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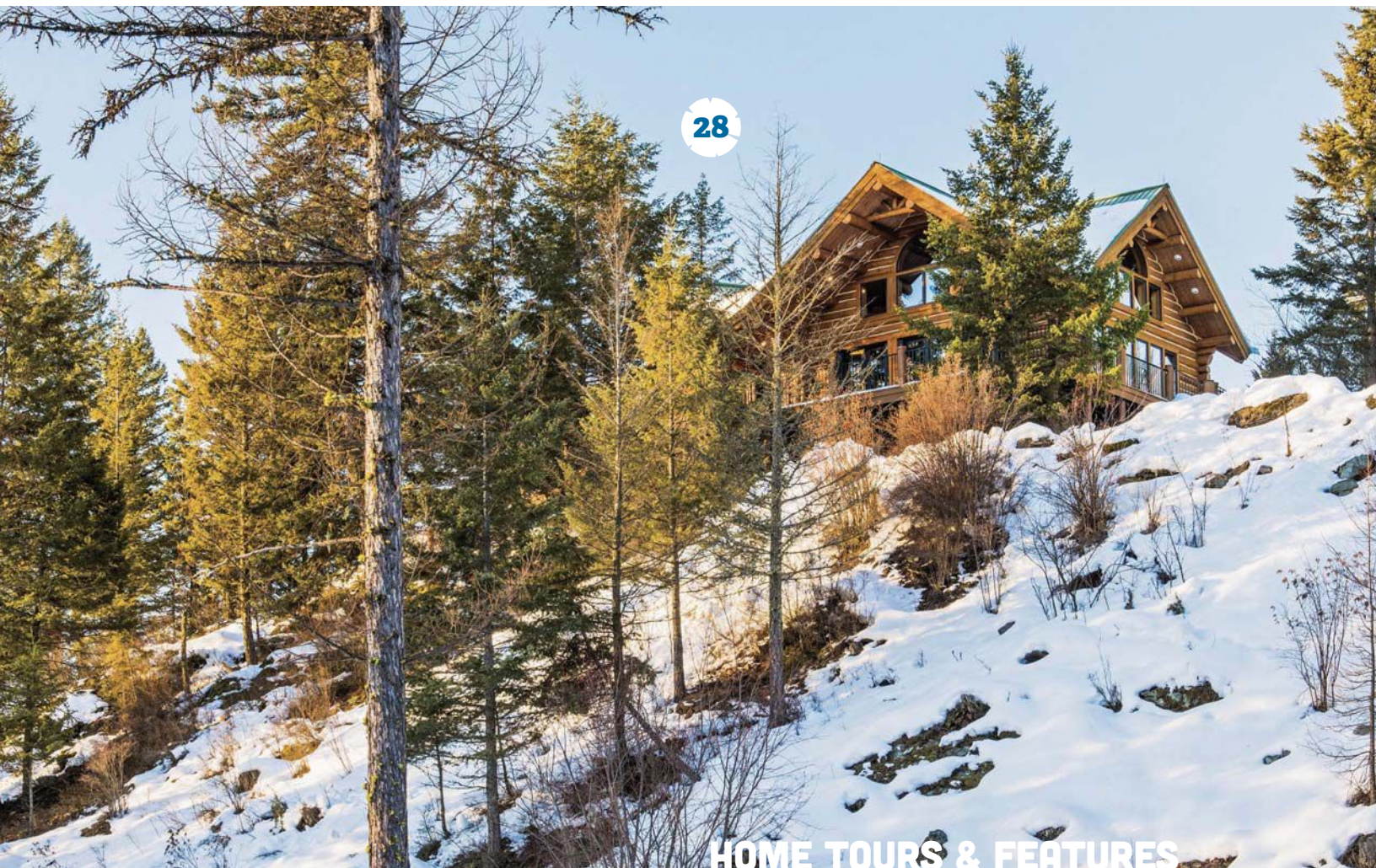
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Bickering over differing design ideas? Conversation and compromise go a long way toward creating a log home floor plan you'll both love.

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Anyone who's ever had a pre-teen has learned the art of compromise.

"Finish your homework early, and then you can have extra time to play your video game."

"Eat your vegetables today, and we'll go out for pizza on Friday."

Though there's a reward at the end, these seemingly painless requests are usually met with a whole lot of resistance, sometimes bordering on defiance, and more than a few choruses of, "That's not fair, Mom." But after a little give and take, reason eventually takes hold, and in the end, we each get what we want.

It was in that vein that we sent frequent *Log Home Living* contributor (and mom of four) Stacy Durr Albert on assignment. Her mission? To find out how log home designers help couples, friends and/or partners who can't agree on a plan or have varying design priorities find that middle ground and draft a log home everyone will be happy with. It's not as easy as it sounds, but it absolutely can be done, and the advice our experts shared is both reasonable and sound. (Turn to page 64 for "Perfect Harmony.")

Compromise plays a key role even when both sides are on the same page. Just ask Jim and Stephanie Smith. They downsized from a 7,500-square-foot suburban Wisconsin residence to a cozy 2,500-square-foot log cabin along the shores of North Lake. Cutting their living space by two-thirds required supreme compromise and patience; but now that they have, they couldn't be happier. (Plus, this place is one of the cutest Christmas cottages you'll ever see – check it out on page 56.)

And in a stroke of fate this month, both our Log Home Journeyman, Sean Murphy, and our resident builder, Dan Mitchell, share tips on how small concessions in design, siting or materials can save buyers thousands. Don't miss their sage advice on pages 24 and 26, respectively.

So in the spirit of the season, giving a little can mean getting a lot more than you expected. And in this case, it could mean you get the log home of your dreams.

Wishing you a happy holiday!

Donna

DONNA PEAK
Editor-in-Chief

A spectacular mountain vista is the gift that keeps on giving. See the home that graces these grounds.

28

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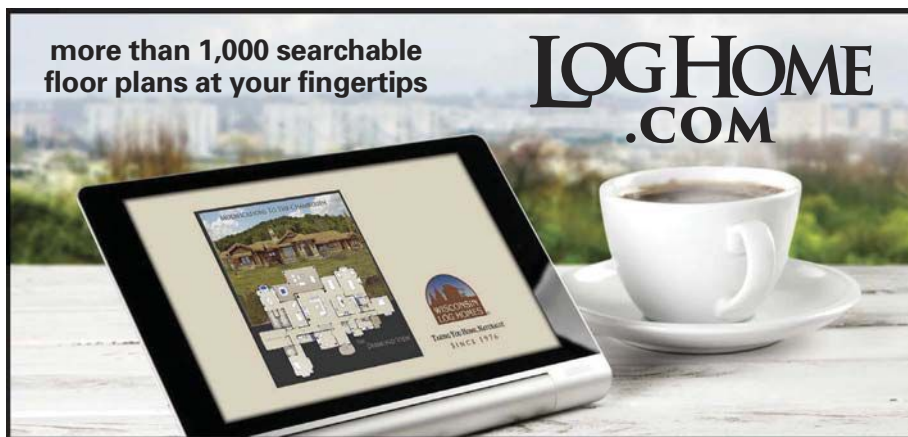
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Snow Way

