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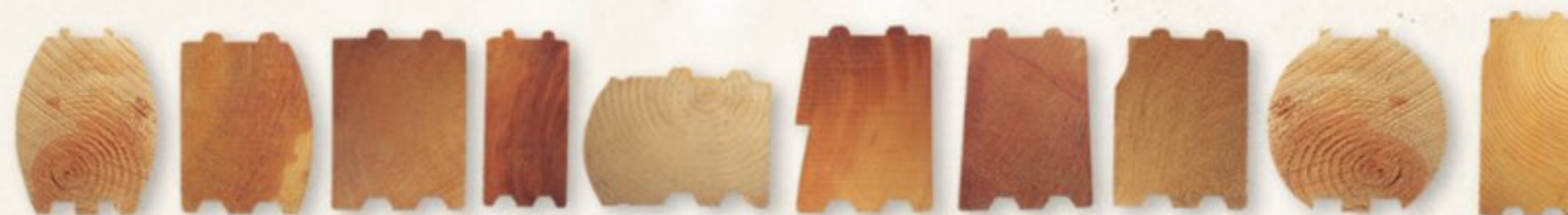


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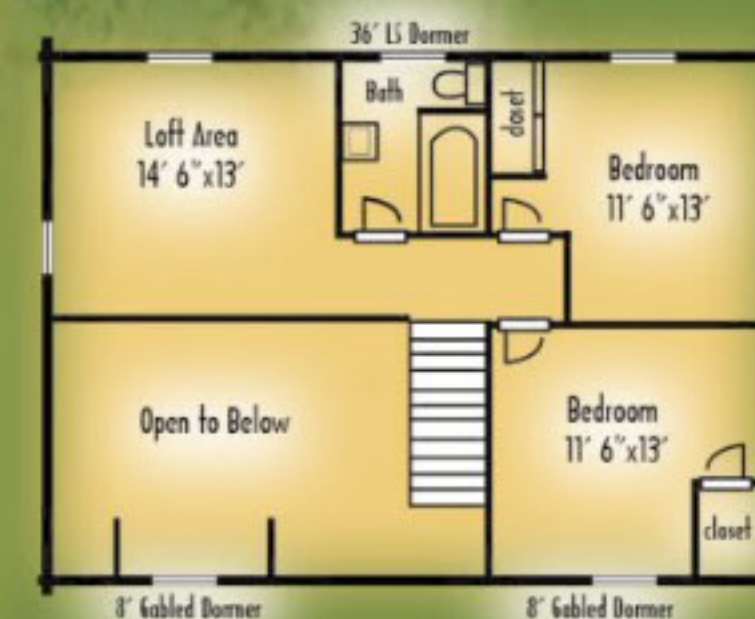
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Near Glacier National Park, a home by Centennial Log Homes overlooks Montana's Flathead Lake and the Swan Mountain Range beyond.

Photo by Heidi Long

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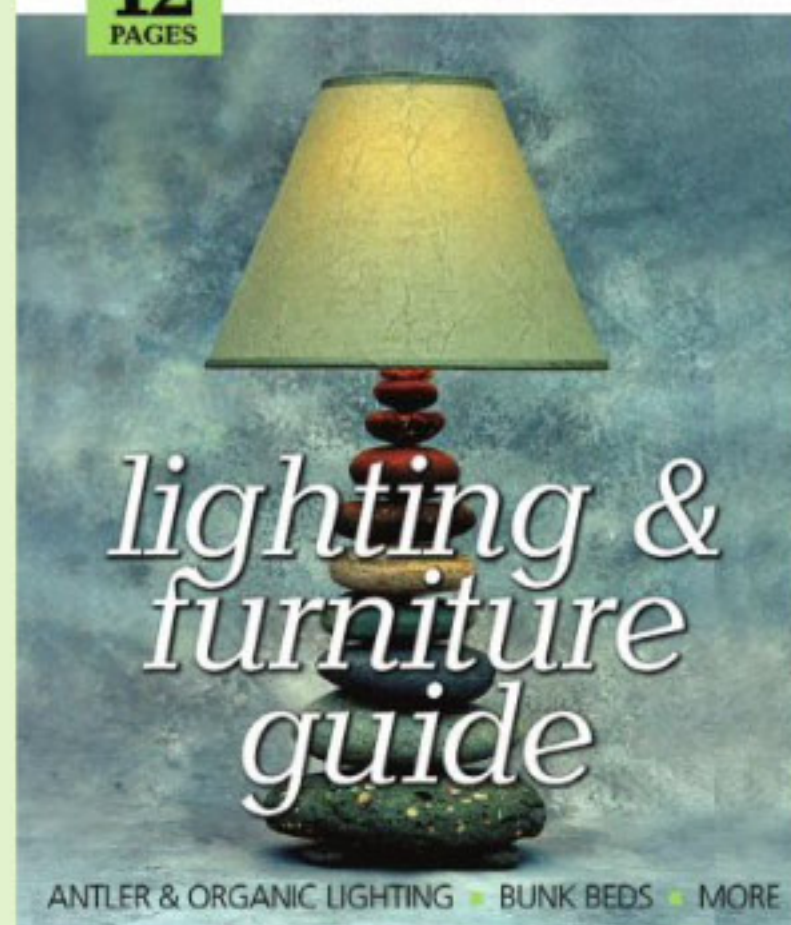


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Beyond Canoes & Campfires

Did you love summer camp as a kid or hate it? I, for one, loved it: Swimming, singing, doing arts and crafts, sleeping in a musty camp cabin with giggling friends... I couldn't wait for that week every year.

Who says adults can't re-live their summer camp memories or make new ones? In this issue we provide a directory of schools and workshops that teach cabin-building skills. Their locations vary from the Rocky Mountains to the upper Midwest, and the lodgings range from tent camping to bed and breakfast luxury, but the intent of each school is the same: to help adults rediscover the fun of learning. Spend a week (or more) with fellow cabin-lovers and you'll leave with new skills and new friends.

If you can't get away to attend a workshop, you can at least sit outside for a bit and learn something new from this issue. From buying land to building a foundation to installing a dock, you'll find information here to help you set the perfect scene for your cabin.

One highlight is a special book excerpt on green building (page 24). Author Bonnie Pickartz and her husband own Goshen Timber Frames and have helped hundreds of clients design livable, energy-efficient and timeless homes. In the book, Pickartz urges readers to define their goals for a sustainable home. If you plan to build green, stop and ask yourself why and what you hope to accomplish. Your answers to those questions will help you design a cabin that makes both you and the earth happy—and will help guide your decision-making throughout the project.

In every issue, we take you into homes that will inspire you. The four featured here represent a range of styles, from antique log cabin to new log lodge to more contemporary gems. You'll see there's a cabin style to suit all tastes and you'll find tips—from a flooring choice to a floor plan detail—to be mined from each featured home.

OK, now go play flashlight tag or roast marshmallows!



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Summer School

Learn to build a cabin all your own.



Turn the page to find a cabin-building school near you!



Students practice a range of construction methods at Yestermorrow Design/Build School in Waitsfield, Vermont. Carpentry, straw bale building and clay plaster are among the school's course topics.



Yestermorrow Design/Build School photos



When students arrive at the North House Folk School, in Grand Marais, Minnesota, they're looking to learn a new skill, but they leave with something greater, says the school's executive director Greg Wright. "It's about relishing the joy of building."

If you're looking to discover that joy this summer, you have a variety of venues to choose from. Options range from short classes to week-long intensive workshops hosted at folk schools, log yards and college campuses around the country. In the following listings, you'll find course offerings all with different takes on teaching the skills necessary to create a shelter—whether it's a log cabin, straw-clay house, yurt or timber-frame cottage.

One of North House's classes, for example, is "Build Thoreau's Cabin: Basic Building Skills Workshop." Workshop attendees build a cabin similar to the one Henry David Thoreau lived in on Walden Pond. The class attracts everyone from veteran woodworkers to rank beginners, Wright says. While some students may go on to build an outbuilding or cabin of their own, others just enjoy the experience and the connections they form with other students.

"All of our students come because of a sense of adventure and a desire to learn," Wright says. "As soon as you stop learning, you stop living." He appreciates when students allow themselves to be beginners again and realize it's OK to make mistakes. While his school's students range in ages and skills, Wright says they have a willingness to share a passion, meet new people and build community.

With so many options, how do you choose a building class that's right for you? Do your research online, then choose one with a character that appeals to you. Location matters, too, Wright says. "Pick a part of the world you want to discover, because the place you go is part of the story." **CBC**

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Gary & Robin's Story (Their home shown above)

The best years of my life have been with friends and family in the mountains of Southern California. A world away in just a couple hours. Leaving behind the hustle and bustle of the city, you're among the trees, animals, blue sky, and fresh air. I got this love of the outdoors from my dad. He had an old cabin right by Lake Arrowhead on the edge of the National Forest....

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cabin schools



Create Sacred Space: A "Complete Cob" Natural Building Workshop, Nevada City, California
(530-913-0846; californiacob.com)

In this 16-day, comprehensive cob workshop, students learn the basics of building a small cob cottage, from foundation to roof, and everything in between. The workshop is taught by master natural builder Rob Sequoia Pollacek of California Cob and Samantha Hinrichs of Mud and Pearls.

Driftless Folk School, Viroqua, Wisconsin
(608-632-3348; driftlessfolkschool.org)

Visit the Driftless Folk School's site to see the calendar of classes and workshops that cover building design for livable homes, masonry, wall plastering, timber framing and straw building. Lodging for workshop participants is available at inns, campgrounds and lodges in the area.

EcoNest, Ashland, Oregon
(541-488-9508; econesthomes.com)

Eco Nest offers a variety of courses in timber framing, clay-fiber walls, natural plasters, roof construction, Japanese joinery and earthen floors. The school also holds longer intensive courses and six-week apprenticeships.

Heartwood School, Washington, Massachusetts
(413-623-6677; heartwoodschool.com)

Construction classes in varying lengths at the Heartwood School cover a range of topics, such as timber framing, cabinetry, woodworking, roof framing, stair building and carpentry for women. Home-cooked lunches are included with workshop fees. Accommodations are offered at local inns, cottages, campgrounds and hotels.

Island School of Building Arts, Gabriola Island, British Columbia
(250-247-8922; logandtimberschool.com)

Learn log building, traditional timber framing or post-and-beam construction in a series of 40-hour classes taught at the Island School of Building Arts. Classes are offered in the spring and fall.

Logworks School of Log Building, Heron, Montana
(406-847-1567; logworksschool.com)

The Logworks School teaches log building to inform would-be log home owners and people who would like to become professional log builders. The school's eight-day, hands-on log building course has no more than four students to a group.

Montana School of Log Building, Three Forks, Montana
(406-285-3488; logworker.com/classes.html)

The hands-on, five-day log building course at Montana School of Log Building teaches log alignment, log scribing and gouging, chain sawing and log selection. Students learn the tricks of the trade while stacking log walls. Use of tools and RV parking or camping are provided.

North House Folk School, Grand Marais, Minnesota
(888-387-9762; northhouse.org)

With a variety of shelter classes, North House Folk School teaches students straw bale, timber frame and cordwood construction, as well as offering a course in yurt building. The school also runs a basic building skills workshop called "Build Thoreau's Cabin."

Onalaska Log Building School, Onalaska, Washington
(360-978-4962; onalaskabuildingschool.com)

In a one-day class on log building construction, students learn about peeling, lifting and stacking logs, and how to apply chinking. The class, limited to eight participants, is designed for those who would like to build their own log home, from scratch or a kit of materials.

The Pat Wolfe Log Building School, Lanark, Ontario
(613-256-4997; logbuildingschool.net)

One-, four- and 10-week classes at the Pat Wolfe Log Building School teach students log building techniques and tools. In this hands-on course, students become familiar with basic log notching. In a one-week course, students gain enough knowledge of log building to supervise a contractor on a home building project.

Rocky Mountain Workshops, Fort Collins, Colorado
(970-482-1366, rockymountainworkshops.com)

Students learn skills such as square rule timber framing and designing with Sketch Up at the Colorado State University Mountain Campus, which is adjacent to the Rocky Mountain National Park. Cabins and all-you-can-eat meals are provided in the workshop fee.

**Straw Bale Workshop,
Berea, Kentucky
(theyearofmud.com)**

This seven-day workshop teaches students how to build their own straw bale homes. The workshop includes hands-on practice stacking, securing and pinning bales, and plastering the walls with local clay plaster mixed on-site. Class size is limited to 12 and workshop fees include camping and meals.

**Two-Week Cottage Build,
Chagrin Falls, Ohio
(440-682-0502;
naturalcottageproject.com)**

In this foundation-to-roof cottage build, participants will get hands-on experience in every aspect of building a natural straw clay home from the rubble trench and stone foundation to the living roof. Camping with hot showers and meals prepared with fresh local foods are included in the workshop price.

**Tumbleweed Tiny House
Company, various locations
(877-331-8469;
tumbleweedhouses.com)**

Tumbleweed offers two-day workshops designed to help students plan for a simplified, tiny-house lifestyle. The workshops are presented by Tumbleweed homeowners and builders who cover topics such as choosing a base for a tiny home, selecting materials and tool usage.

**Yestermorrow Design/Build School,
Waitsfield, Vermont
(888-496-5541; yestermorrow.org)**

Yestermorrow's Home Design/Build course is appropriate for people who want to DIY a cabin and for people seeking a thorough understanding of the building process to better communicate with their builder or architect. The course combines hands-on skill building and a focus on designing a floor plan to suit students' individual needs. The school also teaches woodworking, timber framing, carpentry and cabinetry.

Students who want to build a tiny home, workshop or cabin learn basic construction at the North House Folk School. Hands-on practice includes placing rafters, installing roofing and siding, and building a sleeping loft. The workshop also provides information on design, foundations and door and window installation.



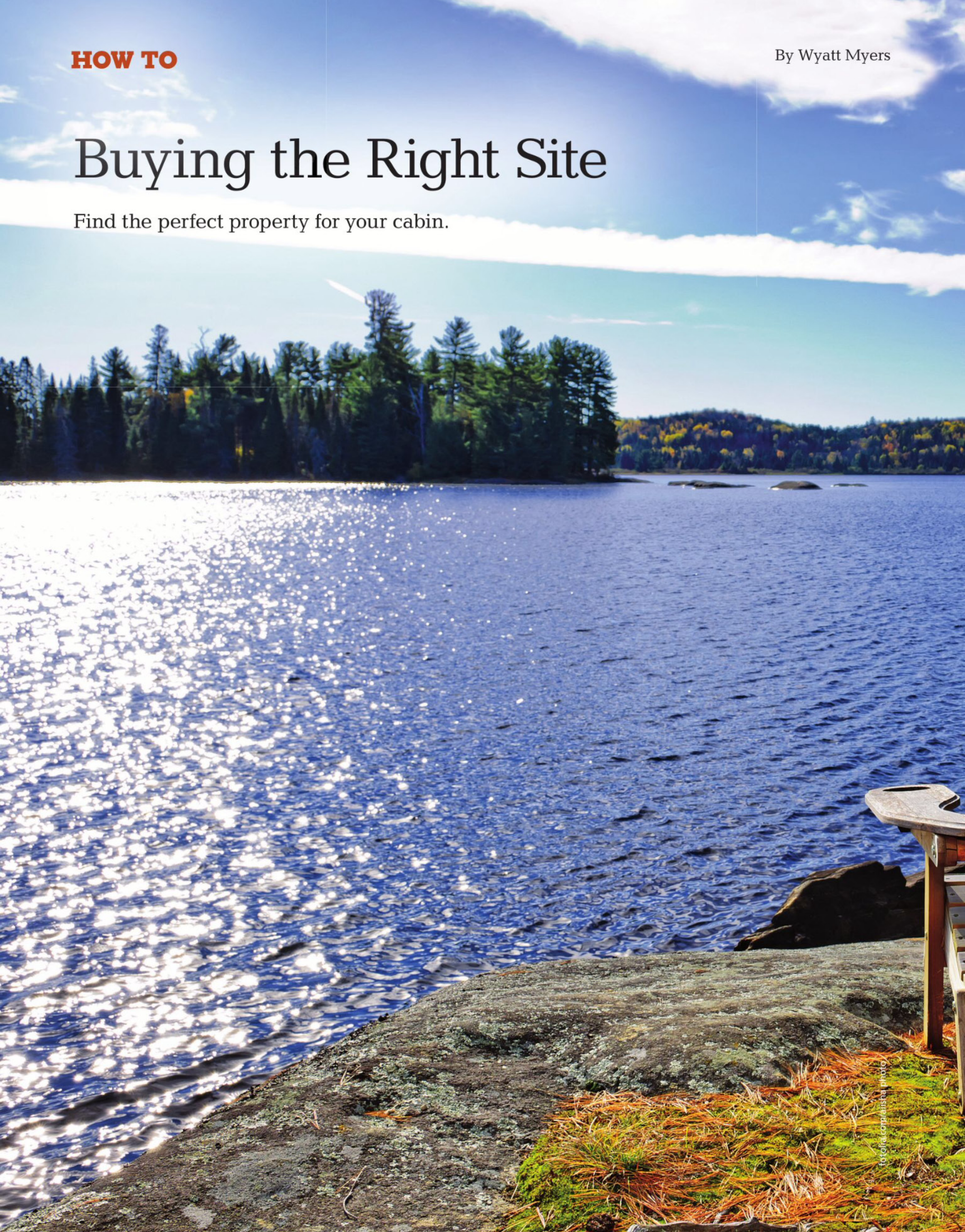
North House Folk School photos

HOW TO

By Wyatt Myers

Buying the Right Site

Find the perfect property for your cabin.







urning the dream home in your head into a reality requires a lot of hard work.

You need to choose a home style, define your floor plans, find a builder you trust and make hundreds of decisions during the construction process. But before any of that can begin, most people need to start at square one—with finding the right plot of land for that dream cabin.

At first glance, it seems like buying land would be a fairly simple step in the process. Still, there are a number of things that potential property buyers should know to get exactly what they're looking for and avoid any problems.

Getting Started

If you're new to the area where you plan to build, obviously the first step is to find out what land is available for purchase. A trusted local real estate agent is the first person to contact. Many agents specialize in rural property listings, so they can give you a sense of what land is on the market.

Of course, it's okay to use a real estate agent as your starting point and then dig a little deeper on your own. "Other peo-

ple in the community might know about property for sale that the Realtors don't know about," says Allen Halcomb, president of MossCreek in Knoxville, Tennessee. "For example, bankers sometimes are aware of property before it even comes on the market. Builders are also a good source of information on property."

It also doesn't hurt to take a drive with your eyes peeled for desirable land in the area. "Many of our customers have purchased their property just by viewing a particular piece of property that was not listed for sale and asking the owner if they would consider selling some of the acreage," says Mark Feder of Appalachian Log Structures in Ripley, West Virginia. "We found our property through a friend that knew we were looking for land, so spread the word if you're in the market."

Cost Considerations

As with most things in life, you typically get what you pay for with property. Simply put, if one piece of land is significantly less expensive than another, there is often a good reason. Many factors can play into the cost of a piece of property, but one of the key considerations is slope. Even a

slight slope can complicate the construction process, notes Halcomb. "Flat property that costs \$100,000 might actually be preferable to sloped property at \$60,000."

Some of the factors that result in cost savings on the front end of a land purchase may quickly disappear when you get into the construction process, so it's important to do your research before committing to the "quick deal." The steep slope mentioned earlier, for example, can add significant expense to building a safe foundation for the home. Halcomb adds that proximity to roads, utilities and water are also important considerations. A remote piece of property might seem desirable in theory, but you may end up footing a hefty bill to extend these services to a home on the property once it's complete.

What to Look For ... And Avoid

Ultimately, finding the ideal piece of land for your home involves vetting your hopes and dreams against the reality of what the land can handle. This isn't to say that you can't have the mountain view and the babbling brook in the backyard. It just means that you need to go the extra mile to make



sure that the babbling brook isn't part of a wetland, and that the mountain view isn't resting on top of solid bedrock. "The soil itself is the single biggest consideration," says Francie Cook, regional building consultant for Beaver Mountain Log and Cedar Homes in Deposit, New York. "A loamy soil is best for a building site."

To assess a site's soil, it might be best to consult with a local builder before you buy, says John Ricketson, of Hearthstone in Macon, Georgia. The builder can help you determine any problem areas, such as ground that's too wet or too rocky to build on.

The zoning restrictions of a particular area are another important thing to be aware of, notes Cook. "Many rural areas have no zoning," she says. "What that means is the neighboring land owner may be able to park old junk cars and pitch a tent if they so desire. A few simple calls to the local township can prevent you from making a big mistake."

Going Deeper

Fortunately, there are several safeguards in place that can protect potential property buyers from making a bad purchase. Ricketson says that a "perc test" is one of the most important of these. Essentially, this test measures how much liquid can percolate into the soil on the property, and it determines whether a septic system is feasible on the property. If a parcel of land can't pass a perc test, it can be difficult or even impossible to build on it.

In addition, a title search and survey should always be done on a property before purchase, Feder says. "The title search ensures that there are no liens against the property, and a survey can confirm property boundaries that may not have been marked or defined for many years."

Closing the Deal

These tests and searches should be conducted before closing the deal on the land

if possible. But in some cases, particularly for the perc test, testing may need to wait until after you've taken possession of the land. In these instances, Halcomb says you can protect yourself by making the results of these tests a "contingency of sale." Basically, this means that if the property cannot pass the perc test, then the sale is off.

Land purchases aren't regulated in quite the same ways as home purchases, so potential buyers need to do their research and go the extra step to protect themselves. In many cases, it's best to go through the process with a professional like a real estate agent, or even an attorney, who has done it before.

Looking for the perfect piece of land for your dream cabin can be an enjoyable pursuit. The key to keeping it that way is to research before buying and assess each potential site with a cool eye and the help of a seasoned pro or two. **CBC**

folia.com/deberarr photo



Dock and Roll

How to choose a dock for your cabin.

A dock can be the launching pad for hours of summer fun. How you design, purchase and install your dock will depend on many factors from your climate to your local codes.

Lakeside living is great, but most people agree that actually getting out onto the lake makes it better. Landscaping a lakefront cabin typically includes putting in a dock that will help you reach deeper water to allow for swimming, fishing, boating—or just enjoying sunlight playing on the waves.

Sounds simple, right? You'll just get on the Internet, surf around for the dock style you want and then go down to your local marina or big-box hardware store and get it done. Heck, you might just build it yourself!

Easy does it, Captain Dockmaster.

Research Your Options

You better do a little homework first, says John Krogman of Connect-a-Dock Inc., a

manufacturer of plastic modular floating dock systems in Atlantic, Iowa.

First, consider that there might be state or local regulations and restrictions that you will have to meet. Some private lakes, for example, only allow floating docks set on encapsulated foam drums or floats.

Building a fixed dock or installing a floating one might require a permit. If you're on a reservoir, you might need to check with two maybe even three regulating agencies.

Krogman suggests that dock shoppers talk it up before buying. "The first place to start if you're buying a cabin or putting in a dock is to ask a neighbor, 'Hey, what do I have to do here?'" Krogman says. "Lots of times Realtors will know."

Next, look around your lake and see what other people's docks look like. Krog-

man, of course, would hope you'd see floating docks. But, he says, "If you look around and don't see any floating docks, there's probably a reason," such as big waves or widely fluctuating water levels.

The Right Size

How you plan to use your dock will dictate the size you consider, Krogman says.

If your family of four is just going to swim and fish from it, you might go with a dock that sits low in the water and is 7½ feet from the shore to the end of the dock and as wide as you feel you need. If you plan to tie your canoe, kayak or small fishing boat up to your dock, be sure the dock is longer than your boat, and wide enough to allow plenty of room to set down gear and for people to get in and out of the boat. *(Text continues on page 18.)*



Decking Your Dock

No matter how your dock is constructed, what most people will see is the decking that covers the top surface of your dock. Here are your material choices:

WOOD: The all-natural look of wood offers beauty and a soft feel underfoot. A variety of soft- and hardwood species can be used. Cedar is sometimes chosen for its natural resistance to insects and decay. Wood requires occasional maintenance and you may need to re-stain or treat the wood decking. Wood absorbs warmth from the sun and so will feel warm on sunny days—and maybe quite hot in summer.

COMPOSITES AND PLASTIC MATERIALS: These alternatives to wood can be textured to be slip-resistant and are maintenance-free. Composite materials typically contain a mix of plastic and wood fibers, and may be susceptible to mildew and mold. They should be cleaned regularly. Plastic deck materials do not contain any organic materials. They are lightweight and require less maintenance.

ALUMINUM: This material is the most lightweight choice for decking and does not decay or warp. Aluminum can be painted, powder-coated or given a wood-grain finish. Coated aluminum remains cool to the touch even in bright sun.



People with larger motor boats likely will need to shop for a larger, fixed dock, the size, cost and construction materials of which can vary greatly.

Krogman recommends that before deciding to build their own dock, people should get on YouTube and watch DIY project videos to learn what their getting into.

Installing either a low-profile or heavier duty high-profile Connect-a-Dock product requires one tool—a 9/16-inch wrench—and can be done completely above water. Building a permanent dock from plans is quite similar to building a deck and usually requires construction experience, power tools and some standing in water.

Keep in mind that your local municipality may dictate what size dock you can build. Flaunt those restrictions and you may end up facing a fine, and an order to remove the dock. You should also take care that your dock doesn't block

your neighbors' ability to enjoy the waterfront, too.

