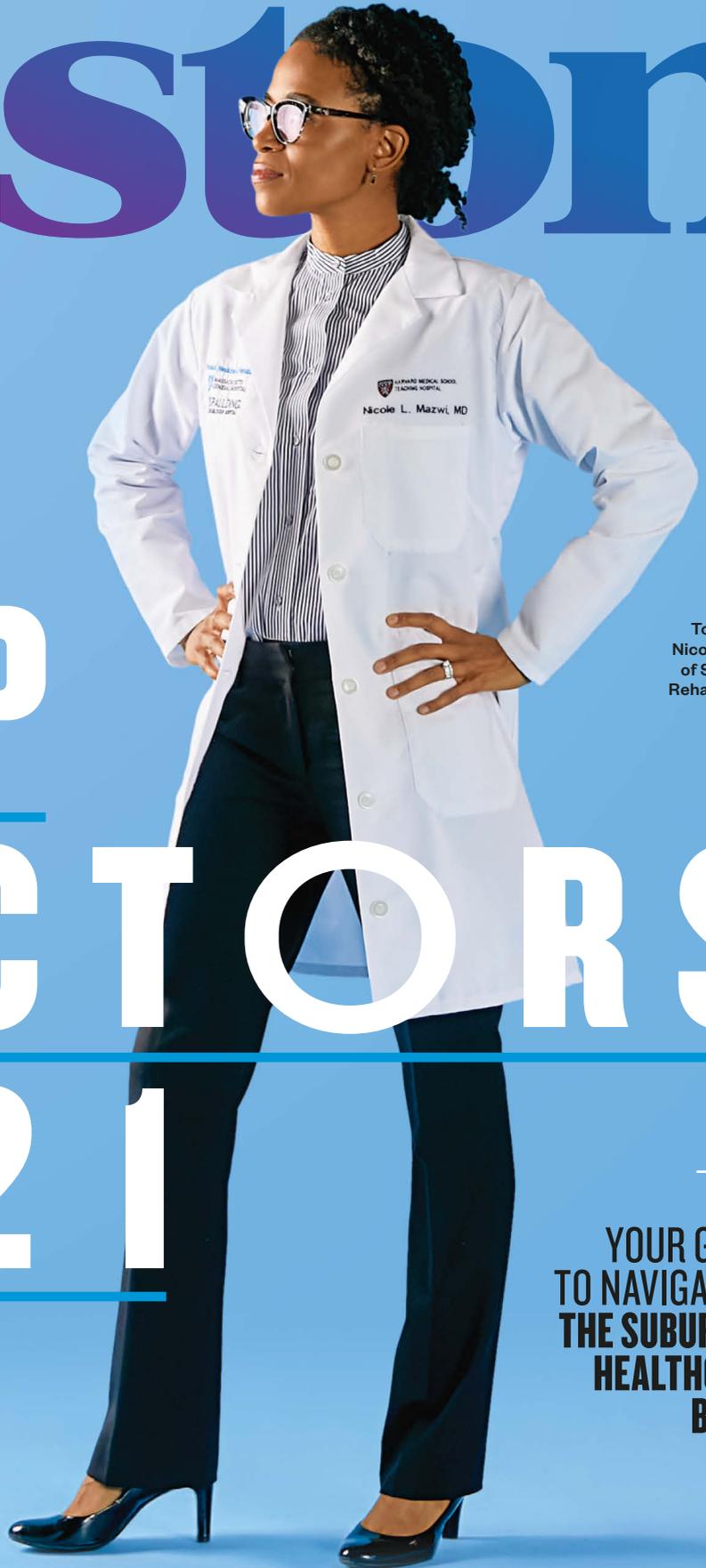
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Boston