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JK Lawrence/
Durfeld Log & Timber photo

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Decked Out for Winter
(above): *Nothing says outdoor enjoyment is reserved for the sweltering season! A warm woolen blanket, a comfy Adirondack chair and a cup of steaming hot cocoa extend the fun even when temps are chilly.*

All the Trimmings
(left): *This adorable log cottage is all aglow and ready for guests — especially the one who enters through the chimney instead of the front door.*

LEFT: Joseph Hilliard/Custom Craft Carpentry photo; TOP: Heidi Long photo

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A Warm Welcome: *In the soft violet illumination of twilight falling on snow, this log home's front porch radiates warmth.*

Silent Night: *You can almost feel the stillness, can't you? Freshly fallen snow and a Rocky Mountain backdrop combine to create an air of peace and tranquility, making this log home scene the perfect seasonal postcard.*

RIGHT: JK Lawrence photo; LEFT: James Ray Spahn/Log Home Outlet photo



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Jim Barna Log & Timber Homes supplied the 6-by-12-inch square white pine logs to re-create the iconic Hodgson Mill in Effingham, Illinois.



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ABOVE: One look at their logo and it's clear that Andrew Green and his team did an outstanding job capturing the essence and old-fashioned charm of the original Hodgson Mill.

The Goodness of Grain

Stroll through the aisles of nearly any grocery store and you're bound to spy a sack of flour, a package of pasta or a box of cereal from Hodgson Mill. But it's not only their wholesome approach to food that sets them apart — for more than 125 years, this family-owned business has strived to produce the most authentic grain-based products possible, and now they have a charming log storefront to match their all-natural philosophy.

Set in Effingham, Illinois, roughly a half hour's drive from the site of Abe Lincoln's historic log cabin, "The Mill" strives to re-create the original Hodgson Mill pictured on its products' packaging, though this time in

glorious white pine from Jim Barna Log & Timber Homes.

This partnership came about in the most unexpected of places. "Bob Goldstein, the owner of Hodgson Mill, and I met each other in the back country of Colorado about 8 miles from the nearest road," says Andrew Green, a builder/dealer for Jim Barna Log & Timber and the owner of Barna Log Homes of the Great Lakes Region. "For several years running, we'd bump into each other in the woods. During one of those encounters, we started talking, I gave him a business card and he contacted me. Bob was looking to replicate the original mill. Shortly thereafter, we started working on plans based on photos of that original building."

The Mill is 4,500 square feet constructed of 6-by-12-inch squared logs with dovetailed corners. The exterior is roughly hand-hewn, with a smooth interior finish. A heavy-timber roof system mimics the bones of the original 1800's building. The upper level is conventionally framed and clad in hand-hewn log siding. A golden stain brings out the wood grain, and a bright cherry-red roof (the color of the original mill) caps it off. "We took the same approach to this commercial structure as we'd take with a private home owner; we looked at plans and photos, kicked around ideas and came up with a design," says Andrew.

To create a cozy atmosphere for customers, a floor-to-ceiling fireplace anchors the cen-

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LOGS:

Andrew Green, Barna Log Homes, Inc., Great Lakes Regional Headquarters
989-843-4936, barnagreatlakes.com



tral retail section, which also features an enormous wrap-around porch. Two wings flank the core and are used for cooking demonstrations and interactive classes. The lower-level walkout contains office space.

One day, Bob plans to add a functional waterwheel — the company's signature emblem — to the structure. "As a customer, Bob is one of the best we've had," says Andrew. "To sum it up, he let the professionals do what they do. He trusted us, as log home experts, to understand what would work and then use our skills to the best of our abilities. It made the project fun for everybody." **L**

RIGHT: At The Mill, customers can not only purchase dry goods, they can take part in interactive cooking demonstrations.



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Tesla, the forward-thinking automobile company that pioneered the first commercially successful electric car, announces another first: a wall-mounted, rechargeable lithium-ion battery with liquid thermal control at an affordable price, making it ideal for home use.

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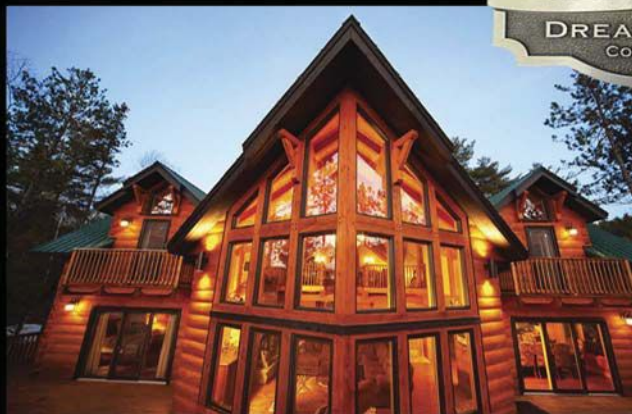
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Photo courtesy of Tesla

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Hope Floats On

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Jan's House of Hope, a home constructed on a 150-by-60-foot barge that was tugged along the eastern seaboard from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Norfolk, Virginia. The 3,100-square-foot, fully landscaped, systems-built house was the brainchild of beloved housing-industry professional, Jerry Rouleau, to honor his wife Jan who passed from lung cancer in 1999 at the age of 50. Though it wasn't built with logs, Log Home Living was honored to contribute to the project. With eight ports of call, Jan's House attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors, raising both awareness and donations in excess of \$15 million for cancer research. Jerry, himself, passed from his own battle with cancer in 2011, but his love and his legacy will not be forgotten.

Photos courtesy of Scott Rouleau



Jan's House of Hope – a 3,100-square-foot home on a barge – raised \$15 million for cancer research.



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ABOVE: Jerry is the creator of the original “30 Cowboys,” which can be customized to contain as many rough riders as you please.



ABOVE: Eighteen-year-old Jiggs is the next generation of artists in this talented family.

SHOWN HERE: From his Washington-state shop, JDub's Metalworks, Jerry Bement has developed a distinctive style that's requested the world over.



Photos courtesy of JDub's Metalworks

A Family Affair

Artistic prowess flows through metalworker Jerry Bement's blood, but after 36 years of crafting his signature silhouettes, he's ready to pass the blowtorch to his equally talented daughter.



ABOVE: An intricate steel-and-bronze fire screen Jerry wrought for the “House of Mouse.”

What do cowboys of the Wild West and impressionist paintings in the French style have in common? If your answer is “not much,” then you don’t know Jerry Bement. A former farmer, this self-taught artist and metalworker is the great-nephew of renowned American artist Mary Cassatt, who collaborated with French impressionist Edgar Degas. Though Jerry’s medium is metal, not paint, the family’s creative lineage is evident and continues on through his teenaged daughter, Jiggs.