Installation and Maintenance

Not Mr. Tool Time? Krogman says dealers almost always have installation crews that will build what you need. They can even put in and take out your floating dock every year if that's a problem.

Maintenance is yet another consideration. Plastic docks require an occasional power wash or scrubbing with a brush. How involved the maintenance of a fixed dock can be depends on its size, complexity and construction material.

People buying a dock from a dealer should be prepared to ask a lot of questions. And, Krogman says, if their dealer doesn't do the same, the customer might want to look for a different dealer.

"We want to know everything," says Krogman, whose company does about \$3.5 million in sales a year. "We don't want to sell you something that's going to fail."

Costs

Last, but probably most important to many people shopping for a dock system, is cost.

Most people, Krogman says, "are going to spend anywhere between \$3,500 and \$10,000, depending on what you're going to do with it."

But, he warned, costs can get much higher, especially for those who want electricity, running water, maybe even built-in seating and a permanent canopy.

An Iowa farmer who owned a big pond paid Connect-a-Dock \$100,000 to put in a plastic dock system for him, Krogman says.

He admits "some people don't like plastic; they think it's cheap." Others want to save money, so they pick out some plans and head down to Menards or Home Depot to get their DIY tools and lumber.

"There are a million ways to build a dock," Krogman says. "It comes down to water conditions and personal preference. But wood is a lot of work."

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Online Resources

Dock shoppers searching online for a dock will find dozens of websites of interest. Here are two that represent the broad scope of options:

Pier of d'Nort (pierofd'nort.com): This Wisconsin company's specialty is a modular aluminum dock system that one person of average skill can install using no special tools or winches. Its product options include steps, ramps, bracing, mooring poles, anchor posts and extraction boom and lever. Cost for a 6-foot by 6-foot dock is \$1,060 for Azek flooring, \$950 for cedar flooring.

Dock Accents (dockaccents.com): This Virginia company offers a range of products that include floating docks for boats and kayaks, power centers, solar lighting and many custom add-ons. Kayak launchers and docks range from \$1,099 to \$4,348. The company sells an 8-foot by 12-foot floating dock manufactured by AccuDock of Florida for \$3,637. **CBC**

Dock Accents photo

Permanent or Floating?

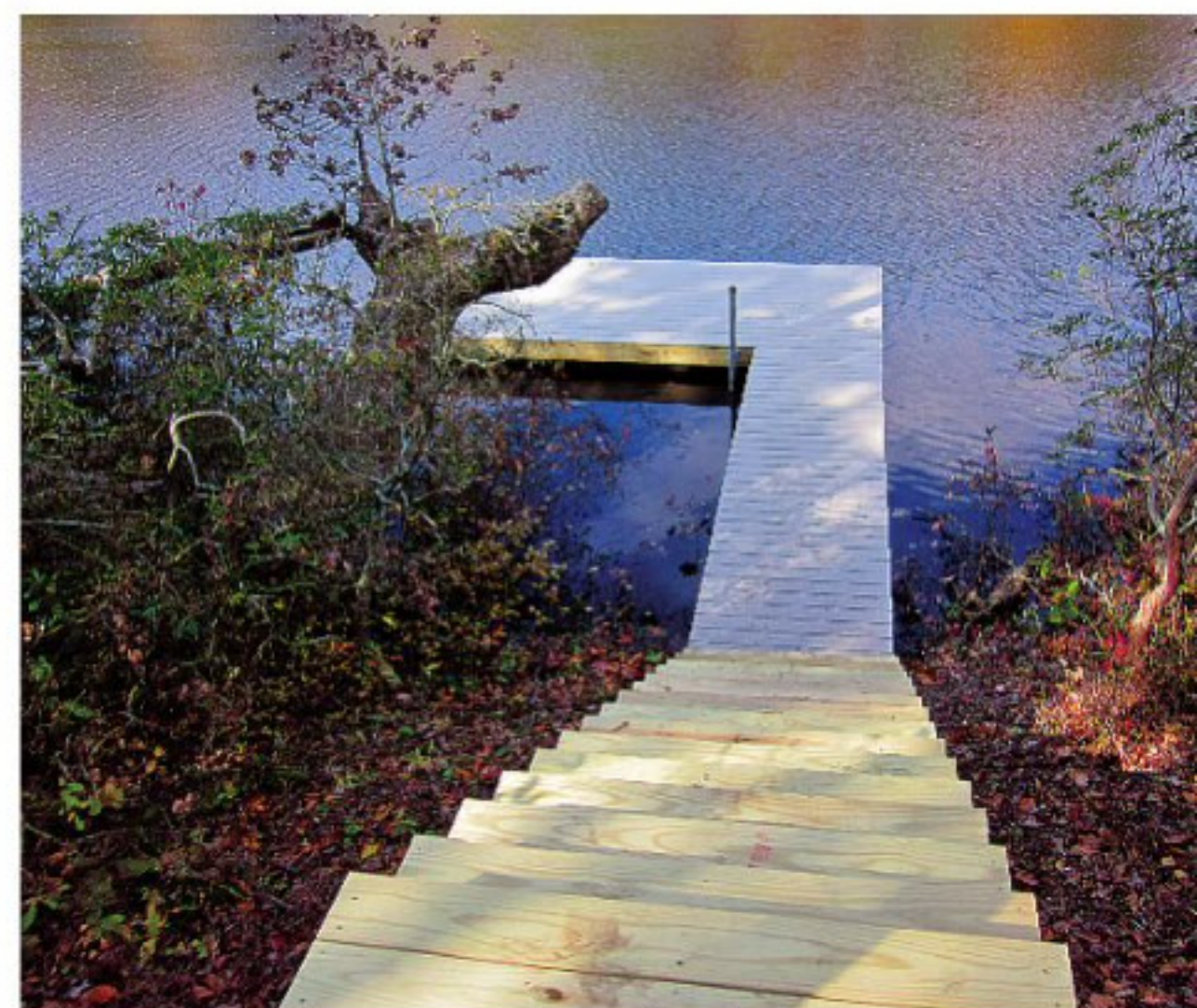
One of the choices you may face as you build your dock is whether it will be permanently fixed in place or removable (or floating). The decision may be made for you based on restrictions in your area. If not, here are some factors to consider:

PERMITTING: If you plan to build a stationary dock, you may need to obtain a building permit. Floating docks may not require a permit, but may still be limited in size or location by local codes.

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: Let other docks on your lake or pond help guide your choice of permanent dock construction—whether it will be built with pilings, pipes or a crib. If your pond or lake freezes every winter, the dock foundation will have to stand up to those changing conditions.

MATERIALS: A permanent dock can be built with steel, treated wood or untreated wood.

BUDGET: Talk to local dock builders or search for materials online to see what dock materials you can afford.



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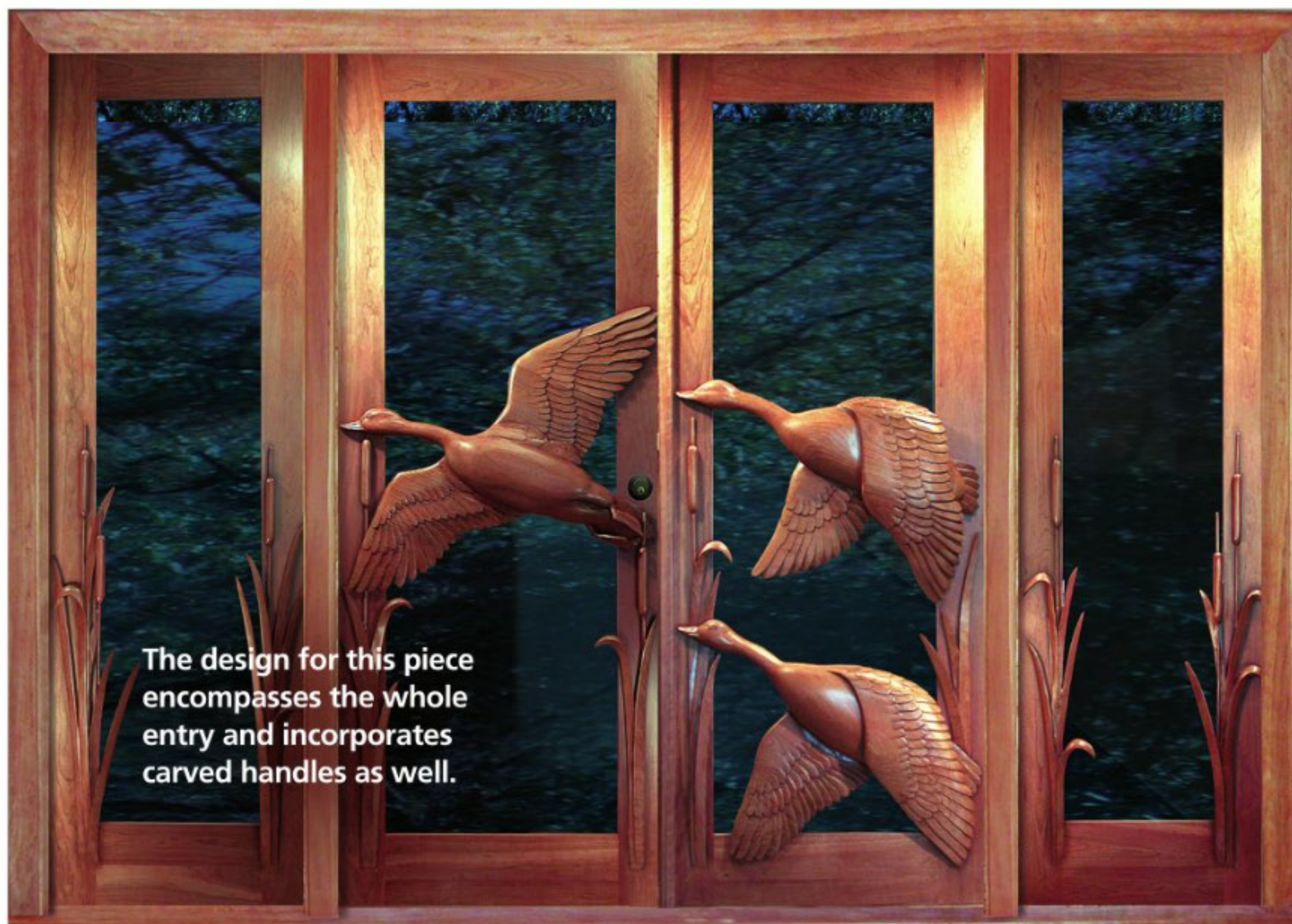
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A large, cozy interior of a log cabin. The room features a high ceiling with exposed wooden beams and a large stone fireplace with a fire burning. There are several comfortable-looking sofas and armchairs, some with patterned cushions. A large window on the right side of the room offers a view of a lush green landscape. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting.

Making the Cut

Carvings bring artistry home.

California carver Ron Ramsey puts the finishing touches on a custom door that features a raccoon and a bird.



The design for this piece encompasses the whole entry and incorporates carved handles as well.

For Ron Ramsey, inspiration for his masterful wood carvings is found all around him. The 40 acres in Lake Tahoe where he lives with his wife, jewelry maker Karen, teems with wildlife and native vegetation. "Our land spans a canyon with a wild and scenic creek," Ramsey says. He walks the land collecting specimens to get ideas for carvings and hikes and skis the Sierra Nevada for inspiration.

Back in his shop, Ramsey sketches, then carves his designs to capture the beauty of nature in wood. His doors, mantels, signs, relief carvings and sculptures are prized by those who want to add a special touch to their homes.

Learning the Ropes

As a third-generation woodcarver, the carving gene may be in Ramsey's blood, but he's spent decades mastering his art. "My grandfather was a woodcarver and I would play on the floor of his workshop when I was very young," he recalls. When he was 11, his grandfather gave Ramsey his first set of tools. After years of experimenting with carving and woodworking, Ramsey served a two-year apprenticeship at the professional woodcarving studio of Glen Coppedge.

To broaden his horizons, Ramsey moved to Europe and established a studio in Zermatt, Switzerland. "I also lived and did carvings on a three-masted schooner in San Remo, Italy," he says. Traveling throughout Europe gave Ramsey deep insight into the work of classical European carvers. "I don't specialize in classical carving," he says, "but I incorporate many of those techniques in my carvings."

Now he practices his high-relief carving in art pieces and commissions for clients in his California studio. "I love to inspire my clients with the story contained within my carvings," Ramsey says. Often, those stories are reflections of the lives of clients and their families, or places that are close to their hearts. "I strive to tell a story with as much detail as is necessary in a clean and sharp manner without looking busy," he explains.

While Ramsey can transform it into realistic-looking birds, leaves and animals, wood is a challenging material because it is never static. "Wood always moves with the seasons and humidity," Ramsey says. "I engineer my pieces to allow for this movement." His goal is to carve beautiful pieces that will endure for generations. His 44 years of experience have taught him how to design work that allows for movement of the wood without breaking apart.



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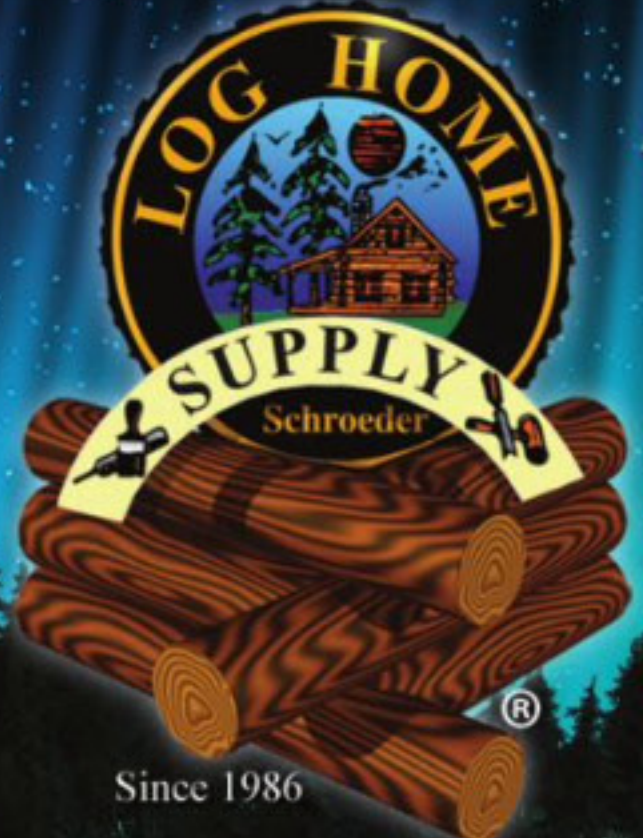
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A Personalized Piece

While Ramsey's work is superior, it's not reserved for homeowners with unlimited budgets and multi-million dollar homes. "I have had many clients with relatively modest homes who have chosen to accent their entry or fireplace," Ramsey says. "It may be a stretch for some but the impact is incomparable."

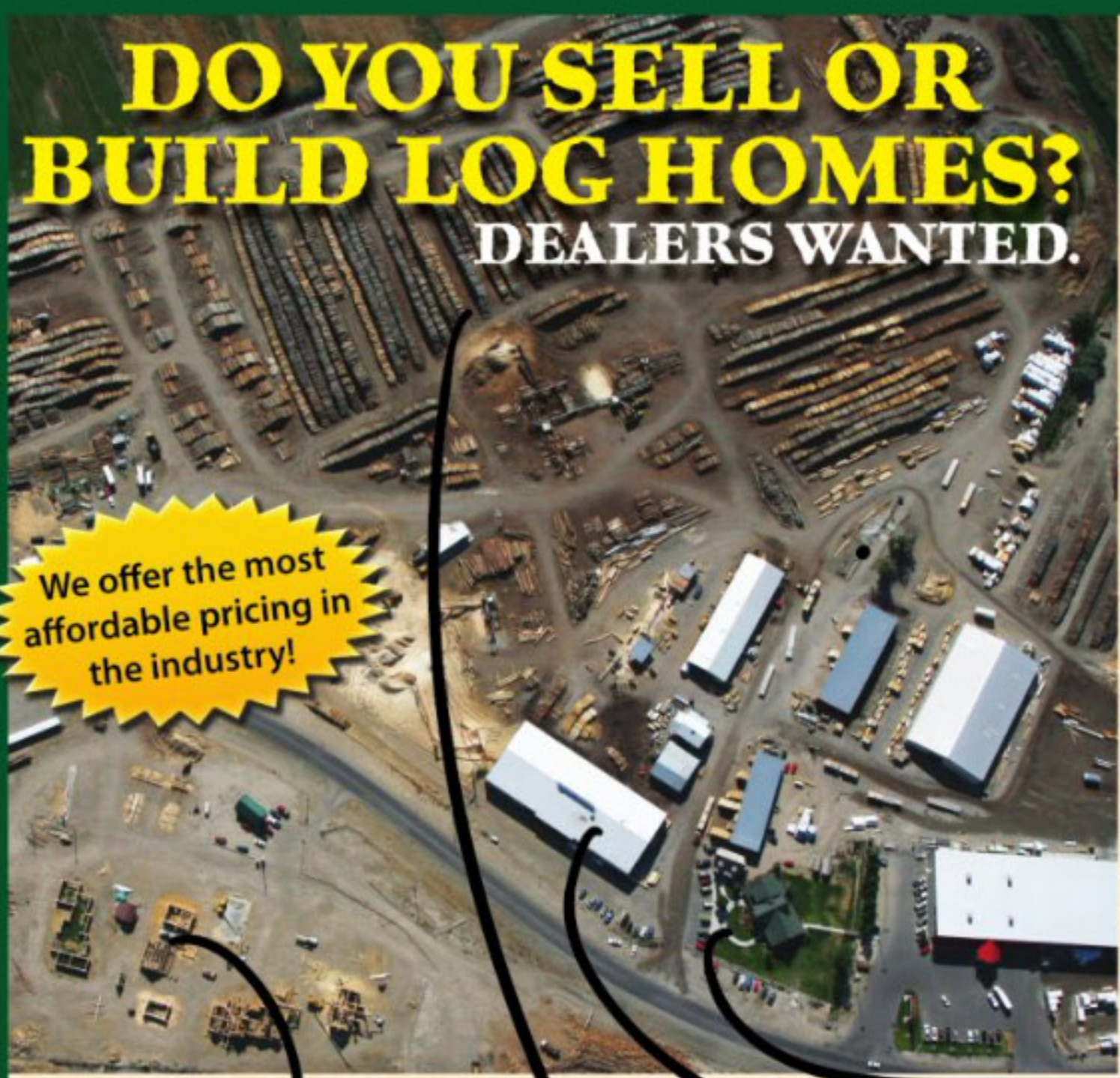
Homeowners interested in having Ramsey create a piece for their home first contact him with information on the size, budget and possible ideas for the piece. "After agreeing with the client on a ballpark price range, I require a design deposit that applies to the price of the piece once ordered," he says. He then provides three or four rough conceptual design sketches for the client to review. "Sometimes elements from several of the different sketches will be included in the final design." When the final concept is mapped out, Ramsey creates a detailed sketch and the project is underway.

As he's inspired by nature, Ramsey hopes to instill a love for nature in those who see his work. "I hope to raise awareness for the precious beauty the natural world holds," he says. And, of course, he's thrilled when his clients find beauty in what he creates for their homes. "To finish a carving and have my client be extremely happy with the outcome is very rewarding." **CBC**

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ABOVE: For this sculpted piece, Ramsey added layers of wood to the surface of the door then carved them to give the animals a three-dimensional quality. Custom stained glass on either side reflects the forest around the home.



ABOVE, RIGHT: Ramsey's masterly application of airbrush stain adds life, detail and dimension to this log home door, which is flanked by art glass.

OPPOSITE: Three-dimensional, high-relief carvings seem to bring the forest right into the home.

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Make Your Cabin Eco-Friendly

An excerpt from *Green Building for the Rest of Us*



Green building should be a process with a goal. Whether that goal is to build a home with sustainable products and practices, to build a home that can be certified green by one of the many certification programs, or whether the home is to be built to be as energy-efficient as possible and to provide a healthy environment for the homeowners, the process will define the end result.

The Green Building Process

Green building should start early in the planning process. Design, site development and home orientation are the initial stages of green building. A well-insulated, energy-efficient home can be accomplished by paying attention to the details, insulating and sealing properly, sizing the heating and air-conditioning units according to accepted load calculations and using good windows. Saving energy with an on-demand water heater is one of the easiest changes toward energy efficiency.

Building technologies available today will ensure that homes are still strong and efficient 50 to 100 years from now.

Certification

One of the first things you should do as you begin your design/build process is make a decision as to whether you will build a “green certified” home. Certification is widely believed to add value, so if you are going to sell the home, this may be a wise option. It also requires oversight and a decision about the class of certifica-



ABOVE: For an eco-friendly kitchen, try choosing energy-star appliances and finishes that make the most of reclaimed materials, such as salvaged wood.

OPPOSITE: A home with a smaller footprint is one goal of green building. Keeping the floor plan open allows interior spaces to feel larger.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory poses the following questions regarding sustainability of a product or practice:

- ☐ Does it have a long life?
- ☐ Does it save energy?
- ☐ Does it add durability?
- ☐ Does it contribute to the waste stream?
- ☐ Is it renewable and recyclable?



tion you wish to achieve. As the trend to build homes to meet higher green standards moves forward, certification may or may not have a large impact on the economic value of the home. What will continue to be important is the quality of the home and the measures taken to ensure that the home is built to the highest standards.

Green building certifications require extra steps in the building process. You must determine which certification you are seeking early in your design/build

process. They all offer extensive documentation. Nationwide, there are local and regional certifications that offer certifications similar to LEED and NAHB. They all provide guidelines and lists of inspectors who can help you meet their requirements. For those who want to have their home certified as “green,” plans should also include a checklist of issues that will need to be addressed in the green design/build process whether you choose to have your home certified or not.

Once you have selected the items on

which you will focus and include in your building process, documentation is important. Copies of invoices and inspections, photos, drawings and any notes you make should be logged faithfully. Start a notebook and be diligent in your documentation.

The Big Picture

Your site will be all-important as you move forward with your project. Whether you own your land or you are just beginning the search for a site for



ABOVE: Allowing for plenty of natural light makes a home more livable, and decreases dependence on electrical lights. Thoughtful window placement can also help the sun heat your home.

LEFT: This timber frame home features exterior walls made from structural insulated panels (SIPs) that create a tight insulating envelope around the whole home.

your new home, you need to consider how the land lays, how your home will be sited and the impact of building on the site. If you are looking at land, consider how you will live in your new home. Are you a “house mouse” or a “field mouse”? Will you spend much of the time outdoors or do you prefer to spend your time inside? This will impact everything from how your home is sited to how it is designed. Don’t hurry this process. Changes after the fact are time-consuming and expensive.

The smallest footprint will have the smallest impact. This is critical to your new home and should be taken very seriously. But, just as you shouldn’t build too much home for your lifestyle, don’t under-build either. Your home won’t serve you well if you have to add on to

live comfortably. There is a perfect fit for everyone.

Designing your home to work for you and to fit on the land will take time and energy. You will need to walk the land, visit with local builders who are familiar with not only building, but with the regional landscape, have a local excavator out and discuss the impact of building on the site and how the landscape will change in order to accommodate your new home. If you are building for a view, take a ladder to the site, climb up and look around. This will likely be your first-floor view. If the site is challenging, consider renting a lull or bucket to get an even higher view. Take your time. If you have the luxury of visiting the site during all four seasons, you are far ahead of the game.

The location of your new home will

be the first step in building your green home. The value of your green home begins with the land on which it sits. Careful site evaluation early in the project will guide your design process in the right direction.

- Will you be building in a rural or urban area?
- Will your site require extensive site development?
- Will your site allow for your home to be situated for active or passive solar energy or for daylighting?
- Will local or subdivision requirements allow you to build a home in the size/style you wish?
- Are there important natural features that need to be preserved?

Site the home to minimize the impact on the land. By keeping roads and utility

access short, you lessen your impact on the land and save money. Try your best to utilize previously used or degraded areas for the building, parking and roads.

More local building departments are requiring onsite water management. Working to make sure that stormwater is managed, preventing runoff that will carry topsoil away and pollute streams and using a reservoir system to capture rainwater to use for irrigation are all ways to be a responsible landholder.

Protect trees during construction. Fence the trees at the drip line to avoid construction traffic and debris.

Landscaping will play an important part in the energy efficiency of your new home. Trees to protect the home from the glaring sun will significantly reduce cooling costs.

The Design

The design of your home will determine how well you live in it and how much you enjoy it. Size does matter and with careful planning, a smaller home can provide more appropriate and more livable space than a much larger home. There is much to be said of the “human scale.” We all live more comfortably in space that fits our scale.

The style of your new home will be your next critical decision. The style should fit with the local vernacular. It should look and feel like it belongs in the area. If you are building in an area of eclectic homes—many styles built over many years—you have lots of options. If you are building in an area where the homes are more similar than dissimilar, think about a home that will blend in.

Mistakes, such as building a log home in an area of very traditional homes, will decrease the value of your home. Keep colors and finishes in mind as you work on the design of your home. While we each want our homes to be unique and charming, we don’t want to own the home that everyone means when they say, “Oh yes, that house.” Timeless architecture will serve you much better than a trendy style. By building a home with fewer corners and using simple geometry

you maximize your budget and minimize building materials.

The size of your home should be determined by the needs of your family. If you have guests twice a year and there are 16 people in your home for three days, do you need to build to accommodate 16 people for the other 362 days of the year? A timber frame, hybrid or panelized home will feel larger than a conventionally framed or modular home. There are fewer structural wall requirements, fewer halls, higher ceilings with more volume. Open spaces accommodate groups of people more easily than smaller, enclosed rooms. Think seriously about the long-term issues of energy usage and maintenance and about the shorter-term costs to build and the extra materials required to construct your home. Smaller requires fewer resources to build and fewer resources to maintain. Careful planning as you design your home will pay off long-term.