1,671
PHYSICIANS
IN 67
SPECIALTIES



TOP DOCTORS 2021



Top Doctor
Nicole Mazwi,
of Spaulding
Rehabilitation
Hospital

+

YOUR GUIDE
TO NAVIGATING
THE SUBURBAN
HEALTHCARE
BOOM



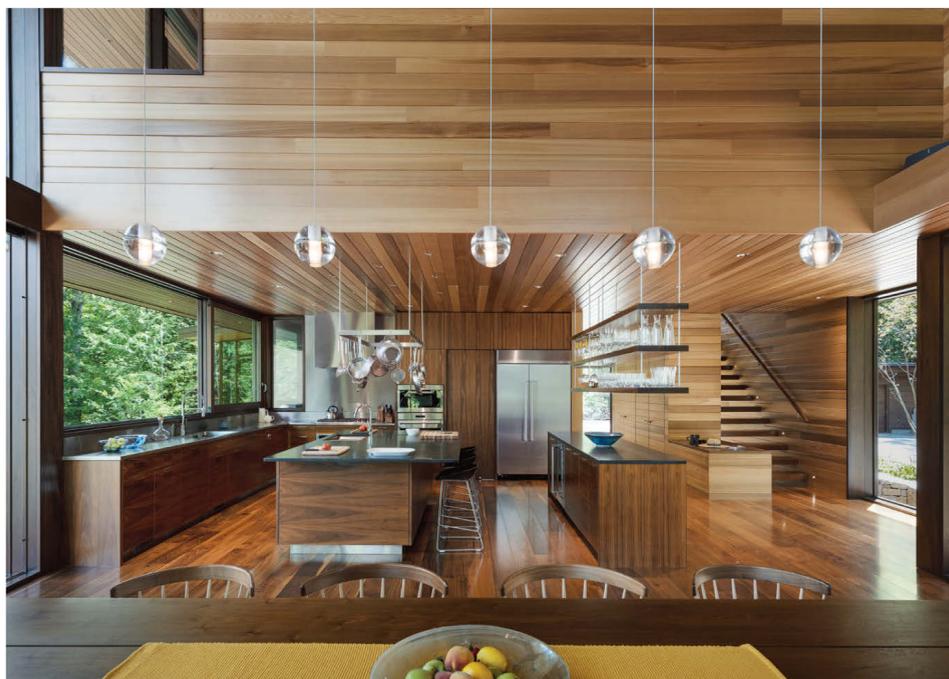
ARCHITECT/INTERIOR DESIGNER: WURDOUGH DESIGN. CABINET/MAKER: RAVENHILL. WOODWORKING & DESIGN: CONTRACTOR: WOOD & CLAY. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: HICKIRIDSON & ASSOCIATES. LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR: MIRACLE FARMS LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR.

Habitat

INTO THE WOODS

Ready for a big change, two suburbanites lay down roots on the tree-lined shores of New Hampshire's Squam Lake. *By Nathan Tavares*

The home's exterior of western red cedar, glass, and steel blends in with the surrounding forest.



IN 2016, Julia Gentleman Byers and Steven Holtzman found themselves eyeing their upcoming semiretirement—and their next move. After living in Greater Boston for decades, “We decided we wanted a place on a lake,” Holtzman says. “My son, who’s an avid hiker, said the place you want to go is Squam Lake [in New Hampshire].”

He was right: When the couple—Byers an expressive-art therapist, and Holtzman a biotech exec—perused the available lakefront homes, they quickly fell for a property in a woody locale close to shore. The only downside was the site’s existing house, an outdated 1960s dwelling lacking space for an art studio.

Choosing to demolish the relic and start new, the pair worked closely with architect Tom Murdough, of Murdough Design, who’d built a house on the lake for his own family years earlier. The design

Clockwise, from top: A hidden pantry helps cut clutter in the kitchen, outfitted with suspended shelves; the couple’s bathroom features a glass-enclosed shower and a soaking tub; bunkrooms in the guest cottage are oriented around views of the property.

process, all three joke, unfolded as a conversation between the pragmatic Holtzman and the artistic Byers and Murdough. “On every turn they won,” Holtzman says, laughing. But that’s not to say that the house, completed in 2018, would be all style and no substance. Murdough, after all, had been tasked with a major challenge: crafting a large, guest-friendly home that still felt intimate and scaled to the site.

The solution? Think smaller. Instead of one behemoth, the architect designed a cabin-like, 6,848-square-foot main home, plus a guest cottage and an art studio—separate structures connected by bridges.

“We like to break buildings up into parts because it creates opportunities for intimate exterior spaces, grand exterior spaces, and everything in between,” Murdough says.

A masterful mix of wood, glass, and steel, the home beckons with cozy niches carved into spacious rooms. On the open-concept first floor, for instance, a built-in seating nook, nestled among red-cedar walls, offsets a soaring 20-foot ceiling. The adjoining spaces are just as inviting, with a custom walnut table in the dining area and Pietra Cardosa-topped islands in the kitchen. The couple wafts through these spaces just as the lake breezes flow in through the windows and sliding glass doors, accented with sapele mahogany.

Visitors can find similar features in the guest cottage. Mainly used by Byers’s and Holtzman’s adult children, it contains four suites, each boasting a bedroom, a bunkroom, and a bathroom. As for the lack of a kitchen? Consider that a gentle nudge that the main house is for family meals.

While the cottage and the main home sing with warm wood, one spot is a white canvas: Byers’s art studio. She crafts pottery on the light-filled top floor, then uses a dumbwaiter to send pieces to the lower level for firing in a 3,000-pound kiln, which she jokes “is never going anywhere.”

Speaking of not going anywhere, the couple pictures the years ahead and sees grandkids whipping around on tricycles. For now, they sip coffee and listen to the loons in the morning—just the two of them—before hosting loved ones in the evening. Perhaps Byers sums up their new home best: “I always wanted a cabin on the lake, and this is on steroids, you know?”