“Jiggs is an awesome artist and is mature beyond her years,” Jerry says with pride. “As I’m getting older and slowing down, she has started learning the business from top to bottom. She does everything from taking orders to design work. She’s a pretty impressive 18-year-old.”

Jerry’s first foray into what became his life’s passion was a weathervane he crafted for a friend in 1980. “It was quite a bit easier to make that than it was to shoe a horse, even though the artwork was all hand drawn and cut,” he says. “There weren’t any CNC [computerized cutting] machines that are widely available today. Now, we can scan an image and plasma-cut it, making our work faster, more affordable and more consistent.”

In the late ’80s, Jerry stopped “horsing around,” jumped into his artistic career and JDub’s Metalworks was born. He started by exhibiting at consumer shows, traveling to key markets in the West. His work was so popular, he routinely sold out of everything he brought.

In the mid-1990s, Jerry introduced custom-crafted architectural balcony panels to his collection, which were an immediate hit – especially in the log home market. He expanded to fireplace screens, signs, doors and gates. Ranchers were particularly interested in the latter, commissioning him to craft grand entries to their property, and one of the most impressive greetings was to top the gateway with the “30 Cowboys.”



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ABOVE: Jerry's highly popular balcony panels are perfect log home complements.

Taken from an 1880's image he'd seen, the "30 Cowboys" was Jerry's first really long piece and became his signature. Though simple, it captured the spirit of the West and generated buzz from regional news to Esquire magazine. "I wish I knew why the Cowboys took off like they did so I could replicate their success, but they are everywhere now," Jerry says with a laugh. "People will email me when they see them and have spotted them as far away as a bar in Dublin, Ireland. It's pretty cool."

Jerry sells standard pieces on his website and in his showroom but is happy to tweak any design to fit your needs. He also can create custom orders for that one-of-a-kind look. Steel silhouette balcony panels average about \$90 per foot, plus shipping. Custom-order prices are based on the type and quantity of material, plus design time (about \$75 per hour). From creating to cutting to coating a piece, 100 percent of the work is done in his Washington shop.

It's fair to say that with Jiggs by his side, Jerry's legacy, like that of his Great-Aunt Mary, will leave a lasting impression. 

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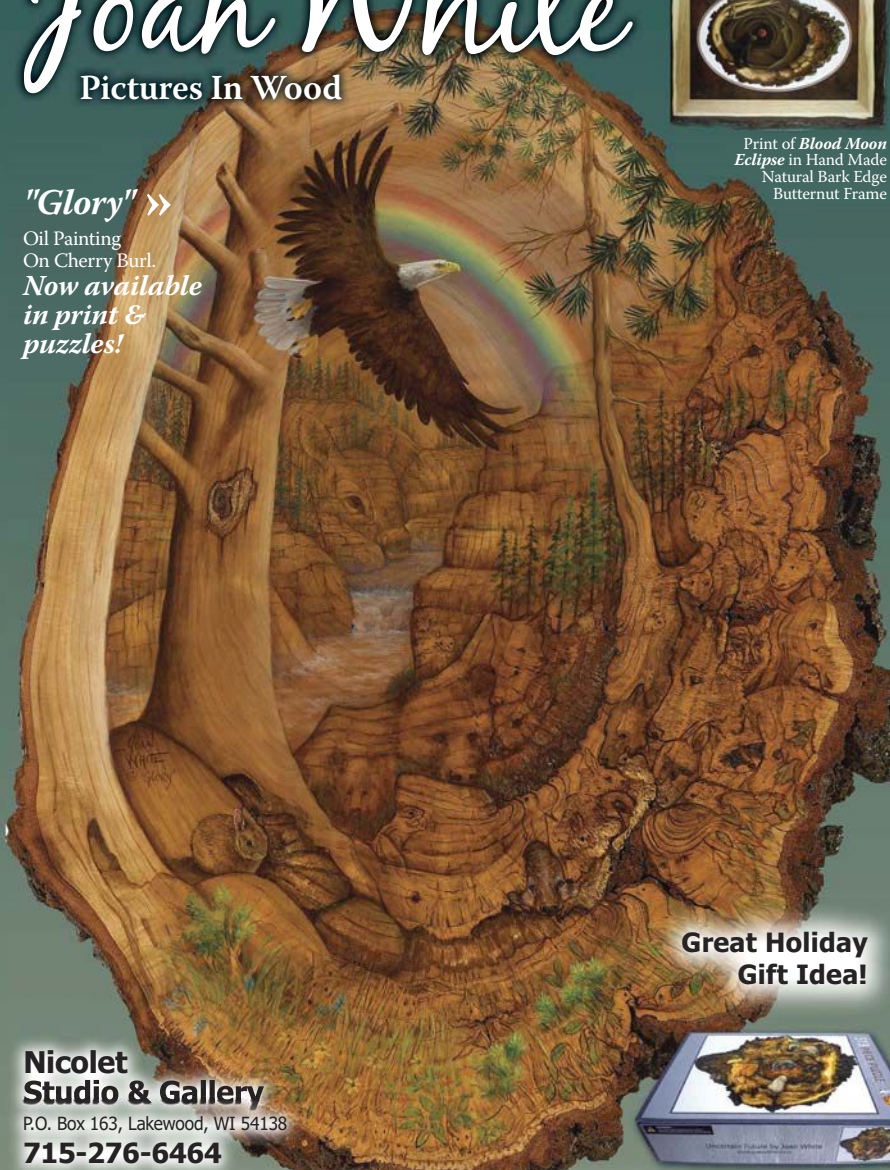
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JDub's is also a regular at our Log & Timber Home Shows around the country. Check loghome.com/shows for dates and locations.

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From dream to reality: As the excavator plunged into the earth, Sean and Amanda Murphy looked at each other and said, "We're really doing this!"

Breaking New Ground

The Murphys prep their New Jersey site as the logs are fabricated a thousand miles away in Montana.

My wife, Amanda, and I looked at each other as the excavator plunged into the ground, pulling the first massive shovel of dirt from the spot that would become the foundation of the rest of our lives — the log house we would turn into a home. "Wow, we are actually doing this," was what both of our eyes conveyed with equal amounts excitement and trepidation, uncertain about what the next several months would hold in store.

Looking at the construction project as a whole (the plans alone were 32 pages of elevations, engineering specs, foundation plans, log plans, roof designs, door and window schedules and electrical schematics, to name a few), it was hard to see the finish line. But like any journey,

the best way to approach it is in stages. You don't climb Everest in a day, as the saying goes, and like those climbers, we'd ascend through our log home journey in clear, manageable steps. For now, we needed to concentrate on log fabrication and prepping our foundation.

Before we ever started digging the foundation in October, log prep at Bitterroot Valley Log & Timber (BVLTV) in Montana was nearly complete. From July through September, the guys at BVLTV had received the majestic lodgepole pine from Canada, hand-hewn them to be free of bark and cambium and pre-assembled the key components at their log yard. This included the roof and porch trusses, purlins, porch posts, roof knee-braces and "canoed" logs that would wrap the structural steel beams and vertical posts. They kept Amanda and I



Over the next several months, join us as we continue to follow the Murphys, a young family who dreamed of owning a log home and are making that dream come true. Each issue we'll check out their progress, learn from their missteps and cheer on their successes. In the end, we'll see how they went from raw land to their own slice of log home paradise. So c'mon in and be part of their log home journey.