Your home should “live” exactly as you live (your rooms should fit your lifestyle). If you enjoy the outdoors, be sure to incorporate porches and decks. If you need quiet space, an away room, office or a small nook that will let you sit quietly is important. If you are a gourmet cook...or just enjoy cooking...you won’t be happy with a small basic kitchen. Think about how and where you spend your time when you’re home. Design for you...not for the Joneses or a trend you’ve seen in a magazine.

Work with a designer or architect who will listen. Even if you are revising a stock plan, at the end of the day, it should reflect your tastes. Architects and designers have skills far beyond the average homeowner. They know what works and what doesn’t, but they should help you to develop your plan to work for you. Don’t get lost in the process.

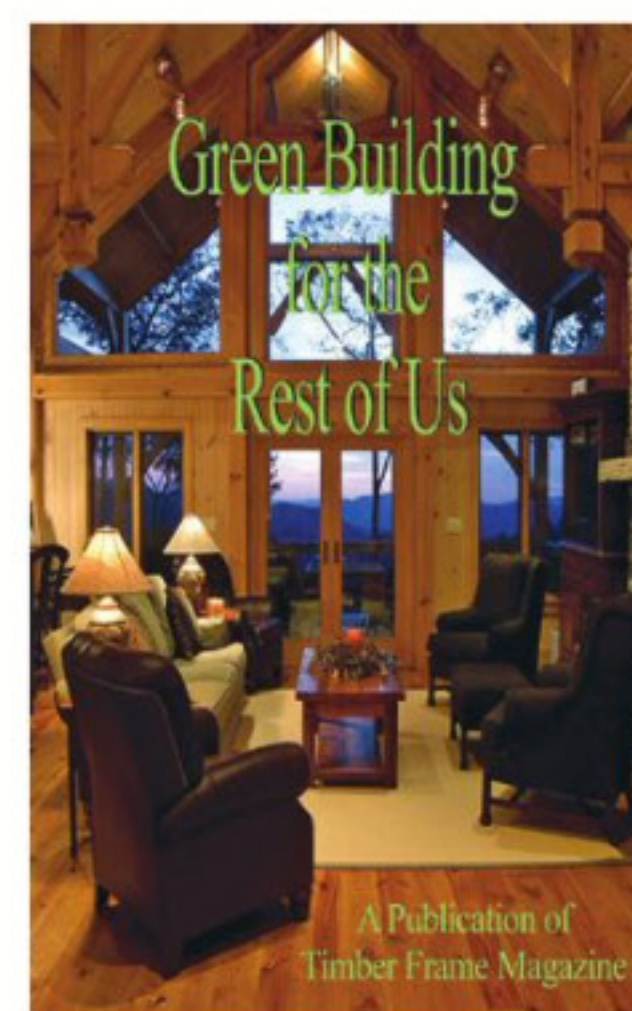
Make a list of the most important elements you want to include. Keep it short and specific. This is a “choosing your battles” type of decision. If these items are important, be willing to give on other components that make these key elements work for the design and the bud-

get. You may need to downsize to keep a complex roofline that you find charming. Or you may need to have a smaller home so you can spend more money on your outdoor living spaces. Try to keep the list short and be flexible on less important (to you) items.

One important aspect in design that is often missed in the certification programs and even by designers and architects is the “aging with grace” factor. This is a key to building a home that is sustainable in all aspects. Designing a home with some basic accessibility standards will ensure that you can live in your home for years to come. ADA, the Fair Housing Act and most accessibility guidelines don’t apply to private homes. They provide minimum standards and often miss the real daily needs of people with and without disabilities. A few measurements to keep in mind when designing a home that allows aging in place are:

- 36 inches: minimum width for paths, walkways, halls (48 inches is better)
- 32 inches: minimum interior door openings
- 48 inches: space around kitchen islands and cabinets.

Energy efficiency will be designed into your home. Design a well-insulated home with high-performance windows. Design for sustainable energy with passive solar, daylighting and natural ventilation. **CBC**



Author Bonnie Pickartz is co-owner of Goshen Timber Frames in Franklin, North Carolina. To purchase a copy of the ebook *Green Building for the Rest of Us* on Amazon, visit bit.ly/greenbuildebook

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Time to Refinish?



Joe Pine Builders photos

The logs on the outside of my cabin are looking dingy. What's the best time of year to re-stain them?

**Dan W.
via email**

It depends on your region and most importantly on the weather. We asked the experts at Joe Pine Builders in Spotsylvania, Virginia, to weigh in. Their advice: The key word to remember is "dry." Only apply stain if it hasn't rained in three or four days. Don't apply stain on wet logs. (You can use a moisture meter to determine your logs' moisture

content.) Once the stain is on, logs should be kept dry for another two days.

Don't stain on extremely humid days, and watch for windy conditions, too. Applying stain on a very windy day will cause the stain to dry too fast and leave a tacky surface behind.

To get even results, you should apply stain when the temperature of the wood and air is more than 50°F and less than 90°F. Follow these rules of thumb:

If the log is too hot to touch, it's too hot to stain.

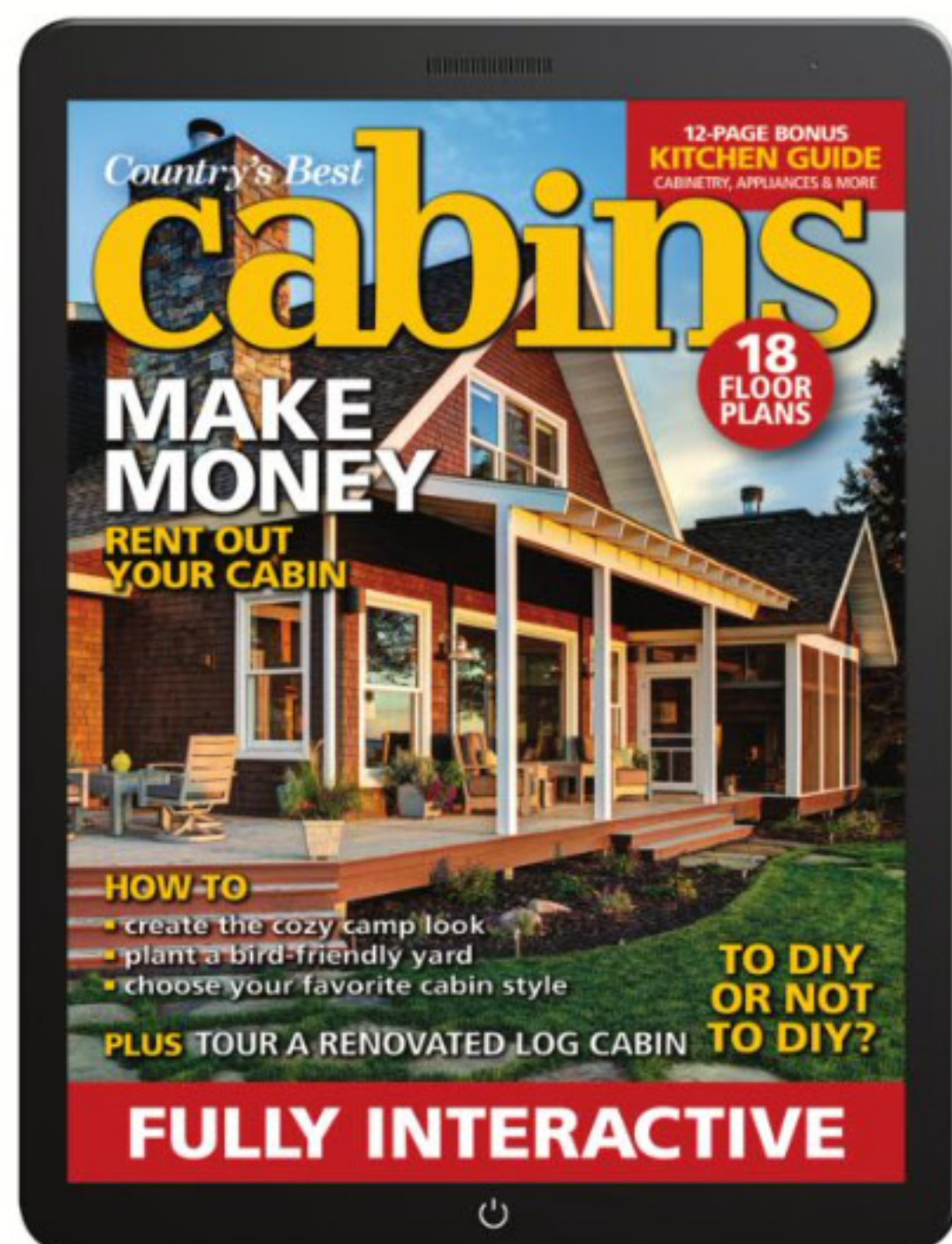
If it is cold when you touch it with the back of your hand, it's too cold to stain.

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I'm a longtime subscriber to *Log Home Living* and *Country's Best Cabins*. I'm wondering why *Country's Best Cabins* became unavailable and was replaced by *Timber Home Living*. *Country's Best Cabins* was my favorite. What happened?

Shellie MacNicol
Caro, Michigan

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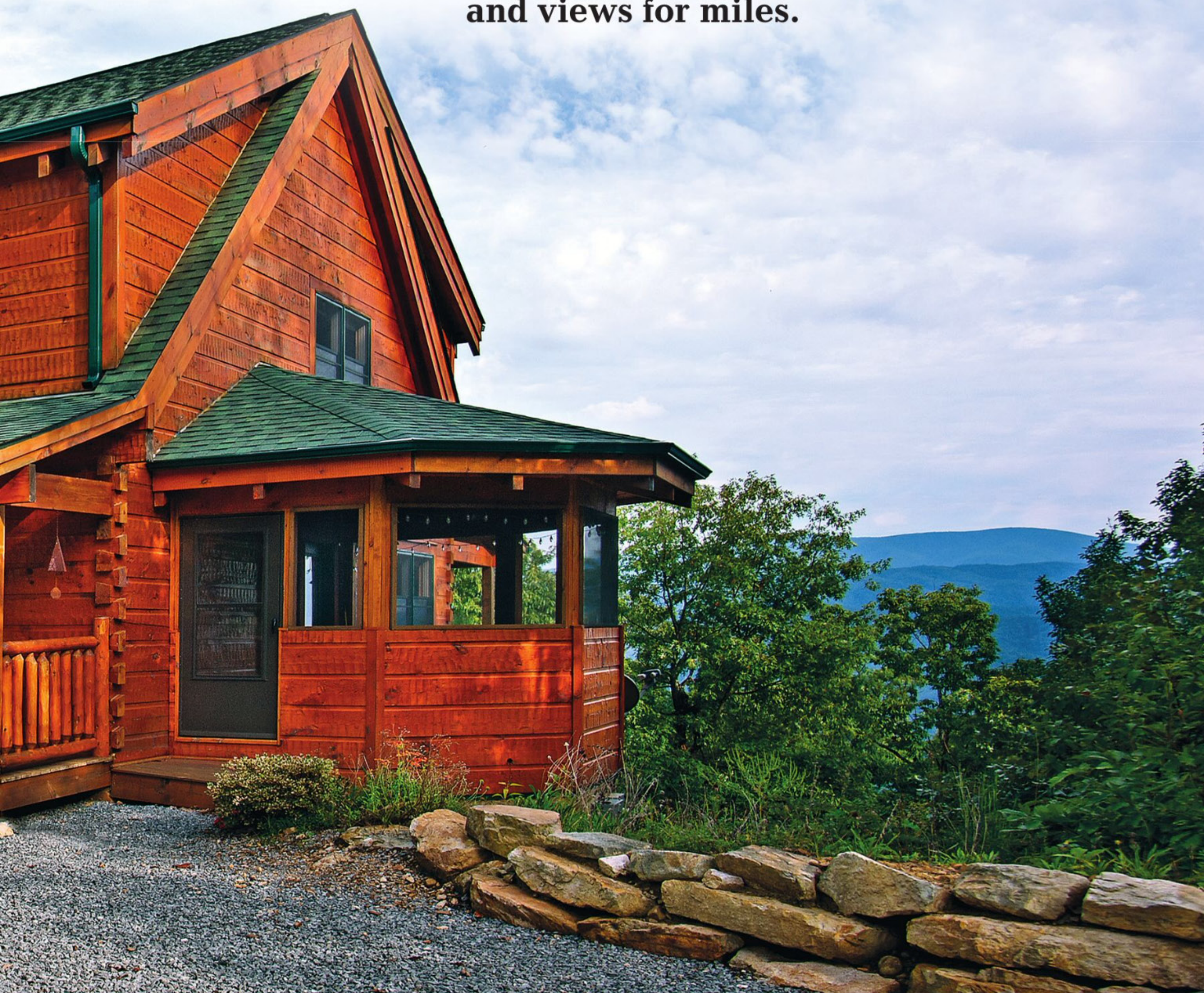
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story by GRANT HILLIARD photos by JOSEPH HILLIARD





For Jim and Mary Haider, owning a log home bed and breakfast in Tennessee allows them to share their gorgeous setting and their hospitality with people literally from around the world.

The Haiders set out to find the perfect setting for a lodge style retreat to share with guests. They had spent several weeks looking at property when one of their real estate agents suggested they look in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains where they could offer guests a mountaintop experience and spectacular views of the mountains and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

After finding a site in Maryville, Tennessee, Jim and Mary began designing a warm, welcoming home that would offer a casual and outdoors-oriented lifestyle for themselves and their guests.

The Lure of Logs

“A log home is something each of us wanted,” Mary says. She became interested in log homes back in the 1970s while in western Canada, and Jim has always had a desire to live in one. They looked forward to a home that wrapped them in the warmth of wood while providing a dramatic open-beam ceiling. “Many of our guests choose to stay with us because they want to experience living in a log home,” Mary says.

After visiting many log home shows, Jim and Mary chose Custom Timber Log Homes, a log home company in Maryville, to help them build their mountain retreat. With 35 years of experience designing and building custom log homes, and a true “can do” attitude, the company, headed by Bo Sparks, could help the Haiders achieve their goals.

First and foremost, the retreat is the

ABOVE: A knotty half-log mantel accents the stone fireplace in the great room.

OPPOSITE: In the home’s great room, a soaring stone fireplace rises to the vaulted ceilings and exposed log beams. Guests gather by the fireplace to relax, talk, read or watch the fire.



A music room with leather armchairs offers a piano and plenty of reading material for the occasional rainy day at the B&B.





Mornings at the retreat begin with coffee, juice and a hot breakfast with seasonal fruit and muffins prepared in the open kitchen.

Haiders' home, but it also had to make guests feel welcome with spacious common areas as well as tucked away private spaces. Creating a licensed bed and breakfast added a layer of complexity to the home's design. "We had to incorporate a variety of health department requirements in the kitchen and baths," Mary says. They also wanted an easy flow from one living space to another and the wow factor of a great room with soaring timbers and a breathtaking view of the mountains.

Sitting at an elevation of 2,200 feet

on the Chilhowee Mountain, the Haiders' finished retreat includes three private guest rooms with luxury baths—two in the main house and one in a carriage house. The house also offers over 1,000 square feet of porch and deck space where the Haiders and their guests can enjoy panoramic mountain views in every direction and season.

To address the amount of water needed for multiple guest rooms and an industrial dishwasher, part of the basement is used to house a specially designed water tank.

Because of the number of sprinkler heads required in the heavy timber roof, the construction foreman devised a plan to bring the sprinkler heads down flush with the bottom of the rafters. Cross bracing with matching material expertly disguises the system.

Modern amenities at Chilhowee include king size beds, two-person air-jet tubs, steam showers, large screen televisions and wireless internet access. These luxuries in a rustic setting make the retreat attractive to visitors of all ages and life-



A cozy loft sits between the guest suites on the second floor and makes the perfect spot to play board games or relax with a good book.

styles who seek a secluded escape, whether it's for a honeymoon, business meeting or weekend getaway.

Slow and Fast

Visitors to the Chilhowee Mountain Retreat find personable innkeepers eager to learn more about them. "As a small B&B we have the wonderful opportunity to get to know our guests, their families, careers and future plans," Mary says. The couple often shares a cup of coffee and conversation with guests after breakfast.

"We have learned so much about life in Japan, China, Brazil, France, England and Australia," Mary says. The couple has hosted guests from every continent except Antarctica.

For the most part, guests are drawn to the area by the local music scene and the natural beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, but others are looking for bigger thrills. "A big draw to our area for many international guests is the Tail of the Dragon," Jim says. He's referring to a stretch of devilish road nearby that beck-

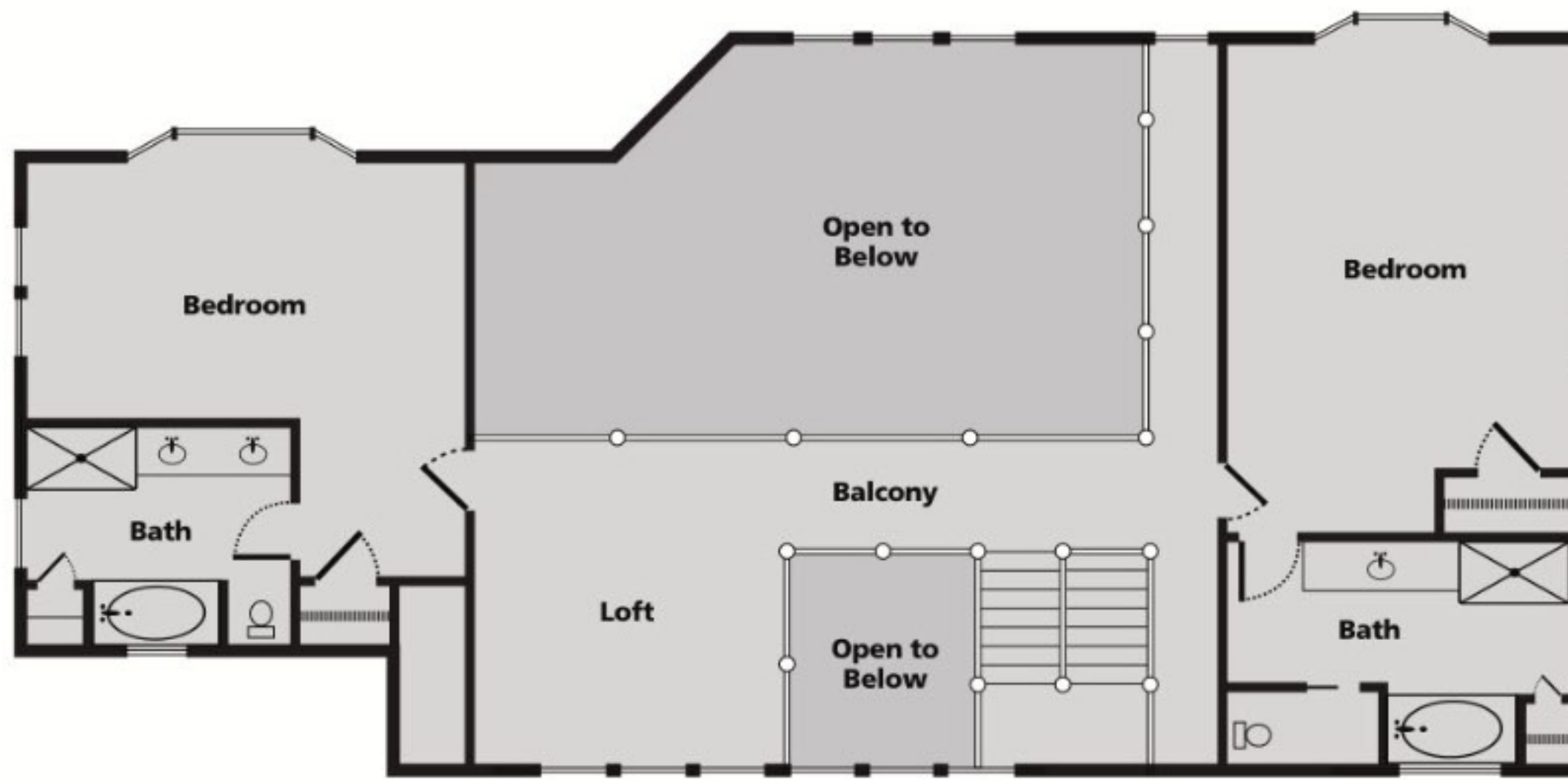
ons to adventurous motorists and motorcyclists with 318 curves in 11 miles.

Additional attractions in the area include Maryville College, the University of Tennessee, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as well as Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge.

With so much to do in the region, visitors to the retreat certainly will not be lacking for something to do, although the beauty of the home and its natural site make it just as fulfilling to simply enjoy the surroundings and do nothing at all.

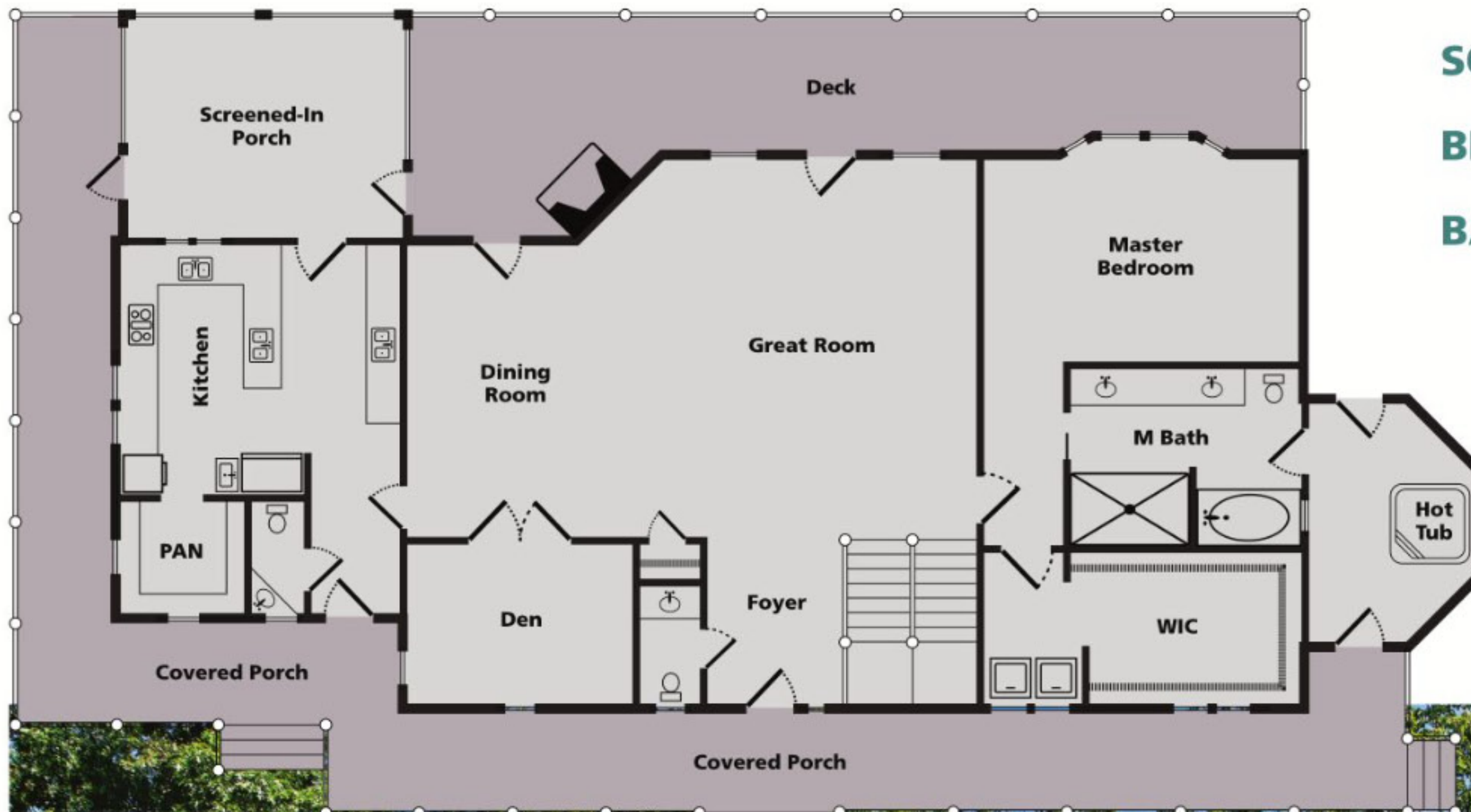
The Haiders help their guests master the art of porch-sitting; taking in the views of the Smoky Mountains and the antics of hummingbirds visiting the porch feeder.





Upper Level

Chilhowee Mountain Retreat
(865-983-8511;
chilhoweemountainretreat.com)
Custom Timber Log Homes
(866-461-9980; choosetimber.com)



Main Level

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 3,300

BEDROOMS: 3

BATHROOMS: 3.5



The Forest View Room, located upstairs in the property's carriage house, offers guests a private deck with a relaxing hot tub.



breathing space

**A cottage helps a busy California family
expand their living quarters.**

story by STACY DURR ALBERT photos by MATTHEW MILLMAN



If you have a large family, chances are you've thought about finding a way to carve out more space in your home.

After all, there's no such thing as having too much storage or living space when you're dealing with a bigger household.

A home renovation or extension is often the solution, but one California family took it a step further: They decided to build a secondary structure on their existing property in Woodside.

