



How Do You Begin a Cabin Addition Design?

START with the ROOF!

BY DALE MULFINGER

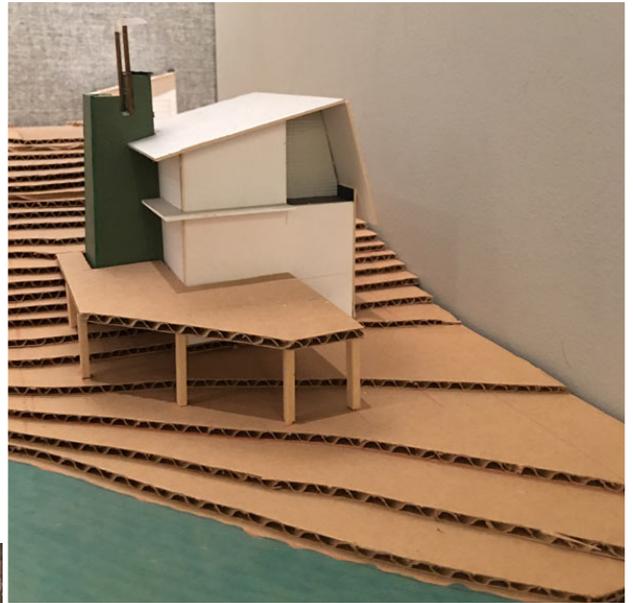
Up front you'll need to know the zoning rules and have completed a site survey to make sure you're not building on your neighbor's property. And the addition direction will need to be informed by the internal functional layout of your existing cabin. But before you lock onto a floor plan, explore what kind of roof shape will work well with the existing roof if you add onto a particular side of the cabin. That's assuming you seek to have an addition that doesn't look "tacked on", but rather a seamless transition to a larger cabin. ►►



The most effective way to study your roof options is to build a little model. Not a fancy detailed model, with windows and doors, but just a basic model with walls and a roof.

The materials for your model can be as simple as a discarded Cheerios box, or manila file folders and some scotch tape. Try a few options before you settle on the one your spouse endorses. Then work on the plan. If the two don't coincide, try retooling your model.

Have fun, engage your grandkids, and enjoy your new addition! 



Dale Mulfinger

was born and raised on a dairy farm in Minnesota, and the rural landscape and vernacular architecture have informed his many designs.



After graduating from the University of Minnesota, he worked nationally and internationally before becoming a Founding Partner in 1983 of what is now SALA Architects, Inc. The breadth of his work at SALA includes modest remodels and additions, lake-side cabins, along with urban and rural homes from St. Paul to Buenos Aires.

He has taught architectural studios at the University of Minnesota and other schools since 1976. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Architecture and author of five books include the *The Architecture of Edwin Lundie and The Cabin*. He has authored over 100 articles in regional and national magazines and his sustaining research on cabins has earned him the title, "Cabinologist".

In 2015 he was named "Architect of Distinction" by AIA-MN and Midwest Home magazine.

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