Sean Murphy photos





The Murphys' log package is pre-assembled in BVL's log yard before shipping.

apprised of progress along the way, providing us with pictures throughout.

Upon completion, the team at BVL marked each log, disassembled it and wrapped the entire package to protect the wood during transit to our New Jersey site in two separate truckloads. Because the tractor trailers used for the cross-country trek were too long to make the swing into our property's driveway, we arranged to unload the package at a local truck yard and transfer them onto smaller tractor trailers for the short final leg of their journey.

While awaiting delivery of the log package, our general contractor and the excavating



Finding a talented, reputable contractor to lay the foundation is essential to ensure the log package fits properly and is level.

Sean's Smart Tip

Depending on your terrain, be prepared to raise the foundation height if your excavator runs into heavy rock or shale at some point in the digging process. Sometimes, bringing your house up 12 to 18 inches can save you a lot of money in excavation costs (hydro-hammers and rock removal can increase foundation prices dramatically). In our case, we raised the house about 18 inches, which helped us avoid unearthing the rock and had the added benefit of extending our views of our valley.

For more design tips that can save you money on construction, turn to page 26.

crew were hard at work on the foundation. Finding a talented, reputable company to lay the foundation was critical to our future success, especially in a situation like this where a log framework has been pre-cut and prepared to detailed specifications on the other side of the country. Precision is essential, as there's a small margin of error for onsite adjustments to accommodate deviations in "level" along the foundation. In a house with a sizeable footprint, even a small variance in slope can result in a significant difference in elevation from one side of the house to the other.

We chose poured concrete for our foundation, and when it was complete, was perfectly level from corner to corner — a span of more than 100 feet, reinforced with hundreds of feet of embedded rebar. There was no doubt the house would be here for as many generations of Murphys as would have it! We were on solid ground. **L**

Check the February 2017 issue for our next installment, when the Murphys' logs arrive and they start erecting the package at its final destination in New Jersey (with a little help from some friends from Montana)!



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Money Saving Design Tips: A Builder's Point of View

Your builder is a wealth of information. Tapping into his or her experience early on could save you thousands on design, materials and labor. Here's how.

When taking on any log home construction project, a builder has to make three basic assumptions:

- 1** The customer owns property and knows exactly where the home will be placed on the site before the design is done. That's key.
- 2** They know what they want within the design element, type of foundation (crawl space versus slab versus walkout) and type of finished elevations.
- 3** They have a predetermined budget before they start the design. Without knowing

exactly what they can afford, no design is going to be effective against the cost. Often, it's not the home's "box" that drives up construction expenses, it's what goes into it.

From a builder's point of view, we have to provide a sound, strong structure that incorporates efficiencies as they relate to maintenance and energy consumption. But, if given the opportunity, there's so much more we can do to save you money.

Save from the Ground Up

As builders, we can apply "value engineering"

by starting with the property. We have to know exactly where the house is going to sit on the land and what type of foundation will be used in order to minimize the design's financial impact on construction.

Sometimes moving the house's planned location a mere 5 feet can save thousands of dollars, especially in rural areas. For instance, if a house is originally sited on a slope, moving it away from the slope could mean decreasing the height of the foundation, saving you money on materials. Or, if you encounter subsurface rock that would prohibit you from digging a basement, that, too, could impact your cost in the design.

Once you've established your site conditions, a builder is going to look at the design's uniformity. Complexity is costly. Any time a builder is working with long, straight, linear lines within the foundation, he or she can save money. But that doesn't mean your home's design has to be dull.

As an example, if you want to incorporate a bump-out for a bay window, it's better to design the foundation as a straight wall and then cantilever the bowed space so it hovers above. Here's why: To create a foundation that mirrors the outline of the design, you have the cost of excavation to add the additional square footage of the bump-out; you have the cost of the concrete slab for that additional square footage; and you have the cost of the extra blockwork or other foundation material, thereby significantly increasing the quantity of material and labor required just for that bump-out area. By contrast, if you cantilever a bay window, you're talking about a floor joist or a floor truss that you'd need regardless of whether you bump the basement's footprint out or not. This is just one small example of how you can create fairly sizeable cost savings, while adding usable square footage and volume in your design.

Opt for Building Systems

Another tip: Incorporate as many building system components (floor trusses, roof trusses,

panelized interior wall assemblies) in the design as you can. Prefabricated components, such as these, take a fraction of the time to put into place than does site-built construction, generating significant savings on labor without sacrificing quality. Likewise, if your home has gables, design them to be built with 2-by-4s or panels covered with log siding, shingles or a contrasting material, rather than crafting the gables out of full logs. Again, this goes back to the complexity of the log package creating cost. A pre-fab gable will be less time consuming for the builder to erect and won't detract from the authenticity of your log home.

Keep it Simple

The level of detail a home has can require a great deal of a building crew's time and expertise and result in added site costs. Where we spend the most time and money on a home is on detailed trimwork and intricate roof systems. Offsets, like where the roof doesn't come right down to the wall in a loft, require a builder to trim around them, and doing it right takes more time than you'd think.

One way to reduce complex trim is to strategically place doors within your home. Think about how you're going to move around in the house efficiently, but eliminate multiple or unnecessary doors to reduce labor and materials costs.

A perfect example is an enclosed water closet within a master bathroom. Keep the door to the toilet area for privacy, but instead of installing a door that leads into the bath, opt for a case opening so the main part of the bathroom is exposed to the bedroom. Pocket or barn doors also can save you money and free up usable square footage by eliminating the need for door-swing clearance. In new construction, a pre-assembled pocket door won't cost your builder more time or labor to install than a standard swinging door.

Another money-saving tip: Design to whole numbers (6 feet, 8 feet, etc.) based on how lumber is sold, rather than feet and inches. For instance, if you're planning a deck

on the back of your home and you start talking in odd or fractional numbers, your builder will have to order longer lengths than needed (unnecessary materials cost) and then measure and cut each board (added labor cost). Multiply that by 80-plus boards and you're talking quite a bit of expense you could easily avoid.

Involve Your Builder in the Design

Many log home buyers believe that you need a final design before you approach a builder. Not true! When a builder reviews a set of plans to prepare a bid, he or she takes all of a home's complexities into account. So why not ask your builder to review your plans along the way?

Designers can be wonderfully creative, coming up with unique and innovative floor plans that look great on paper or 3D-CAD; but in the field, they may be inefficient or impractical to build. By asking your builder to review your plans before you finalize them, he or she can suggest tweaks in the layout or material selections that could save you significant amounts of cash.