"This family of five needed an accessory building, which could be used alternately and concurrently as an au-pair living space, a guest house and a parental retreat from the chaos of the main house," explains architect Heidi Richardson of Richardson Architects in Mill Valley.

Little Gem

While the family originally designed the cottage to be used as a guesthouse in the front and an au-pair unit in the back, they ended up devoting the entire cottage to guests since they have so many visiting family and

friends. They also use the cottage as a quiet office space when visitors aren't around.

A quick glance at the cottage reveals why visitors are so enamored with it from the moment they see it. Set on just over six acres on the San Francisco Peninsula, the cottage oozes with a sense of comfort and an inviting come-on-in ambiance.

"The location was incredibly appealing to the homeowners," Richardson says. "It's very private and close to the husband's workplace." The site already had a main residence, barn and pool house with an attached garage. "The plot size appealed to the owners because they wanted a space large enough to raise animals—they have pigs, horses, dogs and chickens."

Creating a floor plan for the cottage they envisioned was a little challenging for the homeowners because of local zoning laws,



ABOVE: Set on a 6.5-acre plot of land on the San Francisco Peninsula, the inviting cottage is all about come-on-in comfort. The exterior shingles were selected to match the shingles of the main residence.

INSET: Though the cottage is just 1,500 square feet, a center courtyard, along with smart design and decorating decisions, make it feel much larger inside.

OPPOSITE: A primary color scheme sets off the beauty of the home's hallmark white bead-board, which was custom-milled with larger grooves that are aligned from floor to ceiling. In the living room, a custom braided blue rug offsets dark wood floors and bold red furnishings. The picture rail adds even more architectural interest to the setting.

A quick glance at the cottage interior reveals its architectural detailing. In the kitchen, a smart cutout window area is fitted with a curved counter, creating a perfect space for guests to eat while chatting with the cook.

OPPOSITE: In the compact galley kitchen, a bump out creates a niche for a work table with a view of the back patio.





which dictated that secondary structures could be no larger than 1,500 square feet and that ceiling heights must no higher than 11 feet. The family asked Richardson to help them design a functional floor plan that would work within these parameters.

Living Large—and Small

“There are a number of things you can do when you have a limited square footage,” Richardson says. “You can increase the scale of the doors and windows to create the illusion of more space, and you can use

built-ins and a sense of volume to maximize the footprint. You can also minimize furnishings and the number of materials for a clean, timeless look.”

The resulting floor plan certainly makes the cottage feel larger than it really is—though it measures just 1,500 square feet, a combination of clever architectural details and smart décor visually enlarges the space. The symmetrical plan features four bedrooms, two full baths, one 3/4 bath, a living room, a study and a kitchen.

“We oriented the cottage toward the

swimming pool with the sliding doors opening up onto the pool and lawn,” Richardson explains.

One of the home’s most dramatic features is the custom beadboard that is used throughout the interior. “It’s the most remarkable aspect of the home,” Richardson says. The material was specially milled to make deeper grooves than typical paneling, and was used everywhere, including for the built-ins. “The tongue and grooves of the beadboard are aligned from floor to ceiling, which is extremely difficult to do,”





ABOVE, LEFT: Handmade tiles bring unique charm to the bath, where delightful hues of blue, cream and gray reflect the beauty of a seaside cottage. Since the homeowners are from back East, they wanted to create a place that was reminiscent of an East Coast seaside retreat.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Sliding glass doors open the great room onto a patio in the front of the home, making the room feel much larger.

LEFT, BELOW & OPPOSITE: Each of the home's four bedrooms is decorated with a different color palette; all pay homage to the homeowners' passion for primary hues. In this cheery room, bold hues of red, yellow and orange beautifully offset the home's signature dramatic white beadboard. Even the built-in furnishings seamlessly blend with the beadboard.



Architect: Richardson Architects
(415-380-0474; richardsonarchitects.com)

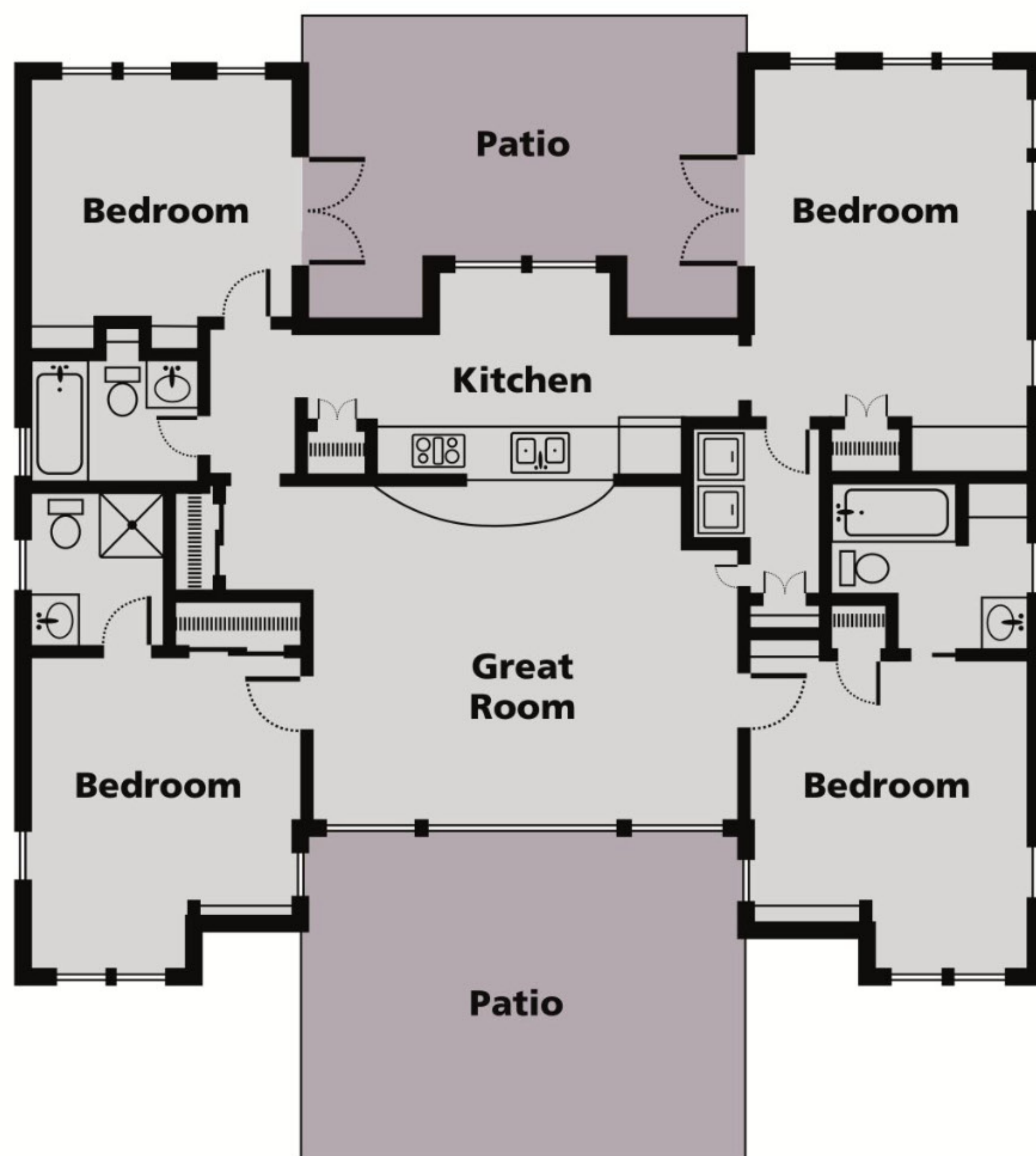
Builder: Ryan Construction
(415-861-3085; ryanassociates.com)

Interior Designer: Scavullo Design
(415-658-8774; scavulloesign.com)

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,500

BEDROOMS: 4

BATHROOMS: 3



she says. The door and window casings are flush to the beadboard, and built-in closets and wall units blend in seamlessly.

A trick that helps the space feel larger is the incorporation of oversized windows and doors. “The cottage has large sliding doors and over-scaled double-hung windows to connect it to the exterior landscape and gardens.”

Smart decorating decisions also enhance the sense of space. Designed by Arnelle Kase, ASID, of Scavullo Design in San Francisco, the cottage is reflective of East Coast seaside dwellings to pay homage to the family’s East Coast roots.

“There is also a wittiness to the home,” Richardson says, “a fresh and playful spin.”

Textiles and colors used in the cottage feed into the East Coast vernacular. The stripes recall the home’s hallmark bead-

board, while the primary color scheme is lighthearted. “For the living room, we mixed and matched a red-and-white standard arm striped sofa with comfortably modern side chairs, pulling the room together with a contemporary blue country rug,” Richardson says.

Primary colors also show up in the bedrooms (each is a different color) and in the kitchen. “The owners just love primary colors,” she says. To achieve an updated classic look in the kitchen, the iconic Navy Chair was used in red, which pops against the white beadboard and dark wood floors.

Details, Details

Special touches are included throughout the home, from the custom cotton braided rug in the living room to the handmade

tiles in the bathrooms. In addition, visible hardware is eliminated in the home, thanks to an innovative idea of using the picture shelf as hardware.

“The craftsmanship and attention to detail in this home are unmatched,” Richardson says. “The cottage is a modern version of an old cabin or an old house, with an East Coast flair. Visitors find the place charming and peaceful, and they always want to stay longer.”

Looking at the home’s cheerful color scheme, inviting fabrics and comfortable layout, it’s easy to see why visitors fall in love—and why it lures in the homeowners when they need a respite from the busyness of their main house just a few yards away.

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PAGES

BONUS SECTION

*lighting &
furniture
guide*

ANTLER & ORGANIC LIGHTING ■ BUNK BEDS ■ MORE

make your cabin a home

Tips for outfitting your cabin.

Walk into your dream cabin and what do you see? Family gathering around a table? Friends laughing over a card game? Morning coffee looking out over a lake?

The supporting roles in these scenes go to your cabin building itself and the furniture and finishes you choose to put in it. A cabin should feel like a truly personal home. The furnishings and lighting you select will send a message about your hopes and dreams for time spent in that home.

This insert offers a closer look at light fixtures and furnishings you might not have considered before. If your cabin is calling for something a bit out of the ordinary, heed that call. Here are a few tips on injecting personality into your home:

Go local: Let your location influence your design. If your home is in the woods, consider adding accents made with natural materials like birch bark, antlers or wood. For a home by the water, take inspiration from shells, coral, boats or fish.

Buy handmade: Take a break from the mass-produced and support a local artist or craftsman when outfitting your cabin. An item that catches your eye and steals your heart will help make your home personal.

Use your collections: If you're downsizing to a smaller home where display space may be limited,

it's time to actually use your collections. Serve meals with Grandma's china and make the beds with your collection of quilts.

A new home project can also be a good time to call in the pros: Look for help with furnishing from an interior designer or home staging expert. A lighting designer or your home designer or architect can be a great help in creating a cabin that's well-lit and welcoming for all.

HIGHLIGHTS

HORNS OF PLENTY

BONUS SECTION 4

Antler lighting is a cabin classic.

LIGHT AND NATURAL

BONUS SECTION 6

Choosing organic style fixtures for your cabin.

THE OLD SWITCHEROO

BONUS SECTION 8

Dual-duty furniture works twice as hard.

OVER THE TOP

BONUS SECTION 10

Bunk beds make your guest room an overnight success.

LIGHTING & FURNITURE GUIDE



Horns of Plenty

Antler lighting is a cabin classic.

Two tiers of lighting and a down light at the base would make this faux deer antler chandelier from Cabin Place perfect for hanging over a dining table.



LIGHTING & FURNITURE GUIDE



ABOVE: A faux antler brings a rustic touch to this wall sconce from Rustic Lighting and Fans. The sconce can be customized with different metal finishes and glass options.

LEFT: Handcrafted by CDN Antler Chandeliers, this cascading piece becomes the center of attention in a rustic great room and complements the timber ceiling trusses.

For cabin owners with a love of Western style, no other light fixture sets the scene like an antler chandelier. You can rest assured that no animals are injured in the making of these iconic pieces: The antlers are shed yearly.

Renewable Resource

In temperate climates, deer, elk and moose shed their antlers in the winter and grow a new set of bony appendages each spring. As the animal ages, the antlers he grows typically become larger. Antlers make male deer, elk and moose more attractive to the female and can be used in fights with other males during mating season.

While you may be lucky enough to come across a shed antler in the woods, some people who hunt for shed antlers each year keep track of spots where the antlers are often found. The shed antlers may be sold to dealers or directly to craftspeople who make antler chandeliers or furniture.

Antlers can also be reproduced by creating a mold from an antler, then filling that mold with resin. The resulting cast or faux antler can be painted to look like the original shed antler. Faux or cast antlers can be used as a less-expensive alternative to the real thing in creating light fixtures or other decorative accents.

Beauty and Function

Lighting artists will choose antlers based on their size and shape to construct chandeliers, lamps or sconces. Shapes will vary from large paddle-shaped antlers of moose to more spiky deer antlers.

Once selected for a particular fixture, the antlers are drilled to accept wiring and lamp parts. A quality chandelier should look balanced and conform with electrical safety guidelines. If the chandelier is being marketed as a piece of art, it should show a level of artistic ability and should be expertly constructed and finished.

Getting the Point

If you plan to invest in handmade antler lighting for a new cabin, start contacting potential handcrafters early in the home design process. Talk with the lighting artist about the size of the room the fixture will be in, your building schedule and your budget. A busy maker may require weeks or months of lead time before being able to deliver the fixture to your new cabin.

Of course, antlers aren't reserved for chandeliers. They can be the basis for rustic table and floor lamps and wall sconces—or even furniture, frames or other decorative accent pieces.

It's best to keep natural lighting inside your home. Unsealed pieces installed outdoors may become a draw for mice, squirrels and other small mammals that regularly gnaw on shed antlers in the wild as a convenient source of calcium.

Light & Natural

Choosing organic style fixtures for your cabin.



The light fixtures and lamps in your cabin are there to provide illumination, obviously, but they can help define your style, too. If you're looking for a modern organic look for your home, these accent pieces can help set the tone.

Defining the Style

Organic decor blends clean lines with texture that provides warmth. That tex-

ture can be tactile—like with a fluffy flokati rug, soft cashmere throw or rough wood paneling—or it can be visual texture, as in a patterned wallpaper or fabric with a visible weave. It's this texture that relieves any sterile feeling that clean-lined furnishings or hard surfaces may bring to the space.

Many materials that offer that warmth and texture come courtesy of Mother Nature. Look for wood, leather,

nubby natural fabrics, sisal, jute, stone, wool and clay. Add these materials to your lamps and fixtures to give them one-of-a-kind appeal and a feeling of added liveliness.

For another approach, you can use fixtures to shine light on the texture other organic items are bringing to your decor. Put an accent light on a green plant or highlight the texture in a stone wall by grazing light over its surface.

LIGHTING & FURNITURE GUIDE



LEFT: Finely twisted jute fabric acts as the shade in this pendant lamp from Selamat Designs. Hang this lamp in multiples to bring a natural touch to a contemporary kitchen.

BELOW, LEFT: Deanna Wish Designs handcrafts a wide range of sconces and chandeliers from hickory twigs. Leave them natural or order in your favorite paint color.

BELOW: The waves of Lake Superior tumble rocks smooth, making them perfect for use in lamps from Superior Light Source.



Buying Guide

Lamps and lighting that incorporate natural materials are often made by hand. You can find these items at local boutiques or craft shows, through on-line handcrafted marketplaces like Etsy (etsy.com) or on the internet. If you plan to purchase, keep in mind that natural materials often have distinctive markings. These inconsistencies are part of the charm of organic accessories, so you

should embrace them.

If you're buying online, be sure to read about the fixture's specifics; its dimension, wattage of bulbs required and how it should be cared for.

Handcrafted fixtures should be durable and well-made. Look for UL listings to help ensure that the lamp or fixture is safe to use.

RIGHT: Abaca rope creates the base for the Tug o' War lamp. Available from the Land of Nod, this lamp would bring wit and whimsy to any room.



The Old Switcheroo

Dual-duty furniture works twice as hard.



Wayfair combines four classic board games—backgammon, checkers, chess and Chinese checkers—into a fold-out sidetable. Drawers offer space to store game pieces, too.

If you plan to build or furnish a small cabin or home, furniture that serves more than one purpose can help you save space and money. When choosing this kind of furniture for your cabin give each piece careful thought. Will you actually use it in both of its forms, or will its “gee whiz” appeal be lost when you realize it doesn’t really serve either purpose very well?

Presto Change-O

The sofa bed is one piece of multi-functional furniture we’re all familiar with. While they may be more comfortable for sitting than sleeping, these couches do come in handy when guests arrive. Furniture makers apply the same thinking to a variety of pieces, hoping to design versatile furnishings that can offer dual functions, making them doubly valuable when space is tight.

A number of examples are offered here, but with a bit of searching you can track down many others. There are coffee tables that split into side tables or stools. Bookshelves unstack to become side tables. When looking online, try keywords like “small space solutions” or “dual duty furniture.” If you’re searching for smaller-scale pieces, browse for “apartment size furniture.” The concept of the Murphy bed, which folds down

LIGHTING & FURNITURE GUIDE



LEFT: These loungers from PBTeen offer storage below, a sofa by day (with long bolster pillows) and comfortable twin-size beds by night.

BELOW: Go from a soft comfortable ottoman to hard-working coffee table with the Tableman. Available in styles from contemporary to more ornate.



from a wall, is being applied to other furniture, too. Try looking online for “murphy desk” or “murphy table.”

Commissioning a custom piece is always an option. A built-in tansu-style cabinet that doubles as stairs, or a table that folds down from a wall can make the most of your small home’s square footage.

Form Follows Multi-Function

As you consider these quick-change artist furnishings, let them influence the design of your home, too. Instead of dedicating certain activities to certain spaces, look for ways to make rooms and spaces a bit more flexible. Could a trundle bed that slides under a large desk easily transform your home office into a guest room? Could a hinged table become a second work station in the kitchen when an extra

cook is on hand? If you added shelves to one side of a kitchen island, could it serve as your home’s library?

Keep your eyes and mind open as you design and furnish your small home and you may discover new possibilities for creating comfort on a small scale.

Over the Top

Bunk beds make your guest room an overnight success.



La Lune Collection handcrafts bunk beds in various configurations and finishes. An integrated ladder provides easy access to the top bunk.



In the category of cabin charm, bunk beds score high. The sight of bunk beds can take us back to fun times at camp or slumber parties.

Cabin owners appreciate bunk beds for their efficient use of space. If your cabin will routinely host groups of visitors, bunk beds may be the best answer to the question, “Where is everybody going to sleep?”

All Your Options

From simple, iron frames to handcarved logs, bunk beds can be as basic or ornate as you like. You can choose from a range of looks to find one that suits your home’s decor. With a bit of searching online or in local furniture stores, you can find bunk beds in any furniture style, from rustic to modern, Craftsman to cottage.

In terms of size and configuration, you’ll discover plenty of options as you

shop. Some bunks offer a twin size bed over another twin size, a twin size over a double, a twin size over a futon or a twin size loft over an open desk or seating area.

Additional features, like attached stairs, desks, dressers or pull-out drawers or trundle beds will require more floor space. For a bunk with a futon on the bottom that goes from seating to mattress, you must allow extra floor space. If

LIGHTING & FURNITURE GUIDE



ABOVE: Cabin Place finishes Norway pine to give the Caldwell Brook Willow bunks the look of barnwood. Available from twin sizes up to queen size over queen size.

TOP RIGHT: Made to look like built-ins, the Terrace bunks from Land of Nod feature a white-wash finish, a detachable ladder and storybook appeal.

RIGHT: Eye-popping color brings a ray of sunshine to the bunkroom. The Bower loft bed from Room & Board allows space to roll a platform trundle below.



there's a ladder on the side or the end of the bunks, leave enough space for a person to climb the ladder without being too close to a wall.

Safety First

As you shop, look for stable, well-made bunk bed frames. Siderails, headboards and footboards all help keep bunk bed sleepers from accidentally falling. Children should be reminded to use the ladder when getting in or out of the top bunk. Mind the height of the ceiling, too, and be sure to allow at least two feet between the top bunk mattress and the ceiling. Place bunk beds carefully in a room with a ceiling fan or overhead light fixture. A bunk bed placed near a win-

dow can put a child in the top bunk within easy grabbing distance of curtain rods.

A Bevy of Bunks

A bunk room might be perfect for your cabin if you regularly entertain large groups of friends or family. With multiple sets of bunks, a bunk room can accommodate a crowd and provide a fun slumber-party atmosphere.

To keep things a bit calmer, you can create separation and provide a bit more privacy between bunks by hanging curtains or designing partial walls around each set of bunks. A lamp and even a small shelf for each bed is an added touch that guests will appreciate.

A beautiful way to include bunk-bed

type sleeping is to commission built-in wall beds for your cabin. Sometimes called "cupboard beds," these set-ups require very little floor space and can be tucked into the walls of lofts or bonus rooms and made up when the need arises.

Informed Decisions

As fun as bunk beds can be, there are a few disadvantages to consider: Changing sheets on a bunk bed can be challenging, and can get old quickly if bunk beds are used week in and week out. Bunk beds often don't accommodate a box spring and mattress, so they may not be as supportive and comfortable as a conventional bed for use every night.

LIGHTING & FURNITURE GUIDE

resources

DECOR & FURNISHINGS

AMERICAN TRADERS

amtraders.com
888-723-3779

BELLACOR

bellacor.com
877-723-5522

BLACK FOREST DECOR

blackforestdecor.com
800-605-0915

BRIAN BOGGS CHAIRMAKERS

brianboggschairmakers.com
828-398-9701

CABIN PLACE

cabinplace.com
877-884-0248

THE CABIN SHOP

thecabinshop.com
800-948-4195

THE CAMP & COTTAGE STORE

campandcottagegifts.com
877-636-2294

CAMPFITTERS

campfitters.com
855-884-0492

CELESKI STUDIOS

celeski.com
360-297-6699

CHEROKEE IRON WORKS

cherokeeironworks.com
940-325-4300

CLASSIC ACCENTS

classicaccents.net
800-245-7742

CLASSIC DESIGNS BY MATTHEW BURAK

tablelegs.com
800-748-3480

DARRELL PEART

furnituremaker.com
425-277-4070

DUTCHCRAFTERS

dutchcrafters.com
866-272-6773

FEDDE FURNITURE

fedde.com
626-796-7103

FINDLEY LAKE TRADING CO.

findleylaketrading.com
561-852-4722

FIRESIDE LODGE FURNITURE

firesidelodgefurniture.com
877-568-6188

GREGORY PAOLINI DESIGN

gregorypaolini.com
828-627-3948

GUNFLINT WOODSHOP

gunflintwoodshop.com
573-552-8321

HIGH CAMP HOME

highcamphome.com
866-790-6501

HOLTON FRAME STUDIOS

holtonframes.com
510-450-0350

INSPIRED IRON

inspirediron.com
509-551-7910

LA LUNE COLLECTION

lalunecollection.com
414-263-5300

LAND OF NOD

landofnod.com
800-933-9904

LITTLE BRANCH FARM

littlebranchfarm.com
615-878-6216

MAPLE'S LEATHER FINE FURNITURE

maplesleather.com
866-561-5858

NATIVE TRAILS

nativetrailslifestyle.com
800-508-8834

NICOLET STUDIO

joanwhite.com
715-276-6464

MICHAEL HEALY DESIGNS

michaelhealy.com
800-995-0988

MONARCH SPECIALTIES

monarchspec.com
800-667-7954

OGI CUSTOM FURNITURE

ogifurniture.com
877-257-0001

PAPA BEAR'S NORTHWOODS

papabearsnorthwoods.com
866-235-9371

PBTEEN

pbteen.com
866-472-4001

PENOBSCOT BAY PORCH SWINGS

penobscotbayporchswings.com
207-729-1616

POTTERY BARN

potterybarn.com
888-779-5176

PRIMARILY PINE

primarilypine.com
888-876-2231

RANNELS RUSTIC LOG FURNITURE

rannelsrustics.com
814-330-9661

RESTORATION HARDWARE

restorationhardware.com
800-910-9836

ROCKY TOP

rockytoplogfurniture.com
800-332-1143

ROOM & BOARD

roomandboard.com
800-301-9720

RUSTIC LOG FURNITURE

rusticlogfurniture.com
719-589-0656

SHAKER STYLE

shakerstyle.com
603-827-3340

SIMPLY AMISH

simplyamish.com
217-268-4504

SOUTHERN CREEK RUSTIC FURNISHINGS

southerncreekfurniture.com
501-345-8888

STICKLEY

stickley.com
315-682-5500

STURBRIDGE YANKEE WORKSHOP

sturbridgeyankee.com
800-343-1144

TABLEMAN FURNITURE

tablemanfurniture.com

TERRY'S VILLAGE

terrysivillage.com
800-876-5822

THOS. MOSER

thosmoser.com
800-862-1973

TOKEN CREEK CEDAR

tokencreekcedar.com
608-240-1099

TOM STANGELAND

artistcraftsman.net
206-622-2004

WHISTLE STOP FURNITURE

whistlestopfurniture.com
828-369-6500

WOODLAND CREEK FURNITURE

woodlandcreekfurniture.com
231-668-9125

LIGHTING

ANTLER CHANDELIERS & LIGHTING CO.

antlerchandeliers.com
888-226-8537

ARROYO CRAFTSMAN

arroyo-craftsman.com
626-960-9411

BARN LIGHT ELECTRIC

barnlightelectric.com
800-407-8784

CDN ANTLER DESIGN

cdnantler.com
250-217-8702

CAST HORN DESIGNS

casthorndesigns.com
800-574-3168

CORBETT CUSTOM LIGHTING

roccorbett.com
406-212-7826

COTTAGE & BUNGALOW

cottageandbungalow.com
877-441-9222

DANIEL JOSEPH LIGHTING

danieljoseph.com
800-774-6006

DEANNA WISH DESIGNS

deannawish.com
724-598-7793

GUN BARREL RANCH

gunbarrel-ranch.com
214-391-4085

HAMMERTON LIGHTING

hammerton.com
801-973-8095

HERITAGE LANTERNS

heritagelanterns.com
800-648-4449

HUBBARDTON FORGE

vtforge.com
802-468-3090

JOSIAH R. COPPERSMYTHE

jrcoppersmythe.com
800-426-8249

KIVA LIGHTING

kivalighting.com
800-275-5482

LIGHTHUNTING.COM

lighthunting.com
800-605-2932

MICA SHADES

micashades.com

MONTE CARLO CEILING FAN CO.

montecarlofans.com
800-519-4092

OLD CALIFORNIA LANTERN CO.

oldcalifornia.com
800-577-6679

PERIOD ARTS FAN CO.

periodarts.com
888-588-3267

RUSTIC LIGHTING & FANS

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Our graduates achieve their dreams!