Cedar shakes are a prime example: Not only are cedar-shake shingles one of the more expensive products on the market, they also take special knowhow to install. So though you think you're ready to absorb the higher price tag of the material itself, many buyers don't factor in the skilled-labor upcharges that come with installing them, and that drives up construction costs. You have to ask yourself if the value of these design elements justifies the cost. If the answer is yes, go for it! If not, opting for a look-alike will cost less and speed up construction in the process. These are the kinds of recommendations your builder can make along the design path, if he or she is involved early. **L**

Dan Mitchell owns Eagle CDI in Tennessee and has built close to 100 log homes in his 30-year career. He's the Knoxville Home Builders Association 2015 Builder of the Year.



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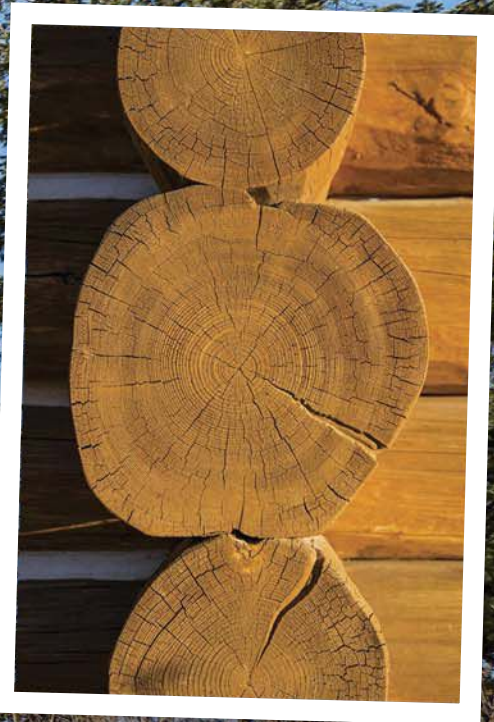




Silver Linings

When disaster struck, plans to convert this Montana vacation retreat to a full-time residence were put on fast forward, but resulted in a stunning, modern interpretation of log home living.

story by **Brooke Fishel** | photography by **Heidi Long**



A 12-foot-wide deck wraps around the entire house to allow the couple to take in the gorgeous 360-degree view (see page 36 for their spectacular vista).
INSET: The round-on-round logs came from locally harvested fir and larch.





The great room's decor was directly inspired by the hues found in the river-rock clad fireplace.

When Brian and Julie Hanson purchased their log home in Flathead Valley, Montana, they knew they eventually wanted to bring the 1990s 2,400-square-foot home into the 21st century. However, their remodeling timeline was sped up when a burst pipe caused flooding that went undetected for more than 10 days.

"We were living in Atlanta and got the call on New Year's Eve of 2014 that a foot of water had been sitting in the home for almost two weeks," explains Julie. Their unplanned trip to assess the damage confirmed it; plans to rework the vacation home's layout to suit a full-time residence would now be a much bigger (and higher priority) project.

They contacted Les Bernabi of Ciao Interiors to help them with the remodel and extensive water damage. He would manage the renovation onsite while the Hansons were still living in Atlanta, visiting only periodically.

"The damage wasn't as much to the logs but to the floor, so we had to replace the entire flooring system," says Les. "Both the hardwood and sub-floor were torn out, and a lot of the floor joists were either replaced or repaired to get the house to a point where the wood wasn't rotted or mildewed."

Design-wise, the home retained its original footprint with two bedrooms, a full bath, a great room, kitchen and laundry room on the main floor, and a master suite with a full bath and two walk-in closets on the second level.



It took more than three weeks for Les Bernabi and his crew to properly attach the cabinets to the logs. To get it perfect, a combination of either coping into the logs or coping the cabinet end pieces to mirror the shape of the logs was required. Quartz counters with a waterfall edge complete the modern-rustic look.



*A cable light system
provides flexible
illumination and a
contemporary spin on
a rustic log home.*

The biggest change was to the kitchen, which needed to be gutted because the original U-shaped design disrupted the flow when the couple hosted a crowd. An island with a sink was installed, which opened up the kitchen and let Julie be a part of the activities without having her back to guests. It also created more counter space along the wall, allowing her to do what she loves most – bake!

“I fall in love with this kitchen every day. I wouldn’t change a thing,” she says.

Another kitchen must-have was the addition of taller cabinets to allow for the seven full sets of dinnerware the sociable couple uses to entertain friends and family throughout the year. The maple cabinets were stained with an almost-black, gunmetal hue that let the wood grain show through but added modern flair to the home. Quartz countertops and a stainless-steel hood complete the look.

Lighting on the main level was also a consideration, as the original fixtures didn’t provide sufficient illumination. The Hansons added a wire-lighting system to a stainless steel cable with pendants to keep from having to attach light fixtures to the logs. This gave the area a contemporary look and allowed them the flexibility to add or move pendants to spotlight different areas as needed.

Although it was a rough start to their happily ever after, Julie was pleased with both the outcome and the process. “Even though we were far away, we never had to worry about a thing,” she said. “Les’s team did amazing work, and they did it to perfection.” 





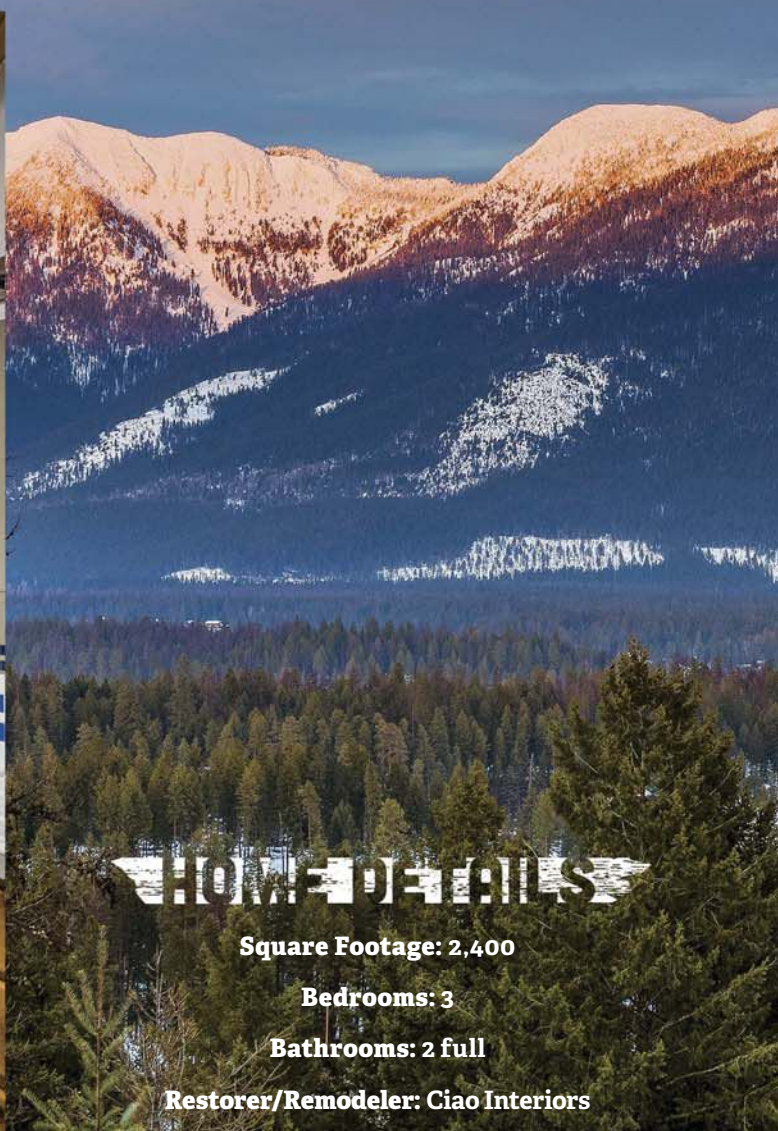
The gunmetal-toned cabinets extend along the case opening into the great room, connecting to a new wet bar that provides even more entertaining space.



LEFT: The ironwork in the headboard and side tables of the bedroom, as well as the ash-stained flooring, mirrors the colors chosen for the kitchen cabinets and fixtures on the main floor.

BELOW LEFT: Simple 4 1/4-inch square white porcelain tiles with cobalt blue accents provide a crisp, timeless backdrop that lets the logs take center stage in the bath.

RIGHT: Now fully restored after the flood, the Hansons' home glows atop its Flathead Valley perch.



HOW IT ALL S

Square Footage: 2,400

Bedrooms: 3

Bathrooms: 2 full

Restorer/Remodeler: Ciao Interiors



TIP

Designing for a steep
or sloping lot?
loghome.com/building-homes-on-sloped-surfaces



Bonfire Basics

Outdoor fires are a great way to spend chilly winter evenings — but make sure you learn the basics before you burn.

As winter draws ever closer, you may think about settling indoors for the season. But as temperatures start to drop, the pleasure derived from an evening spent around an outdoor fire goes up — even for those in seasonally warmer climes. Truly, it fuels the soul, especially if you've gathered

around the blaze with friends and family.

However, not everyone has a dedicated firepit area (note to your DIY self: put that on your to-do list) that's ready for cozy winter gatherings. That doesn't mean you need to skip it altogether, but it does demand a bit more preparation to make sure you stay safe. Here are five tips for your best bonfire:

1 Know the law

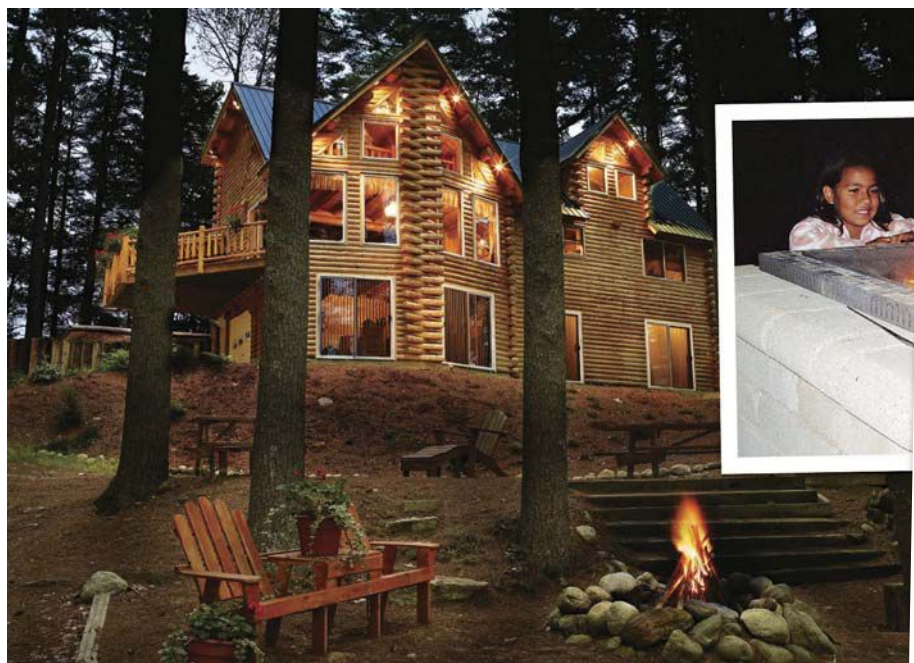
No matter where your log home might be located, there will be rules and regulations about what you burn, how close the fire can be to your house and whether or not you need a permit. Be smart: Call the local fire department to get the information you need.

Ken LaCoy Construction Co. photo
by Scott Amundsen photo



LEFT: Keep firepits far enough from your house so they don't pose a threat, but close enough for convenience. A clear, open area will keep flying embers from igniting nearby foliage.

BELOW, LEFT: For the best blaze, stack wood in a pyramid or tipi shape and provide space beneath the mound for air to circulate.



A simple raised-concrete structure can provide hours of enjoyment and family memories to cherish for a lifetime.



2 Clear the spot

Safety should be foremost on your mind, so choose an area far enough from the house to ensure stray embers won't be a concern, but close enough that you can easily run back in for beverages and s'mores ingredients when supplies run low. Opt for an open space without trees overhead or piles of dead, dry branches around.

3 Dig a pit

You can build a fire on flat ground, but a pit will keep the fire more contained and make it easier to extinguish. Dig at least 6 inches deep, and stack the removed

dirt to one side (you can use it to smother the fire later). Ring the pit with medium-sized rocks to keep the flames from spreading beyond the bonfire boundaries.

4 Construct a pyramid

For maximum ambiance and fuel efficiency, arrange wood and twigs upright and leaning against each other, like a pyramid or a tipi, with dry kindling underneath, keeping it raised slightly off the ground to create space for air to circulate. Use tinder, like dried grasses or wood shavings to catch the initial spark and ignite the kindling quickly.

5 Extinguish completely

When you're done, spend extra effort putting it out properly. Start about a half hour before you plan to call it a night by letting the fire die down. Even if it looks like it's out, smother the embers using the reserved dirt from digging the pit, pour ice water from a beverage cooler onto it. Add sand if you have any. The area should be cool — if not cold — to the touch before you leave.