The house, originally built in 1840, was moved to this Terrebonne, Quebec, Canada, location on the back of a 15-wheeler. Tucked into a neighborhood of homes built in the 1970s and 1980s, the house is done in a "French Canadian style," say the owners, and has a suburban view in the front and a country view out back.

A vibrant backyard scene featuring a swimming pool, a red patio umbrella, and lush greenery. The pool is in the foreground, with a red umbrella to the left. The background is filled with dense green trees and bushes. The text "writing a new chapter" is overlaid in a large, white, cursive font.

writing a new chapter

Canadian cabin begins a second life.



ABOVE: Steep roofs with flared eaves are common in traditional French Canadian homes. A metal roof tops this pine and cedar log cabin.

OPPOSITE: The contrast of wood beams and plaster in the living room gives a modern sensibility to the centuries-old cabin.

There was something special about this cabin that called out to Pierre Caron and Marie-Line Richard when they were hunting for a country house 10 years ago. Built in 1840 and about to be demolished, the cabin had charm and history. Pierre and Marie-Line decided to save it. They had the cabin disassembled, each piece numbered, put on a 15-wheel truck and moved across a river to their property in Terrebonne, Quebec, Canada, where it was rebuilt.

The house had begun life in St. Guillaume de Drummondville, a town “known for its cheese for poutine,” says Pierre of a popular national dish made of French fries, light brown gravy and cheese curds.

In rebuilding, the couple kept the cabin’s original footprint. They did most

of the interior renovation themselves including re-plastering beams and refreshing wall plaster. The 26-by-32-foot cabin was built with Eastern white pine and red cedar logs. “You can still see the hatchet marks,” Pierre says. The floor is the original foot-wide pine planks.

New and Old

The staircase, which is made of cherry wood, had to be rebuilt since “the original was very narrow and dangerous,” Pierre says. And the roof, made of copper and wood, also is new. Marie-Line created the stained glass on the front door. To keep the cabin from feeling dark, they used a light-colored milk paint to white-wash the main level’s plank ceilings.

The cabin’s previous owner had been an antiques dealer and the couple has



In the kitchen, Richard added pops of color with the porcelain Mexican matte tile backsplash. The colors echo other parts of the kitchen like the blue of the chairs and a small cabinet, and the reddish door of the bathroom. The antique brass light fixture incorporates a pot hanger.





The downstairs bathroom off the kitchen has a unique door, from the previous owner, made of a variety of different woods.



history in motion

Old log cabins don't come with manuals and likely they've been modified over the decades—or centuries. Moving one to a new location, as Pierre Caron and Marie-Line Richard did, takes expertise and a specialist in restoration and construction like Barney Grueser, owner of Antique American Log Cabins based in Athens, Ohio.

Grueser explains how the process works:

TERRAIN CHECK. At a site visit, Grueser checks the cabin and ground conditions, asking questions like: "How easy will it be to get a tractor trailer into the area to load the logs? Is it flat ground? Sloped? What kind of equipment will we need?" He also thinks about how much debris might be created, whether there will be non-recyclable material, and how the owners want the site to look when his crew is done. "Sometimes people want it to seem as if nothing was ever there, and we'll finish off the area by seeding and mulching," Grueser says.

STRIP IT DOWN. The crew removes the reclaimable and non-reclaimable material. "Most times," Grueser says, "the cabins have siding on them or plaster on the inside or three layers of drywall. You have to remove all that and expose the entire structure." The crew saves as many of these siding boards as it can, getting rid of rotted ones. They'll reclaim floor boards and either reuse them for flooring or have the material milled for cabinetry or trim. "Often the first floor has been remodeled and the second story floors are still original," Grueser says.

DOCUMENT EVERYTHING. Grueser videos the structure after it's been exposed. He documents where the openings—windows, doors—are and how they have been changed in size. Then the crew tags all the logs with pieces of metal that have been stamped with a number. "This way they won't get erased or fade over time," he says. Grueser takes photographs and does field drawings on which he identifies each log. "Even if a log loses its tag we have a

picture." Distinguishing marks such as large knots can help identify logs if necessary.

SIZE IT UP. Grueser measures the cabin and creates an architectural drawing in case the homeowner wants to modify the reconstructed structure. He notes the location and measures the length and width of bad logs. "You don't want to replace an 18-inch-face log with one with a 9-inch face, and you try to go with the same species," he says.

TEAR IT DOWN. Deconstruction is aided by a track hoe. The crew wraps a log in nylon straps and the track hoe lifts the log and lowers it to the ground. "We use a track hoe with metal tracks that don't get flat tires," Grueser says. "They can move over debris and irregular terrain." If the crew is "lucky enough" to get a trailer in close, they place the logs on the trailer. "But it can get complicated," Grueser says. "It's not dimensional lumber. You have all these crooked logs of differing lengths." They secure the logs and move them out.

REBUILD. Depending on what the client wants, Grueser might bring a cabin's materials to the company yard and do repairs and reclamation, or the crew might bring the logs to the new site. Ideally, the foundation (often built by Grueser's crew) at the new site is finished. Otherwise, the logs might be in the way when the foundation and driveway get built, he says.

How the logs get put back together depends on the clients, the architect and what's needed to comply with local inspection. "It's tough for inspectors," Grueser says. "They don't have a book on old log cabins. There are no real guidelines for these old structures. You have to talk the engineer through it."

The oldest cabin Grueser has moved was one built in the late 1700s that had to travel from Marietta, Ohio, to Lexington, Kentucky. "I feel like I'm preserving part of history doing this. The real fun stuff is seeing all the different structures. It's like a treasure hunt every time I go to look at one."

benefitted with a claw-foot tub, many old brass lighting fixtures and 300-year-old doors on the front and side of the house. Now that the home is up-to-date, their favorite spot is the kitchen, where they love to cook and entertain.

Although Pierre, a retired Nova Steel

sales representative, and Marie-Line, a retired nurse, had originally bought the home as a getaway, they have since decided to make it their permanent residence. The house is set back in a neighborhood filled with homes built in the 1970s and 1980s. "On the one side of the house we

feel like we are in the suburbs and on the other as if we're in the country," Pierre says.

As with anything old, improvements and upgrades are ongoing and Pierre has been researching who might have originally built the house so many years ago.



The original staircase was too narrow and dangerous. The owners created a wider stairwell using cherry wood steps, risers and banisters.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,600

BEDROOMS: 1

BATHROOMS: 2

A good foundation lifts the home up above ground level. A stone finish gives this log home's foundation walls a distinctive look.



Cowboy Log Homes photos

UNDERNEATH IT ALL

Setting your cabin on a firm foundation.





1 Before foundation construction begins, the site is cleared of vegetation and loose topsoil. **2** Forms are set in place to guide the building of cement footer walls. **3** Cement footers are poured. These footers will support the foundation walls. Rebar is embedded in the cement to help provide stiffness and support. **4** Wood forms are set in place. The forms will be filled with cement to create walls. **5** The foundation floor is made up of layers of gravel, sand, vapor barrier and cement. **6** Cement from a mixer is poured between the wall forms. **7** The tops of the foundation walls are leveled. Bolts will be used to attach the sill to the foundation wall. **8** The cement for the foundation walls is set enough for the forms to be removed. Then the walls are treated with a layer of waterproofing. **9** Wood framing is attached to the foundation walls and will support the first floor walls. **10** The foundation is backfilled and floor joists are installed, which will support the home's subflooring. **11** The deck, or subfloor, of the home is complete. Now first-floor walls can be raised.

There's an old proverb that says "well-begun is half done." For your construction project to be well-begun and on its way to a successful finish, it needs to start with a stable, well-built foundation.

Foundations are built in a variety of ways, depending on a range of factors. As you begin designing your new cabin, discuss with your designer or builder the foundation that best suits your project. You and your building professionals will consider foundation construction methods, local building codes and other factors.

Your Site

The climate in your area affects how deep your foundation needs to be excavated. The condition of your particular property could impact the design of your foundation. Is it too rocky to excavate? Is the soil stable? How deep is the water table? Does the site slope steeply?

Take a look at the types of foundations used in other homes in your area. If con-

crete slab foundations are prevalent where you're building, it's a viable option for you. Otherwise, your cabin could require a fully excavated foundation.

In colder climates, the top of the footings for the foundation must be below the frost line. This depth will help avoid movement of the foundation during freeze/thaw cycles. The frost line depth varies according to region: It's closer to the surface in warmer climates.

Your Cabin's Purpose

A small, seasonal cabin could be built on piers that support the cabin in the corners and along spans of the floor framing. If your cabin will be more than a place to spend a few weeks' vacation, you will most likely look into a poured cement or cement block wall foundation.

How often you use the cabin and how much storage you need could factor into your decision to choose a full-height basement or go with a crawl space. A crawl space can accommodate ductwork and heating and water heating equipment.

Crawl spaces also offer the advantage of lifting a house up off the ground to help avoid termite damage.

Full-height basement walls are more expensive to build, but do result in a lower level that provides space for storage and utility equipment. It could also potentially be used as living space.

Building the Foundation

The most common foundation for North American homes requires a poured footing topped with walls of poured concrete or stacked concrete blocks. Slab on grade foundations are found in some areas. All of these foundations start with site work.

Once a building site is cleared, it's surveyed and stakes are placed, marking the dimensions of the home. Excavators dig out an area larger than the house measurements to allow for the crew to build the foundation. Top layers are removed to reveal solid, compact soil.

For a slab on grade foundation, excavators dig trenches for footings. These trenches will be outfitted with drain-

THE FINISHED BASEMENT

When building a new home, remember that a finished basement can provide plenty of living space with a reasonable price tag. With proper waterproofing, your basement space can be dry, comfortable and ready for you to enjoy. The Concrete Network (concretenetwork.com) suggests considering these issues with a finished basement:

STAIR LOCATION: A central staircase, instead of one placed along a perimeter wall, could cut the usable basement space in half. Consider, too, how visitors will get to your basement: Should the stairs lead down from the kitchen? From a more formal entry hall? The great room?

STAIR DESIGN: If you want your finished basement to feel as homey as the rest of the house, make the stairs as attractive as possible. Stairs with hardwood and turned rails can help the lower level match your main floor living areas.

WINDOWS: Natural light streaming through windows that are similar in size and style to the rest of the home will make your basement more appealing.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT: Recessed lighting, track lighting, table lamps and accent lights all can bring life to a lower level. Put these lights on dimmers to give your finished basement extra versatility.

QUALITY FINISHES: Choose paint, flooring, fixtures and furnishings that will stand up to the activities you have planned for your basement. Will the space be used infrequently as a guest suite or every day as a home office or recreation room? Choose your finishes accordingly.

OUTLETS AND UTILITIES: Think through placement of electrical outlets and switches, HVAC ducts and the entrance to the utility room.

CEILING HEIGHT: Higher (9- or 10-foot) ceilings make a lower level more livable.

FIREPLACE: Even if your budget doesn't allow a fireplace now, installing a flue in the basement when you build gives you the option to add one later.

WALK-OUT: Many cabins take advantage of a sloped site to create a lower level with lots of light and easy access to the outdoors.



age systems to move water away from the foundation. Before the concrete slab is poured, the area may be layered with gravel, a vapor barrier, sand, reinforcing mesh and insulation. Radon gas evacuation systems (if necessary) and utilities are roughed in before the slab is poured. If a home will include a radiant floor heating system, the tubing for that system is set in place as well. Finally, the concrete slab is poured in place and made ready to be the base for the home's walls.

If the foundation will include a crawl space or full basement, footings are built. These poured-concrete footings help distribute the weight of the foundation walls to the site's soil and help resist sinking or shifting. They are generally wider and longer than the foundation wall. At this point, drainage tiles or systems may be installed to keep water directed away from the home's foundation.

The foundation walls are built on top of the footings. Concrete may be poured into forms that are built on the footings and studded with rebar to give the con-

crete added stiffness. When the concrete cures, these forms are removed. For concrete block walls, the blocks are stacked and mortared in place on top of the footings to the desired height.

Once the walls of the crawl space or basement are complete, waterproofing treatment is applied to the exterior. Some homeowners may choose to have their basement walls insulated on the exterior at this point as well. Then, a concrete slab may be poured into the base of the foundation, to create the basement floor. This final slab may not be poured until after the home construction is begun, and will be set on top of layers of gravel, vapor barrier, insulation and reinforcing wire mesh.

For crawl spaces, steps should be taken to prevent moisture from the crawl space wicking up into the home's wood floor beams. Talk to your builder about the best way to keep your crawl space warm and dry in your climate.

The walls of the foundation are back-filled to give them added stability. This fill

should be graded to encourage water to flow away from the house.

Insulated and Precast Walls

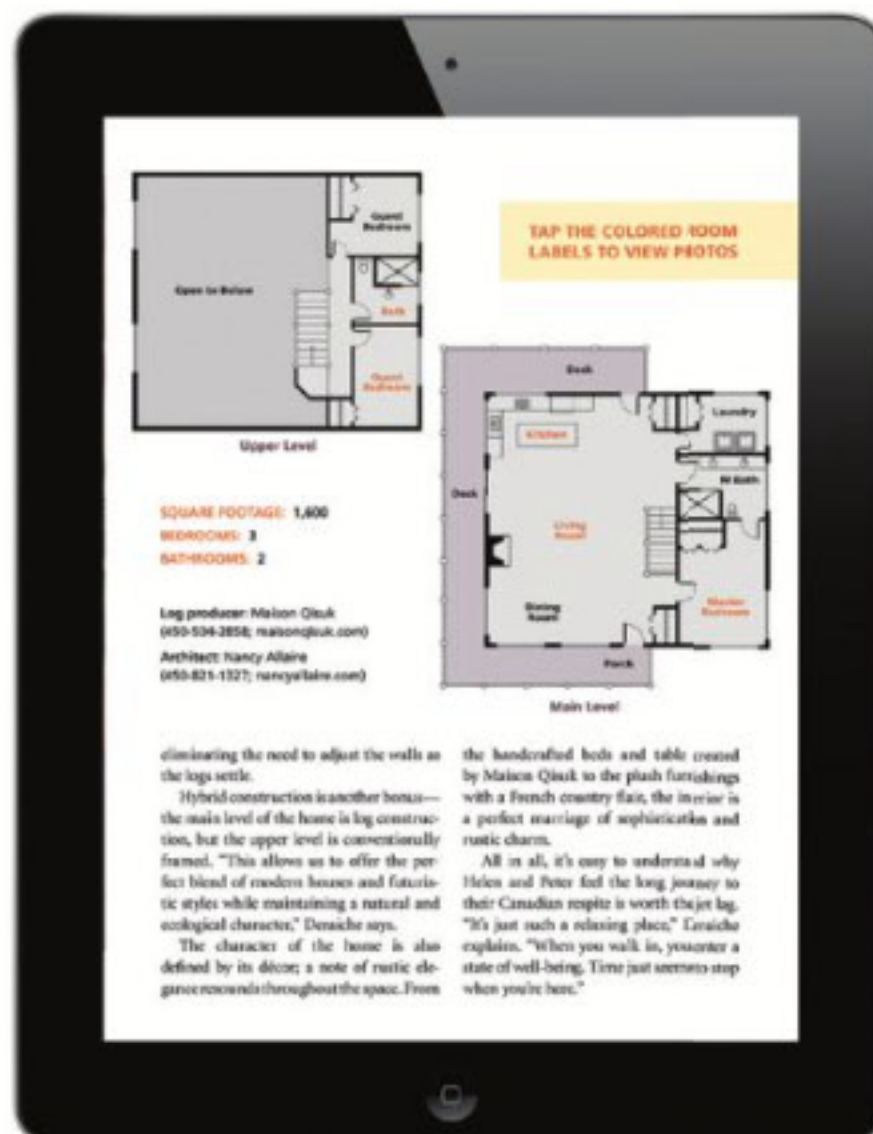
Some homeowners choose insulated concrete or precast walls for their foundations. The insulated forms, faced with foam, are set in place on top of the footings and filled with concrete. Unlike traditional forms, the insulated forms are left in place to provide an envelope of insulation around the perimeter of the foundation, making the home more energy-efficient.

The foam on the interior of the foundation wall can be finished with drywall or any other common wall facing if the basement will be used as living space.

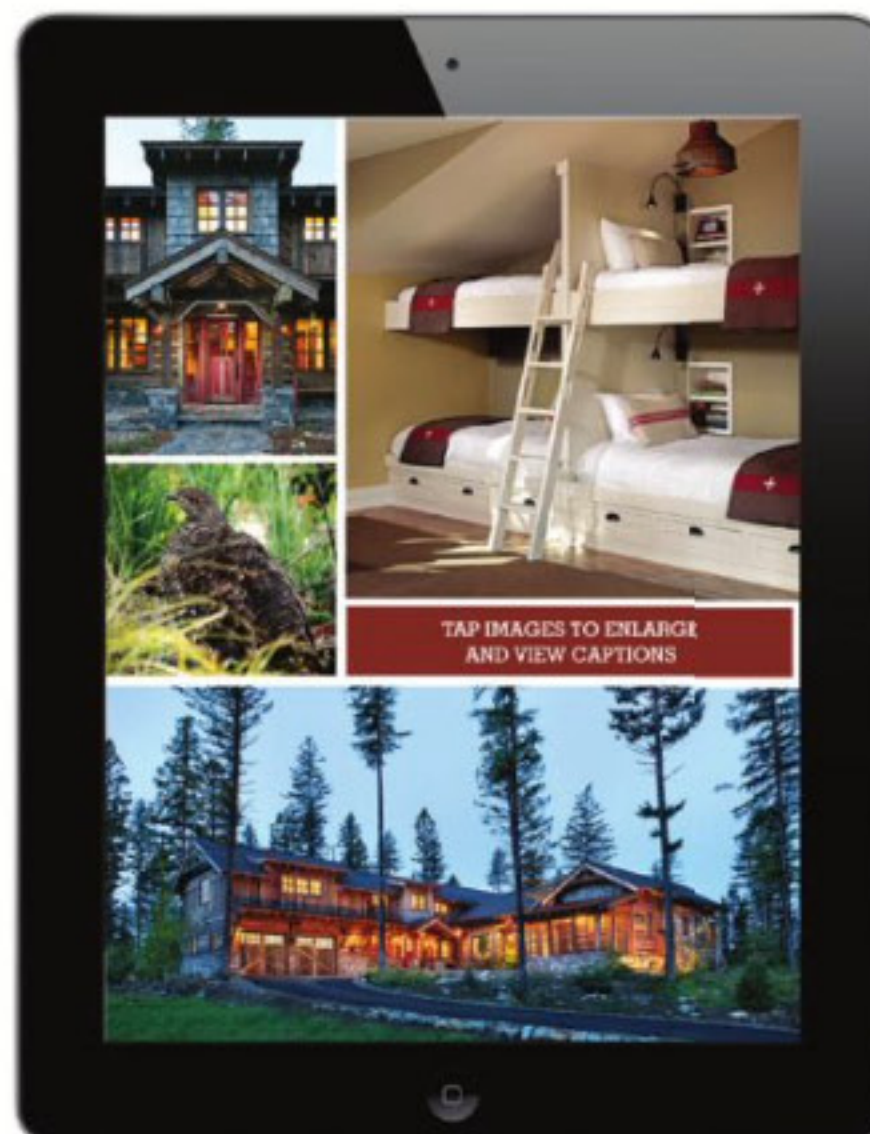
With precast wall construction, sections of foundation walls are built to the home's exact specifications in a manufacturer's facility, then delivered to the construction site. This construction method cuts down on the time required to build the foundation. Precast walls may be purchased with or without insulation. **CBC**

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WHERE YOU GET IT ...



the essence of home

Washington couple keeps it simple.



Windows that stretch to the top of the 14-foot ceiling connect the home to its wooded site. Long benches on either side of the fireplace create overflow seating for family gatherings.



The home's contemporary style is based on a standard plan offered by FabCab, a home producer in Seattle that focuses on high-quality and eco-friendly products and materials. The tall window walls face south to collect warmth from the sun.





ABOVE: For their heart-of-the-home kitchen, Carol and Larry chose Squak Mountain Stone, an alternative to stone countertops that's made from recycled paper, recycled glass and low-carbon cement.

OPPOSITE: Carpet tiles in the bedroom are an eco-friendly alternative to wall-to-wall carpeting. If a tile is stained or worn, it can easily be replaced. Carol and Larry enjoy stargazing through their soaring bedroom windows.

When a piece of land adjacent to their daughter's home went on the market in Langley, Washington, Carol McNeil and Larry Kwarsick didn't hesitate. They bought the lot and began planning a life-changing move.

For 20 years, Carol and Larry had lived in a 2,100-square-foot traditional home also in Langley, a small town on Whidbey Island. "We had a lot of house we didn't use," Carol says. "We thought it was a great time to downsize."

The couple's new lot, with its view of meadow and trees, called for a home that would blend indoors with out. The couple enjoys spending time outside and wanted to feel connected to the surroundings and the island's temperate climate. Large windows, an open floor plan and a contempo-

rary style appealed to them. They recalled that an acquaintance of Larry's, architect Emory Baldwin, had founded FabCab, a company based in Seattle that designs and sells pre-fabricated, environmentally friendly homes.

Designing Small

For FabCab, pre-fabricated doesn't translate to cookie-cutter homes. "Clients like that we are not starting from scratch," Bruce Waltar of FabCab says, "but most, if not all, our clients make changes." Carol and Larry worked with FabCab's design team to reconfigure one of the company's standard plans for a three-bedroom home into a home with two bedrooms: One would be their master, and the other would serve as an office and sewing area.

A large center space would accommo-

date the kitchen and great room under a roof that slants up from an 8-foot height at the entry side of the home to a 14-foot-tall wall of windows flanking a gas fireplace.

When complete, the plan called for a home measuring just 1,440 square feet. Some people find downsizing daunting, Waltar admits. "Storage is always an issue." For Carol and Larry, it was a matter of timing and attitude. "Stuff doesn't mean a lot to me," Carol says. "Getting rid of stuff and simplifying seemed like a good thing."

Carol, a retired nurse, had watched her parents age, and wanted to create a home where she and Larry could be comfortable for years to come. FabCab emphasizes universal design with clients as a way to make homes work for people of all ages and abilities. The couple's

one-level home includes a threshold-free shower in the master bedroom and wide doorways.

Choosing Green

Living with a smaller footprint is inherently more environmentally friendly, with less space to heat over the years and fewer resources required to build the home initially. With FabCab's help, the couple upped the green ante by also including passive solar heating, bamboo flooring, carpet tiles in the bedroom and recycled-material countertops in the kitchen. Energy star appliances add to the home's eco-friendliness.

FabCab has worked with other clients to include green roofs, solar energy systems, geothermal heating options and rainwater collection systems.

Under Construction

Carol and Larry chose to use FabCab's TimberCab system that calls for a traditional timber frame skeleton enclosed with structural insulated panels (SIPs). The panels, which are typically made by sandwiching insulating foam between sheets of oriented-strand board, create a tight envelope around the house, leaving the wood frame visible on the interior. The frame also allows for expansive windows.

Jim Hall of James Hall & Associates built the home in about six months. Once the foundation was prepared, FabCab began delivering the building materials for the shell, including the frame's posts and beams and the SIPs. A typical FabCab home can be weather-tight in about three weeks, Waltar says, which is faster than a conventional stick-framed home.





ABOVE: Because they would like to use the home for years to come, Carol and Larry specified a threshold-free shower for the master bath, which is easy to step into.

LEFT: Small doesn't need to be sparse: The couple altered a FabCab plan to create a compartmentalized master bath that features a double vanity and an adjacent walk-in closet.

The SIPs arrive on site with openings already cut for windows and doors, and chases already drilled for wiring that will run through the exterior walls. The frame is pre-cut, as well, and ready for assembly. Pre-fabricating the home's elements before delivery decreases waste on the job site and helps ensure a quality finish.

A New Beginning

Now that the home is finished, Larry and Carol are thrilled with the outcome and

the way the home looks like an unassuming ranch from the curb, disguising the soaring interior. "I love the feel of the huge open space," Carol says. "It feels like the whole outside is inside."

She and Larry enjoy watching the wildlife that share their land. "There's so much glass, almost anywhere you sit you can see heron, bald eagles, coyote and deer." At night, they star gaze through the windows in the master bedroom and watch the moon move across the sky.

They adapted to small-home living by purchasing a low-profile king size bed and selecting a drop-leaf table that sits behind the sofa most days, but that extends to fit 10 people for their frequent family meals. Window seats on either side of the fireplace provide extra seating when family and friends visit.

With the joy of family and the beauty of their location surrounding them, Larry and Carol don't miss that extra space one bit.

Pre-Fab and Fabulous

To give contemporary style the warmth of wood, FabCab offers timber frame home packages called TimberCab. Construction of these homes goes quickly.



1: The home's Douglas Fir timber frames are pre-cut and brought to the site ready to be raised.



2. Wood pegs help secure the joinery that interlocks vertical posts to horizontal beams.



3. Once the frame is raised, it's ready to be enclosed with exterior walls and roofing. The frame will remain visible on the inside of the finished home.



4. Structural insulated panels (SIPs) made up of insulating foam sandwiched between two layers of oriented strand board are fastened to the frame.



5. Panels in the home's driveway wait to be installed. Window and door openings are cut into the panels before they are shipped to the building site.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,440

BEDROOMS: 2

BATHROOMS: 2

Home Producer: FabCab
((206-275-2345; fabcab.com)

Builder: James Hall & Associates
(425-508-0090;
jameshallandassociates.com



STREAMLINED SOLUTION

For clients who want both a wide open floor plan and privacy, FabCab often suggests telescoping pocket doors with frosted glass. The doors can be fully opened or partially closed depending on how spaces are used. Here, the doors close off the master bedroom, while still allowing light to move between rooms.



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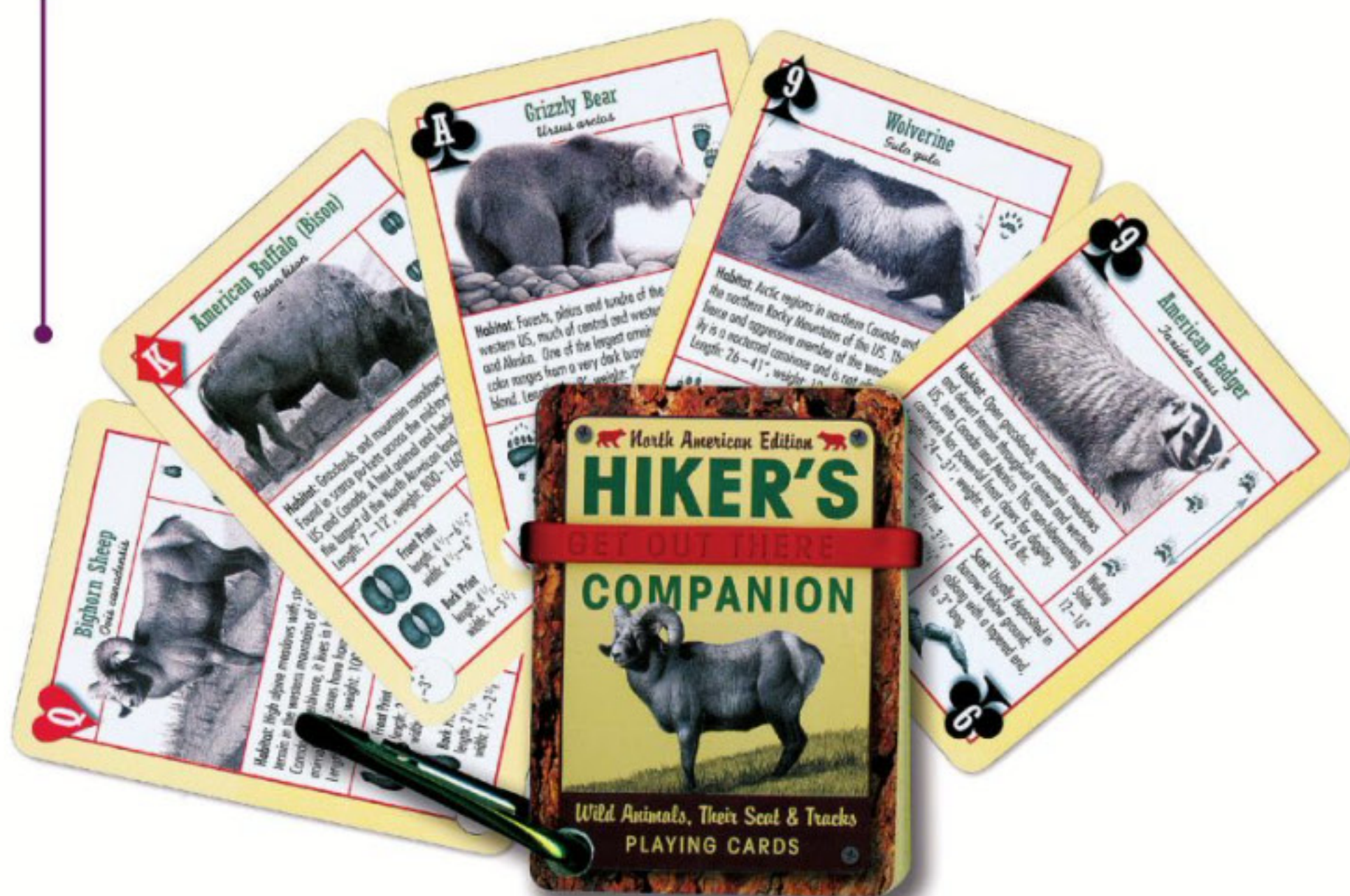
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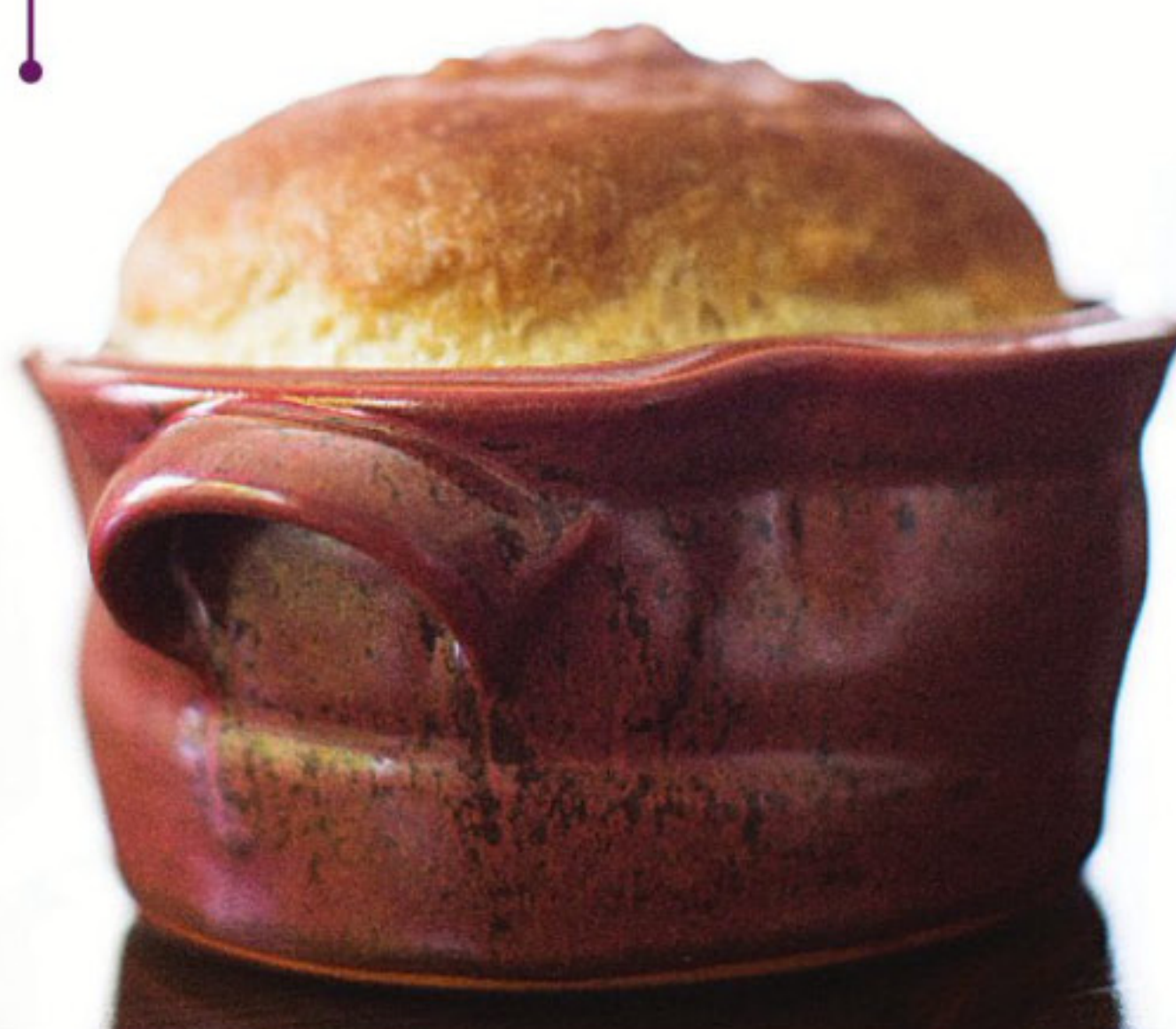


Rainy Day Fun

Take your game of Go Fish to the next level with poker-sized Hiker's Companion cards from Inkstone Design. The waterproof cards depict 52 different wild animals, their habitat, tracks and scat. A carabiner clip makes the deck easy to attach to your backpack. (406-542-0270; inkstone.net)



Crummy weather makes a good excuse to turn on the oven. Potter Jason Wolff handcrafts bread bakers in a range of glaze colors, and includes recipes for sourdough, Russian Rye, banana bread and more with each pan. His bread bakers are lead-free and safe for oven, dishwasher and microwave. (jasonwolffpottery.etsy.com)



Christa Kimble Photography



This outdoor game could be right up your alley: High Camp Home offers a vintage reproduction lawn bowling set. The set comes complete with wood basket, 10 pins and one ball. (866-790 6501; highcamphome.com)

Need space to prep your burgers or s'mores? The eucalyptus table from Plow and Hearth offers storage space for campfire wood, a durable all-weather frame and a convenient wood table top. Perfect for your porch, deck or patio. (800-494-7544; plowandhearth.com)



Bright as summer sun, these deck chairs offer a cheerful seat on your patio, deck or porch. Easy to fold and light enough to carry, the chair frames are made in France from beech wood and are covered with washable French cotton canvas. Chairs adjust to four positions. (877-762-4499; quelobjet.com)

Outdoor
Life



Show squirrels who's boss. The Squirrel Boss bird feeder allows you to give squirrels that enter the feeder a low-level electrostatic shock, via remote control. The shock is harmless, but effective at persuading squirrels to leave the birdseed for the birds. (888-476-9499; squirrelboss.com)



Soften your outdoor furniture with a spicy print pillow. The Valencia Medallion pillows by Wayfair feature woven polyester water-repellant fabric in eye-catching patterns and colors. (877-929-3247; wayfair.com)

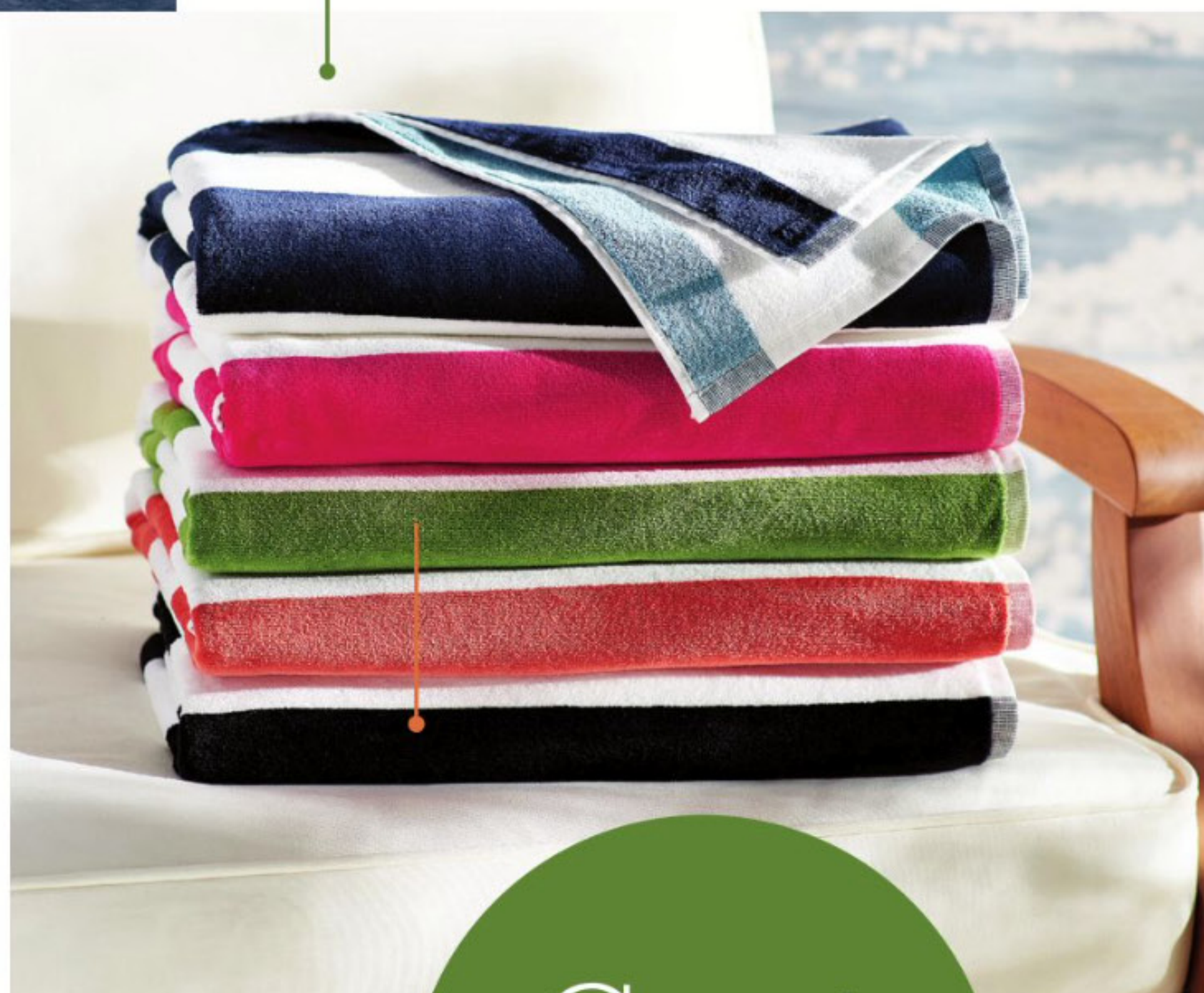


It's the little things that make guests feel pampered—like stocking your guest bath with essentials clearly on display. The Finial Glass Jar Collection brings architectural style to the bath, while keeping contents free from moisture and dust. (800-910-9836; restorationhardware.com)

With guests swimming and sunbathing at your cabin, you can never have too many beach towels. These oversized, 100 percent cotton awning-stripe towels are yarn-dyed for lasting color. You can even have them mono-grammed. (888-779-5176; potterybarn.com)



Keep track of your guests' rave reviews of your cabin. This hardbound, screen-printed linen ledger guest book is the perfect place to compile fond wishes from visitors. (866-790 6501; highcamphome.com)



Guest Rooms



Handcrafted in the style of fine 18th-century toiletries, the Great Plains soap set offers guests little bars to call their own. The soaps' triple-milled recipe is an all-vegetable base with the moisturizing benefit of olive oil. (866-790 6501; highcamphome.com)



Add romance and keep bugs away. Plow and Hearth's slate oil lamps can be filled with citronella oil to repel mosquitoes, or used with regular lamp oil. Each lamp has an attached snuffer cap. (800-494-7544; plowandhearth.com)

Bring industrial style to your porch, deck or patio with the Cargo Pendants String Light from Restoration Hardware. Each 11-foot string features 10 lights topped with galvanized metal for a vintage look. (800-910-9836; restorationhardware.com)



Take your rustic style outside with this rustic barnyard chandelier from Gershwin and Gertie. The metal hanging chandelier accepts 3-inch candles. LED candles can also be used. (800-686-1256; gershwinandgertie.com)



Tempest Torch brings the beauty of an open flame to your patio, deck, walkway or poolside with the simplicity of gas fuel. Torches can be turned on manually or wired to a switch. (425-609-2500; tempesttorch.com)



Welcome guests to your cabin with rustic charm. The Cottage Lantern from Brass Light Gallery features art glass and a beautiful patina. Hang it over your front door or from a rugged post to signal your driveway. (800-243-9595; brasslightgallery.com)

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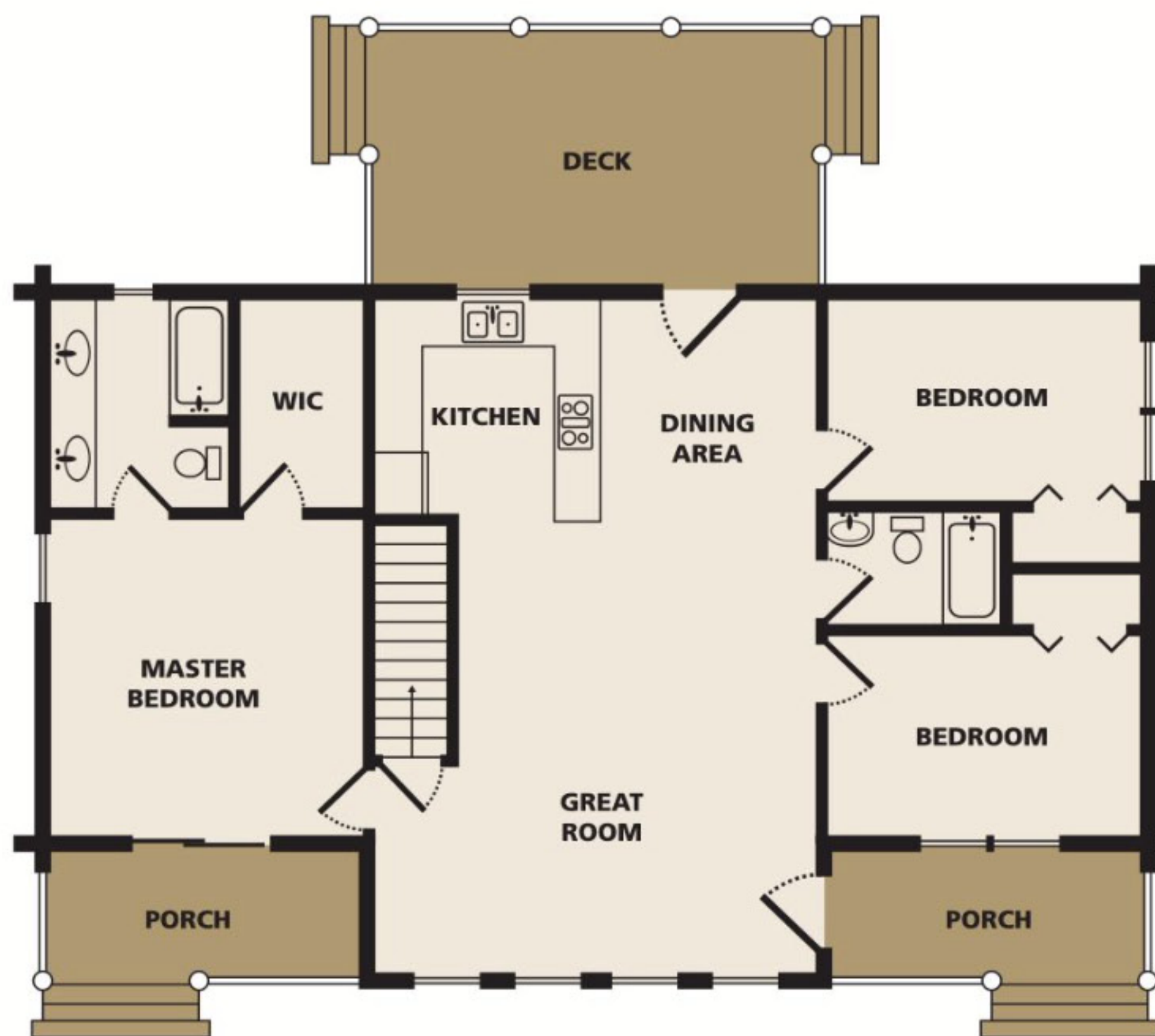
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THE STONY CREEK DS

1,282 square feet | 3 bedrooms | 2 baths

This very flexible footprint provides a virtually unlimited choice of interior layouts. The exterior is a rustic style blend of textures and components featuring saddle notch corners, cedar shakes, and gable end truss accents.



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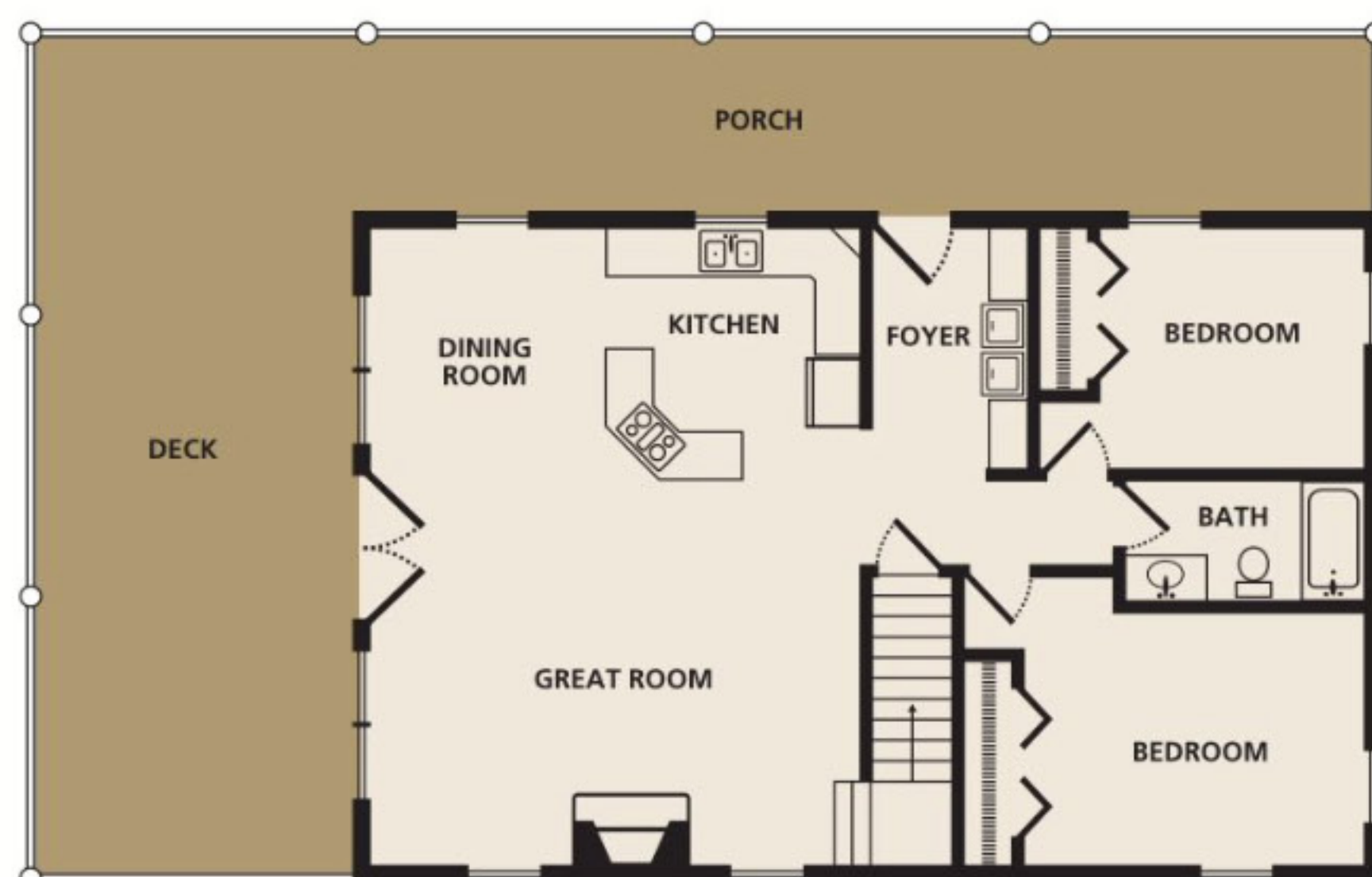
FLOOR PLANS



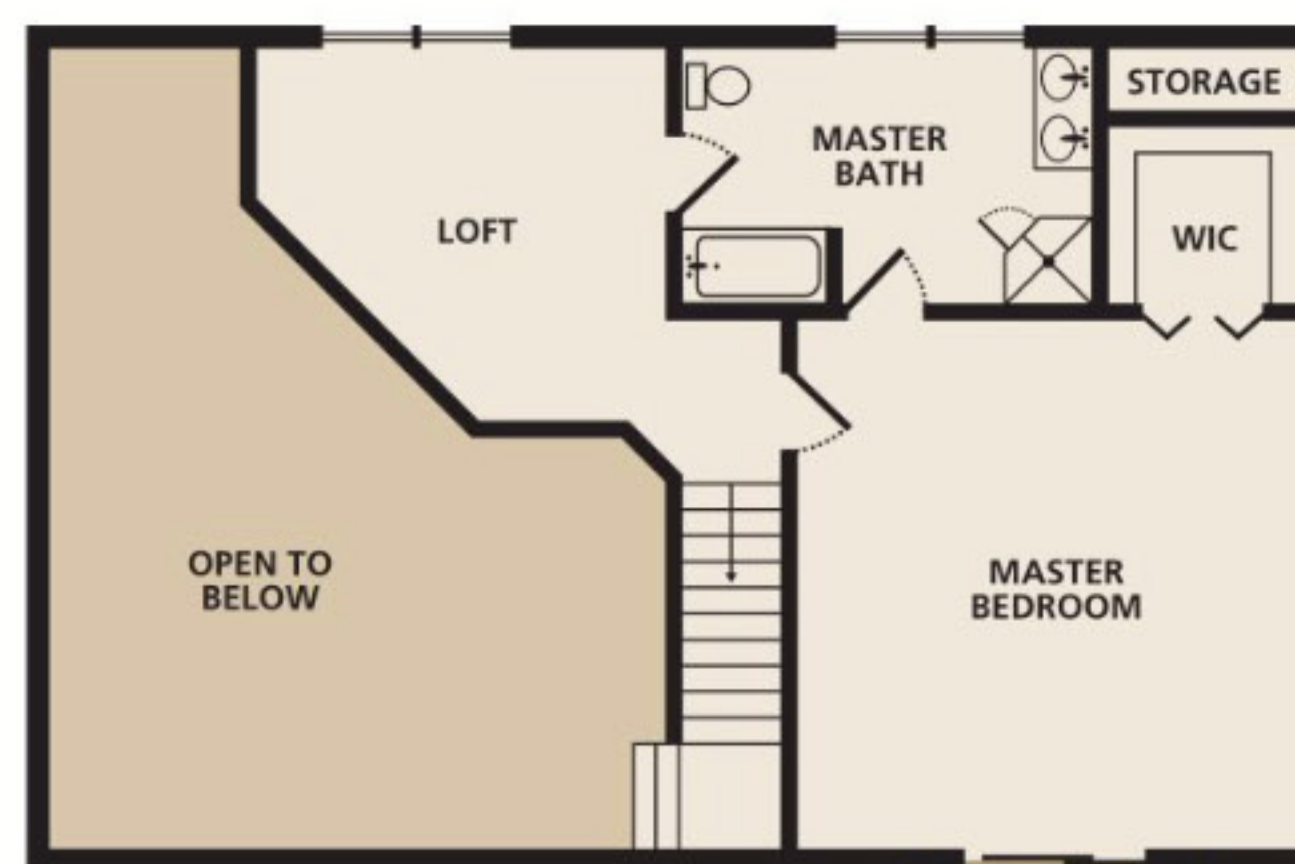
PATAK

2,075 square feet | 3 bedrooms | 2 ½ baths

The Patak is a traditional chalet style where a prow roof is nicely punctuated by a dressed up front shed dormer. Outside, a porch extends along the front of the home and is joined to the deck on the side. Perfect for a lot with a view, the soaring cathedral ceiling is banked with windows bringing Mother Nature in.