With these simple strategies that keep safety in mind, you can enjoy plenty of fire-lit evenings during the long winter months, no matter where you live. **L**

FRESH TAKES

Tray Chic

Stag heads with amber eyes flank this versatile cast aluminum tray. Use it on your dining table, by the sofa or near the front door. The 24-inch-long receptacle can hold it all – from candles to books to keys. blackforestdecor.com, 800-605-0915

Setting the Rustic Table



Something to Tweet About (above)

A little birdy can hold your guests' linen napkins for the holiday feast. P. Allen Smith's petite iron napkin rings are sold in sets of four. Matching place card holders are also available to help you turn up the woodland charm. shop.pallensmith.com, 877-476-6313



Fresh from the Farm (above)

A big table means plenty of room for family and friends. March Legend builds generous farm tables from kiln-dried wood treated with natural coatings. Choose from trestle, pendant or traditional style tables in a wide variety of colors or finishes. fableporchfurniture.com; 866-611-5224

From the Top Down

Illuminate your holiday gathering with a bold chandelier. The rustic Montecito fixture from Steel Partners is available in architectural bronze, black, mountain brown, old iron and rust finishes. Hand-made by master craftsmen in Washington, the fixture measures 3 feet in diameter. steelpartnersinc.com, 360-748-9406



Run with It (top right)

From her studio in New Hampshire, Kate Kilgus weaves cotton yarn into table runners to create the perfect backdrop for an inviting spread. This cheery red plaid works for every fall and winter holiday. To see all of Kate's runners, towels and scarves, go to nutfieldweaver.com.

Flame High (above)

Go for a softly lighted table with oak tree branch candle holders. Salvaged branches with beautifully textured bark are cut to various heights and drilled for standard tea lights. After your holiday dinner, arrange this set of five votives on your mantel for a woody touch. artisticbynature1.etsy.com

Refining Rustic on the River



Cindy and Jon



Cindy Konz and Jon Roroff's search for land along the Mississippi River in Dubuque, Iowa, was challenging. "There were new, gated properties overlooking the river that were opening up at the time, but they were cleared of all trees and were just not our style," Cindy recalls. Luckily, they happened upon a site on which the current owners were also planning to build a log home, but had found another site they liked better. Cindy and Jon jumped on the 60-acre tract.

Why a log home: Cindy and Jon had dreamed of a log

home for 20 years, but during the design process, they opted to go with a hybrid — a mix of log and other materials that would simplify their maintenance routine.

Most important features: The couple and their two middle-school-aged children wanted a casual home to fit their outdoorsy lifestyle. The land, which features a hobby farm, hiking trails, hunting space and two barns, overlooks the river, so the new home would need to capture the view.

The Lowdown

The family worked with designer Alex Kuzmenko of PrecisionCraft Log and Timber Homes in Idaho to finalize plans that would take full advantage of the sloped site. A walk-out lower level gives the family plenty of space and storage, while the main floor's vaulted great room and screened-in porch take in the view.

PLAN SPECS

Square Footage: 5,300

Bedrooms: 4

Baths: 4 full, 1 half



The Inside Scoop

With a multilevel home like Cindy and Jon's, using a mix of exterior materials and a varied roofline adds curb appeal and visual interest. PrecisionCraft's design included log walls, log siding, stone accents and full round beams. If this look appeals to you, keep in mind:

- **Where log walls work best.** This home's lower level is faced with stone, minimizing the logs' susceptibility to water damage.
- **Log siding is an option.** Siding can be used both inside and outside to replicate the look of full log walls.
- **How materials affect a home's lines.** Horizontal log walls can be nicely complemented by the vertical lines of board-and-batten siding.
- **Logs are versatile.** This home features log ceiling beams as well as log walls to provide an open floor plan with a rustic feel.

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A loft overlooks the great room below.

Each of the upstairs bedrooms has an ensuite bath.

Upper Level

The great room, den and master bedroom all open on to the patio.

A fireplace keeps the screened-in porch cozy.

Plenty of kitchen-counter seating makes entertaining easy.

Main Level

The foyer offers a grand first impression of the great room and view.

A large pantry/laundry room accommodates an active family of four.

The bunk room is perfect for hosting the kids' friends.

A full bar is open to the trophy room.

Lower Level

A dedicated, secure gun room is perfect for the family's hunters.

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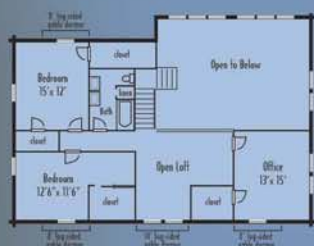
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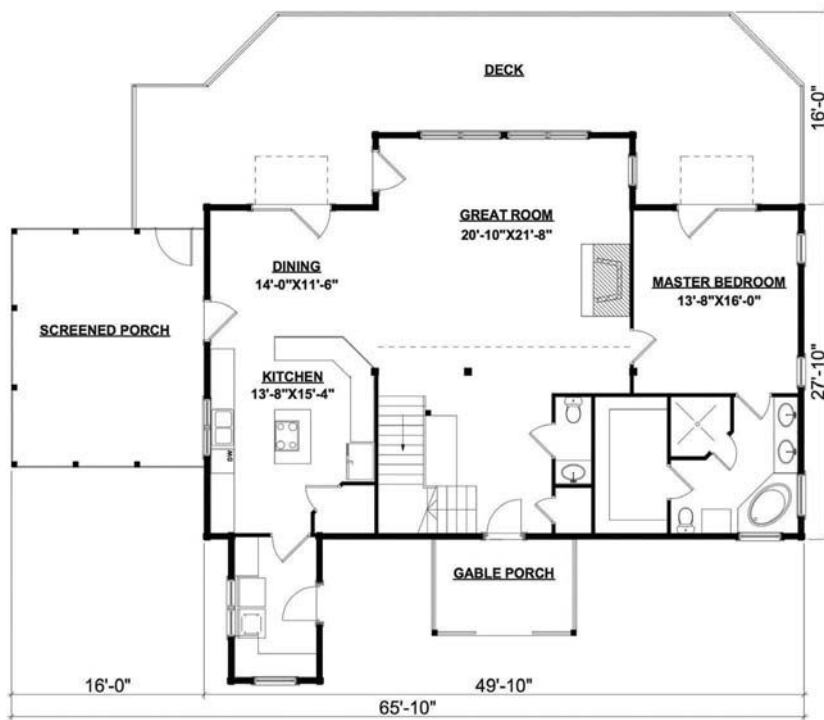




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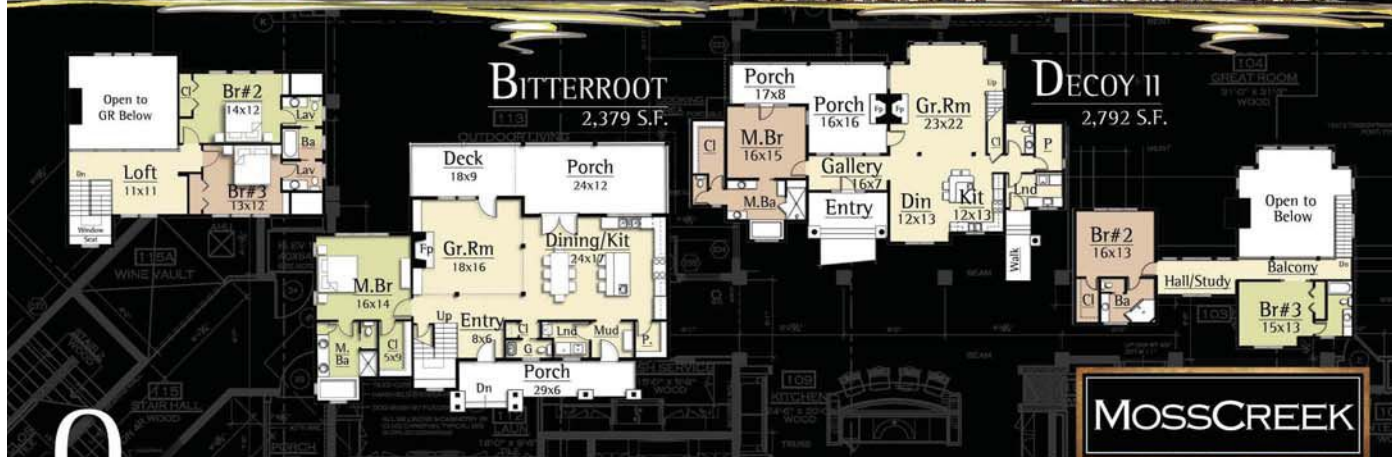