Main Level



Upper Level



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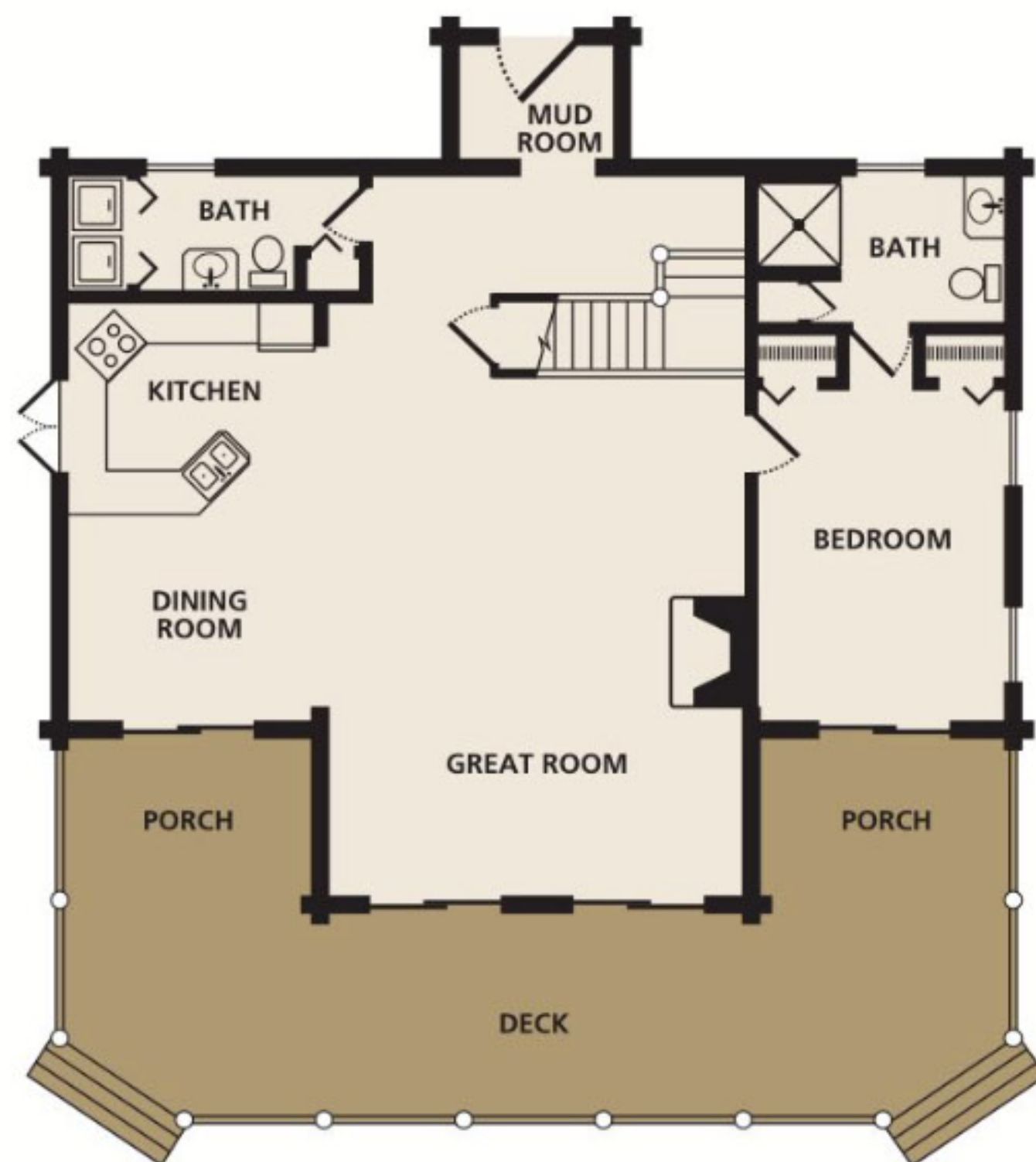
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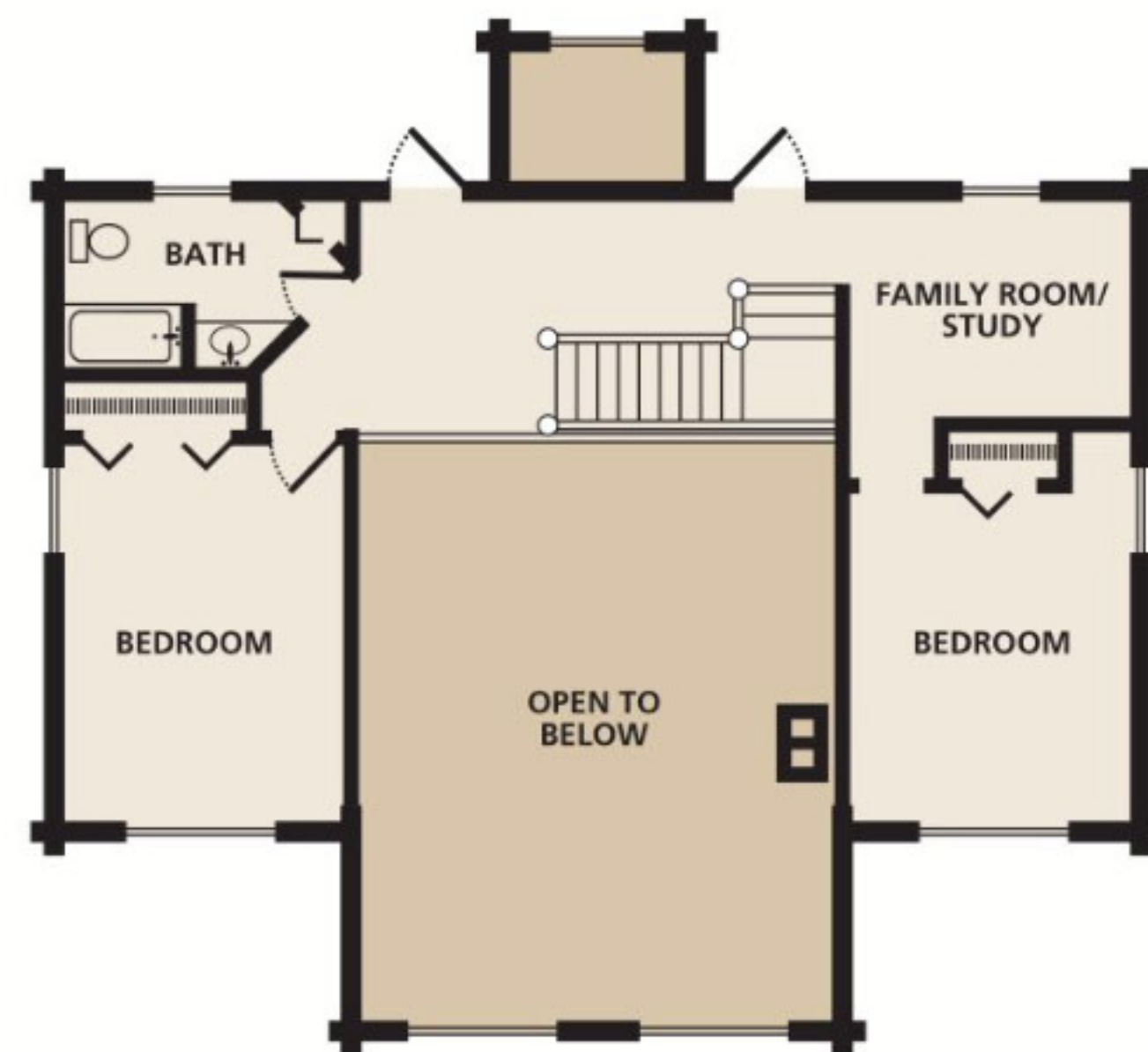
THE LAKE HOUSE

2,096 square feet | 3 bedrooms | 2 ½ baths

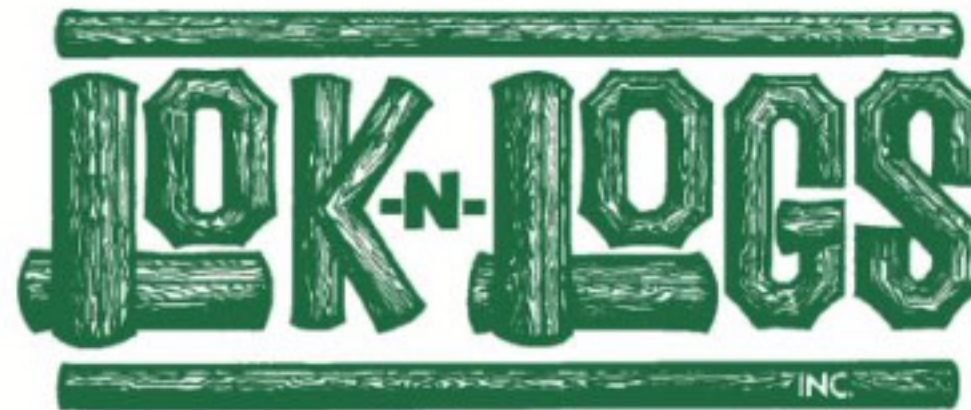
The Lake House is designed to make a breathtaking view available from almost every space in the house. This model features an expansive great room, mud room/front entry, three bedrooms, two full and one half bathrooms all efficiently designed into 2,096 square feet. Two covered porches and an open deck make outdoor entertaining a breeze. The original Lake House was built on Lake George in New York State and easily conveys the Adirondack style of the region.



Main Level



Upper Level



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photos may vary from actual design



Grand View

Complete Package Price
based on Oct. 1, 2014 price list:

\$133,150
RETAIL 6x8 Log

Complete package includes: Andersen®  TW

Kiln-dried and pre-cut log walls, sub-floor, Andersen® 400 Series TW windows, Therma-Tru® doors, loft system, complete roof system, interior framing with T&G pine to finish, solid wood interior doors, locksets, and much more! See complete details at: www.coventryloghomes.com

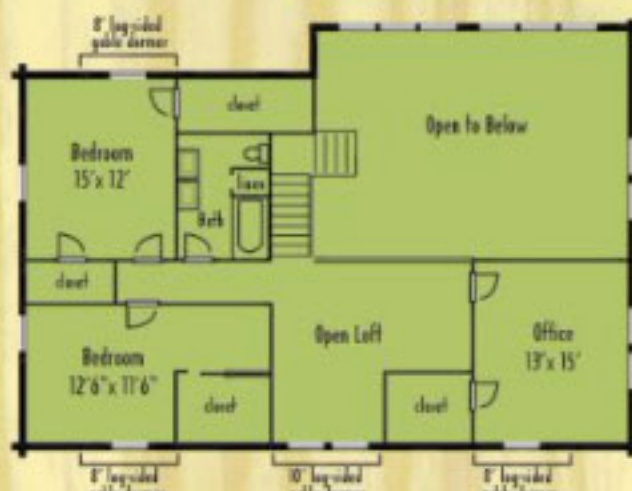


28x48 • 2,704 sq ft
3 bedrooms • 2 baths

Bear Rock

Complete Package Price
based on Oct. 1, 2014 price list:

\$207,950
RETAIL 6x8 Log



30x50 • 2,640 sq ft
4 bedrooms • 3 baths



Front View



Back View

Clearwater



Complete Package Price
based on Oct. 1, 2014 price list:

\$78,050
RETAIL

6x8 Log



26x36 • 1,586 sq ft
3 bedrooms • 2.5 baths



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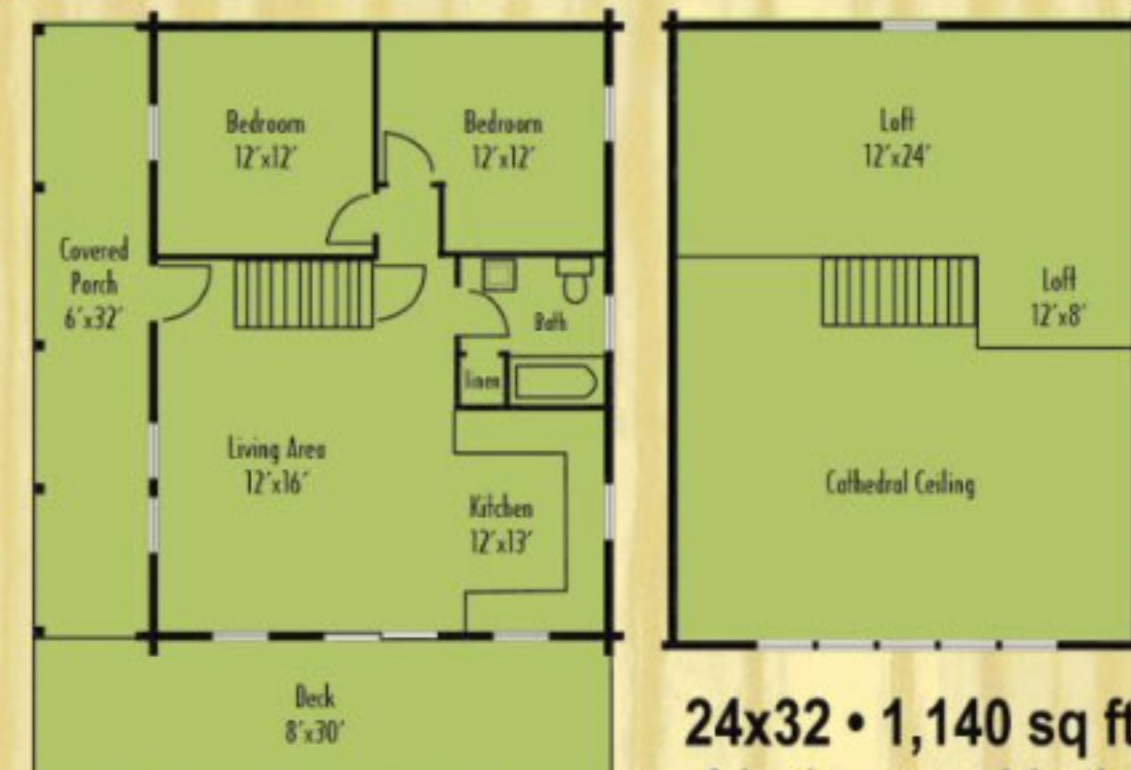
Swiftwater

Complete Package Price
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RETAIL

6x8 Log

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24x32 • 1,140 sq ft
2 bedrooms • 1 bath

photos may vary from actual design

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\$21,600
RETAIL

4x8 Log

Timber Trail



14x20 • 392 sq ft
1 bedroom • 1 bath



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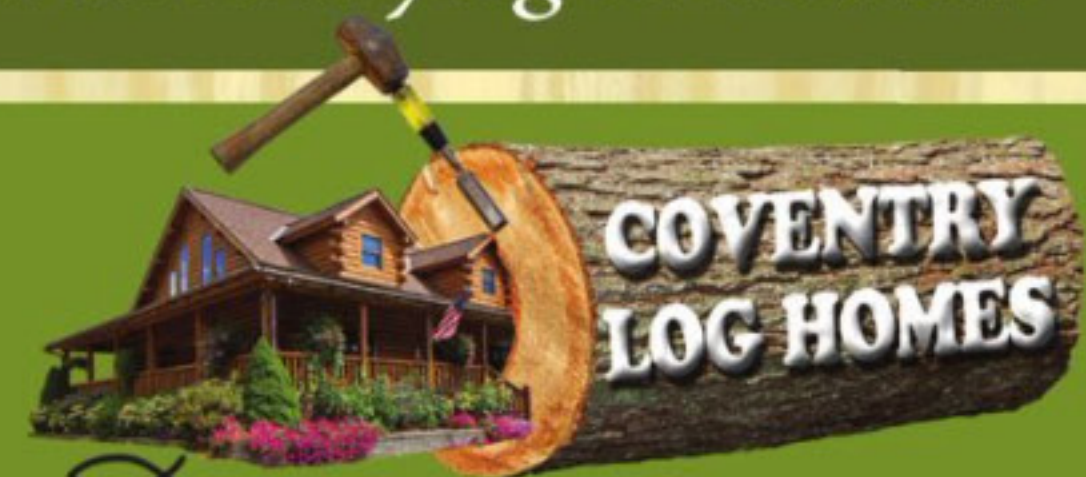
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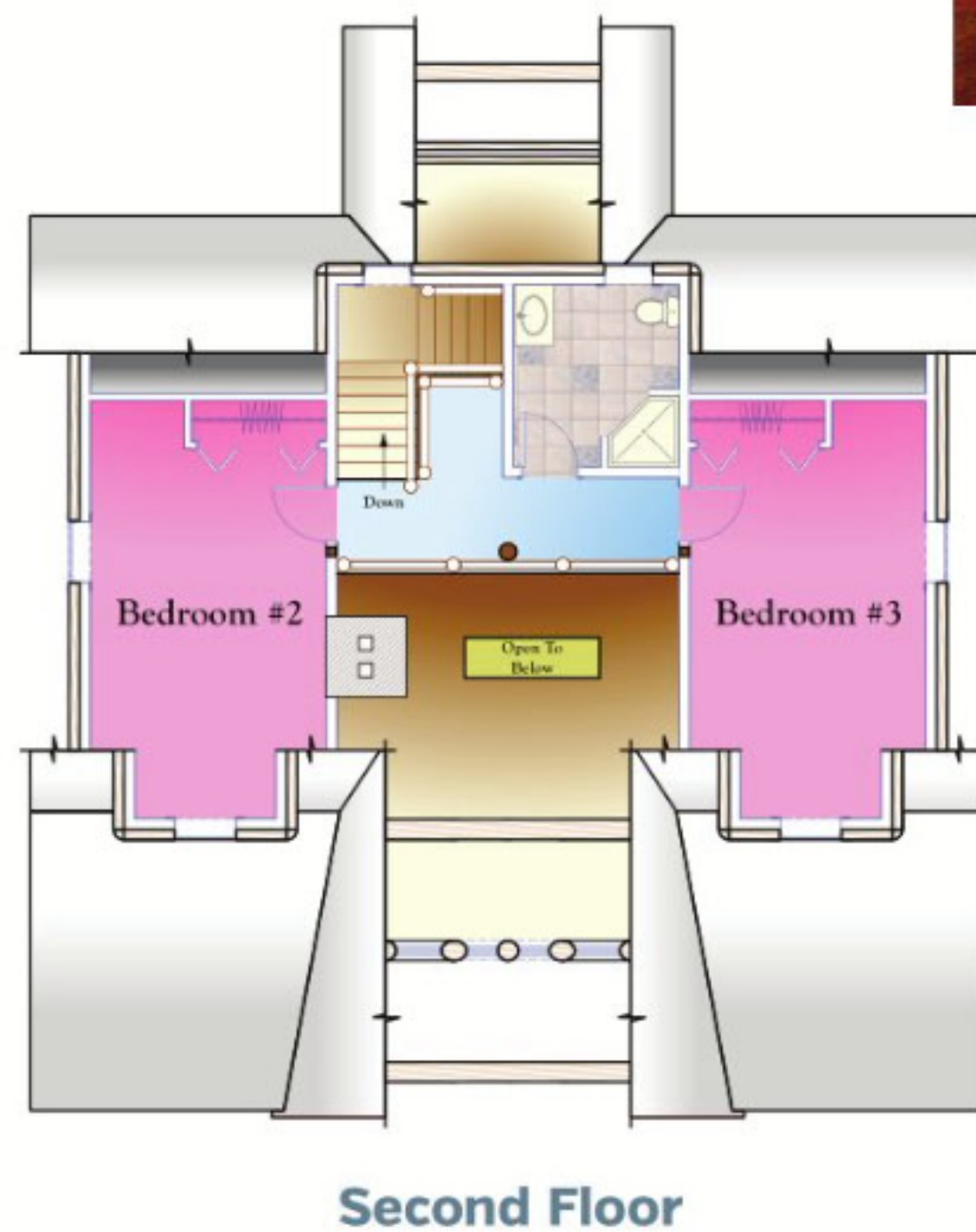
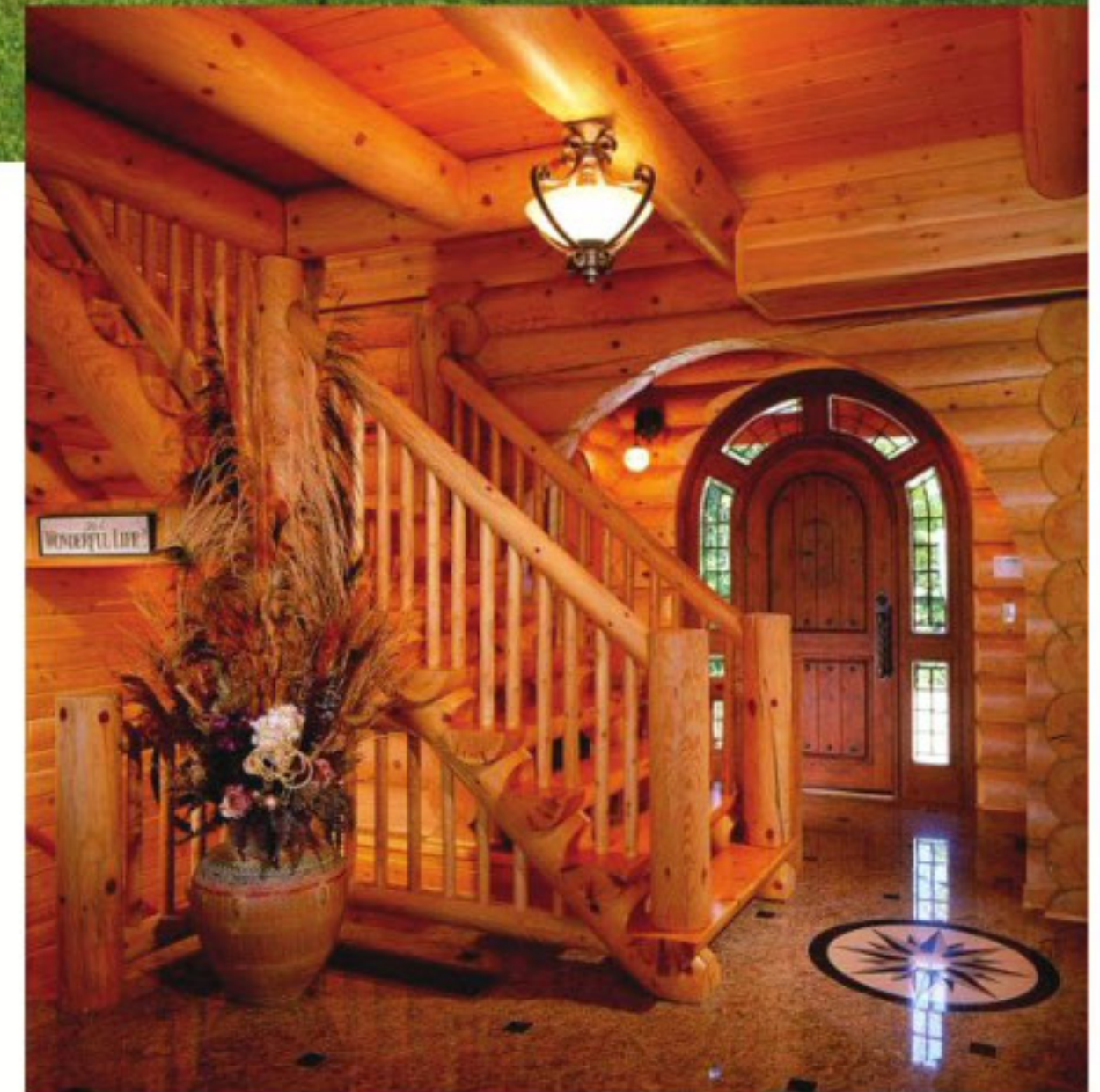
Norway Knight

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 1/2 Square Footage: 2,201

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GIBSON

Bedrooms: 2
Baths: 2
Square Footage: 1,590
Package Price: Call for Pricing

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1st Floor



2nd Floor



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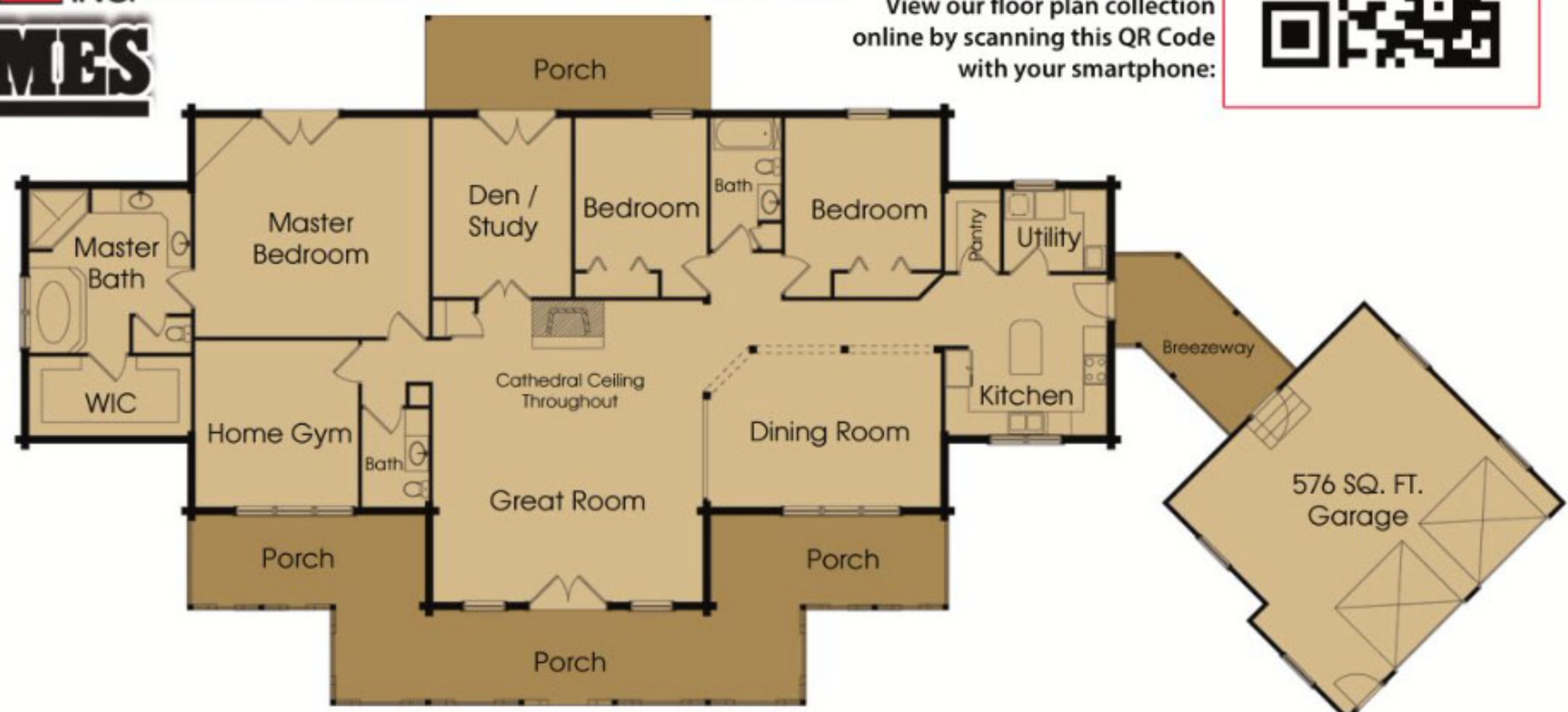
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SPIRITWOOD

Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2 1/2
Square Footage: 2,984
Package Price: Call for Pricing

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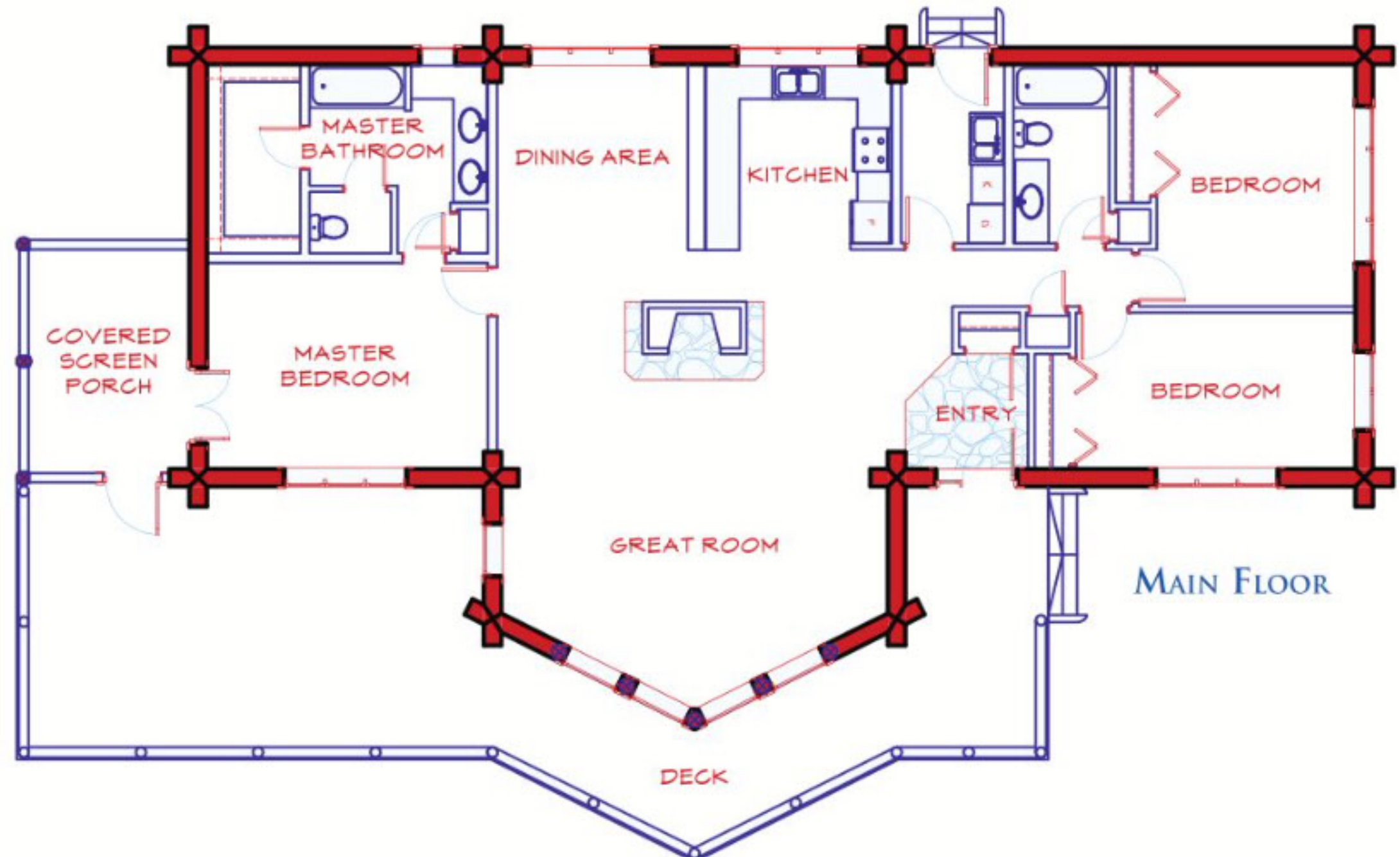


MLH-024

Total Area: 1,964 SQFT

Package Price: Call For Prices

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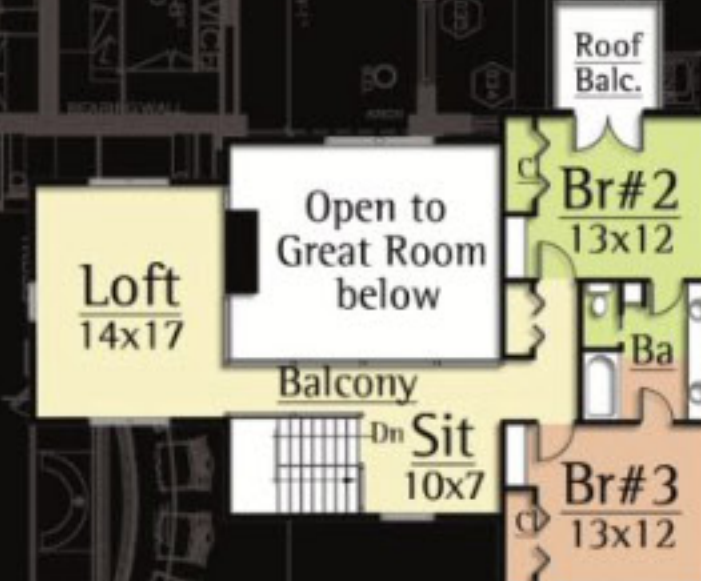
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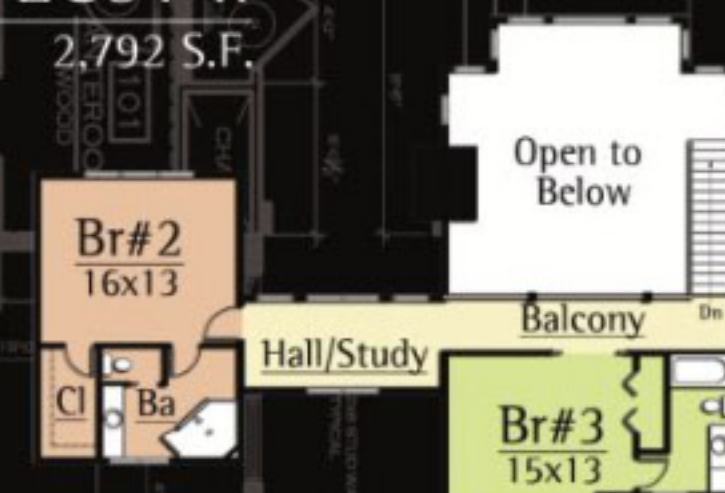
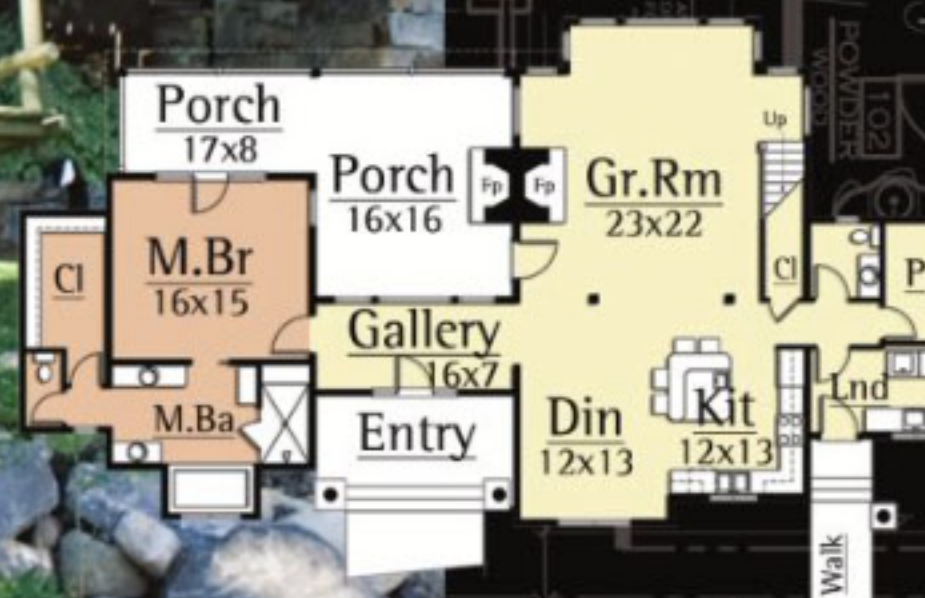
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SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1,692

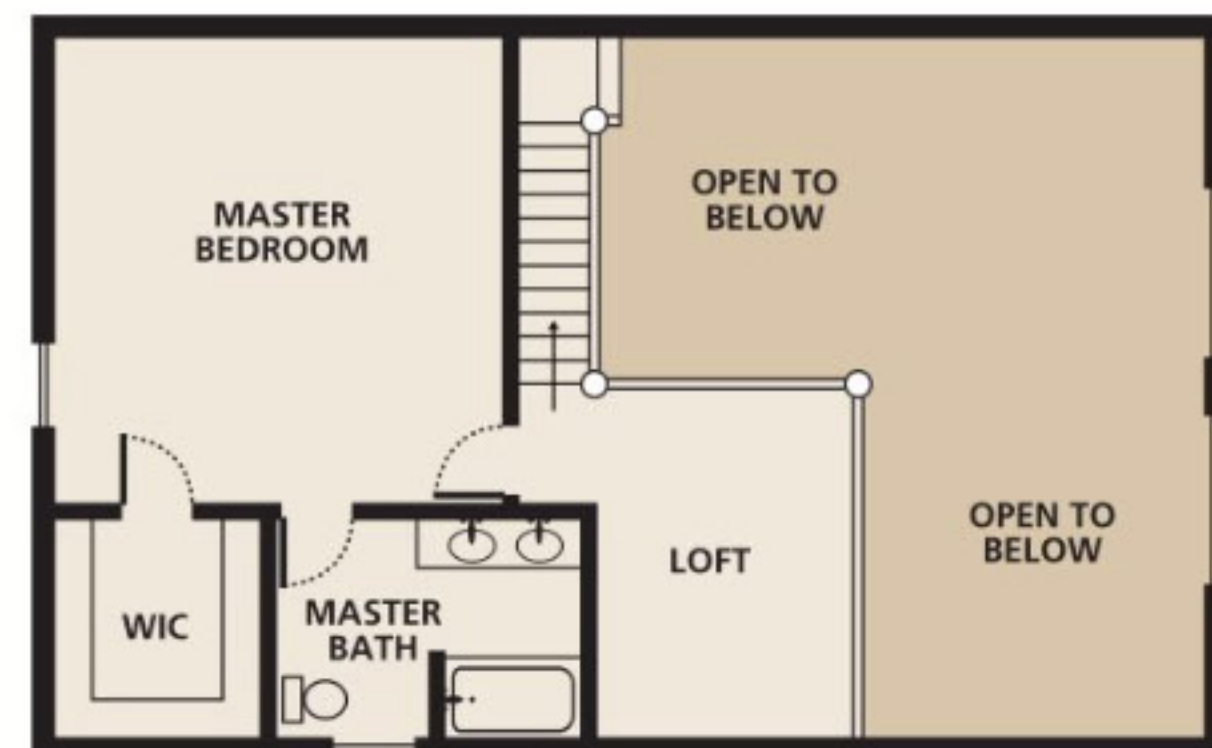
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths

Package Price: \$44,900 US

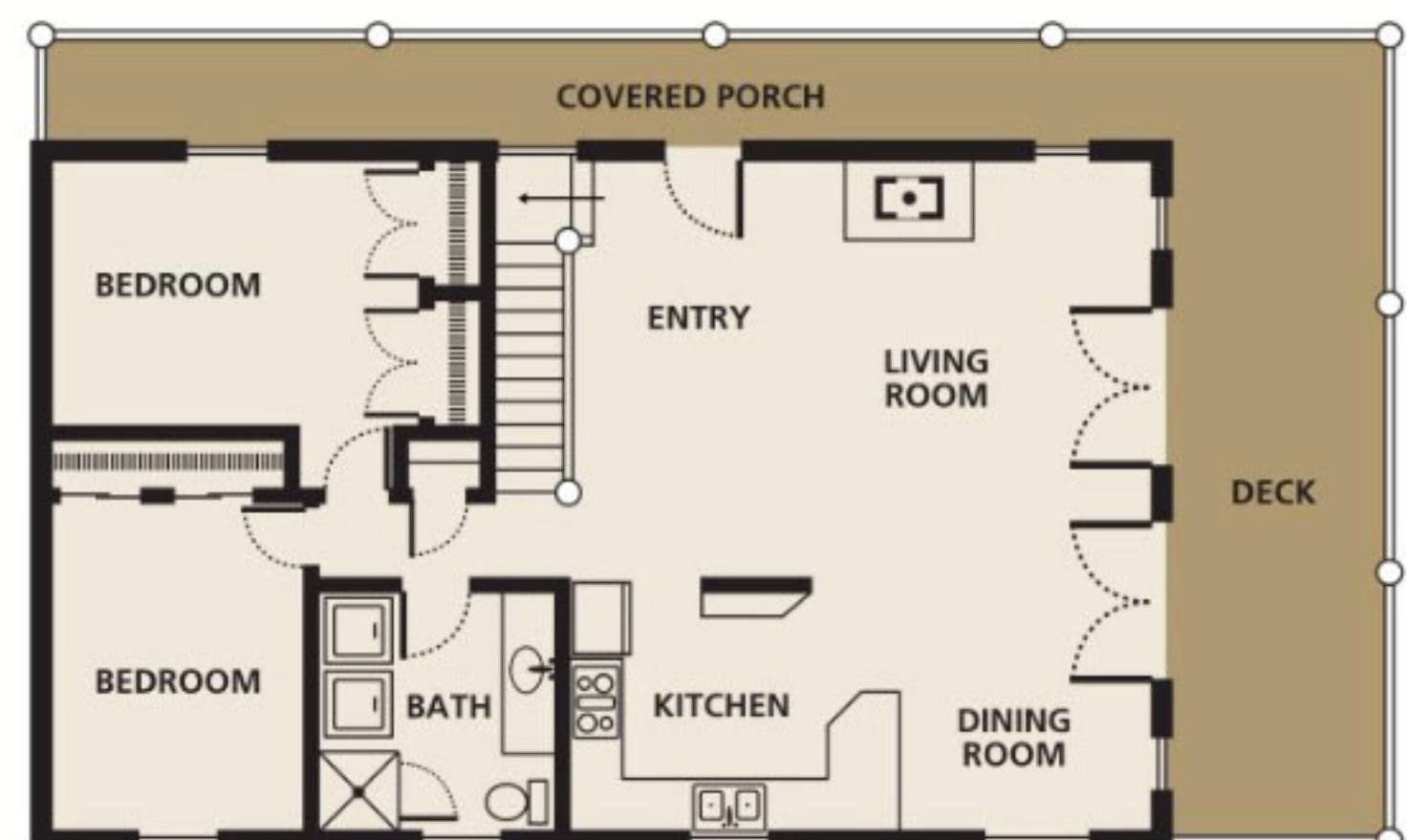
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Second Floor



First Floor



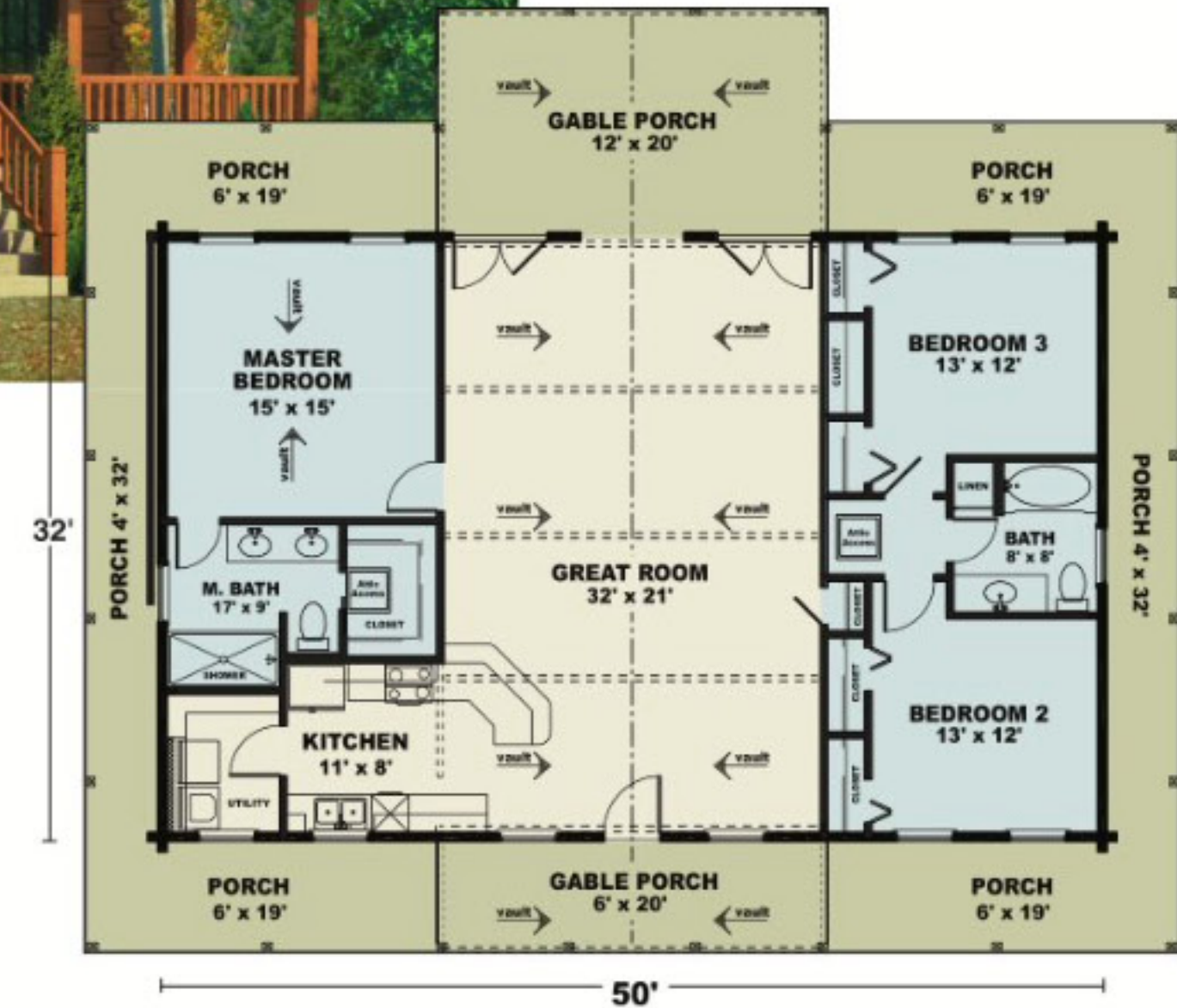
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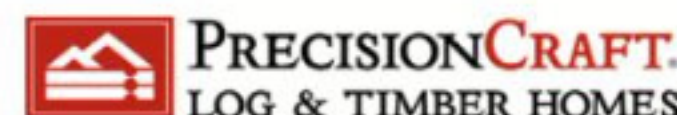
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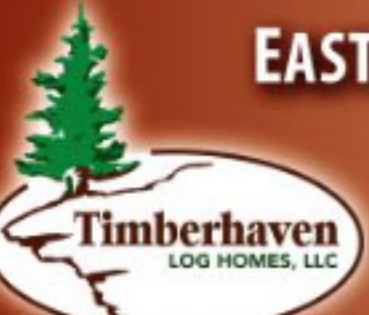
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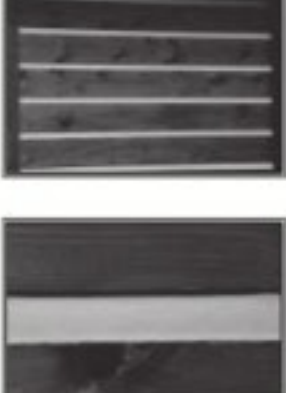
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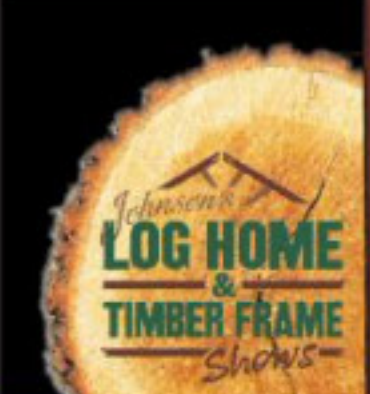
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