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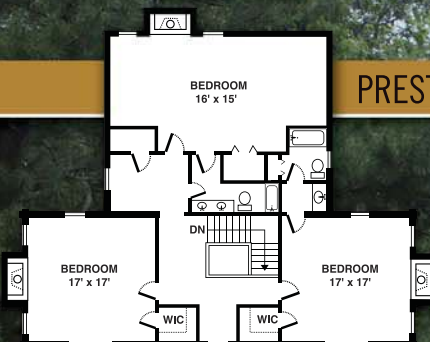
Second Floor

First Floor



Second Floor

PRESTWICK: 3,294 SQ. FT.



First Floor



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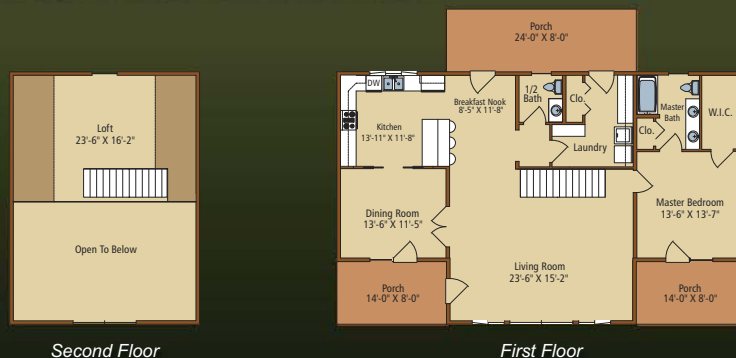
LAUREL OAKS

Total Sq. Ft.: 2,198, 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths



BROOKSIDE I

Total Sq. Ft.: 1,782, 1 Bedroom, 1.5 Baths

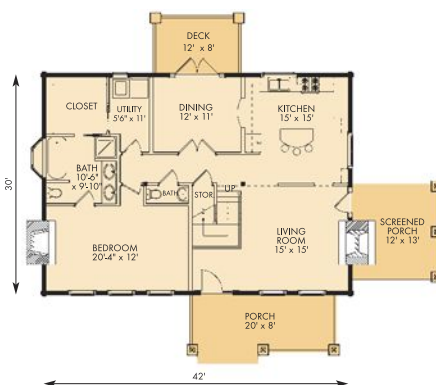


Stoneridge

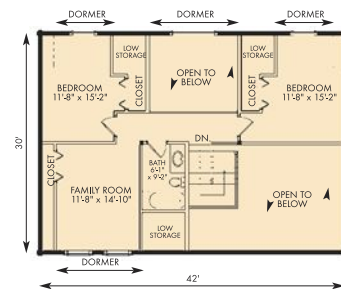
This 1 1/2 story home features three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and exposed timber frame rafters over the living and dining room. The front of the home is accented with a large dormer and a gable porch, which provides a majestic entry. The first floor master suite features a fireplace and large walk in closet. A screened porch with outdoor fireplace offers a cozy place to snuggle or entertain guests.

Bedrooms: 3
Baths: 2 1/2
Square Footage: 2,028
Package Price: Call for prices

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First Floor

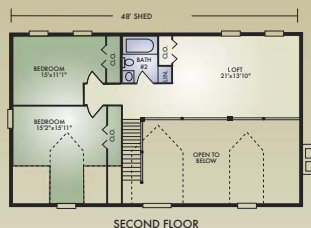


Second Floor

Orchard View

2817 sq.ft.
3 BR/3 BA

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SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

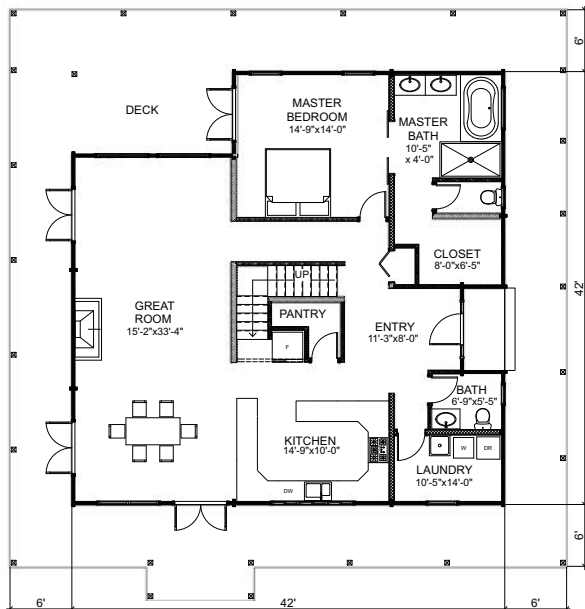


The Orchard View blends the breath-taking beauty of the traditional log home with the efficient and practical features of today's lifestyle. The open-concept great room with timbered cathedral ceiling and large stone fireplace; the master bedroom with double closets and master bath; and the centrally-located dining area - are designed for convenience and practicality. For more onformation or to order our Portfolio of floor plans and Planning Guide for \$10, call 800-368-1015. HochstetlerLogHomes.com.

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Bedrooms: 3 Bathrooms: 2 1/2
Main Floor: 1,607 sq. ft. Upper Floor: 610 sq. ft.
Porch: 1,343 sq. ft. Total: 2,217 sq. ft.

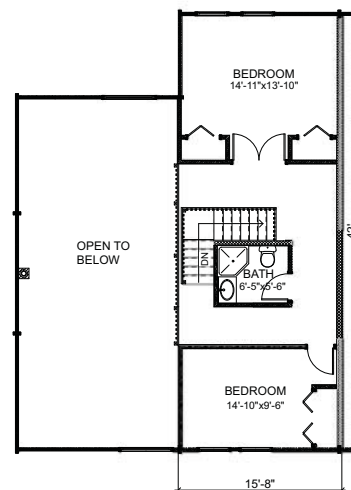


THE VAIL

This variation of a country ranch plan combines a wrap around porch on four sides with a large open kitchen, dining, and living area with an abundance of exposed beams throughout. It also offers a large master suite. Perfect as a mini mountain lodge or a seaside retreat.

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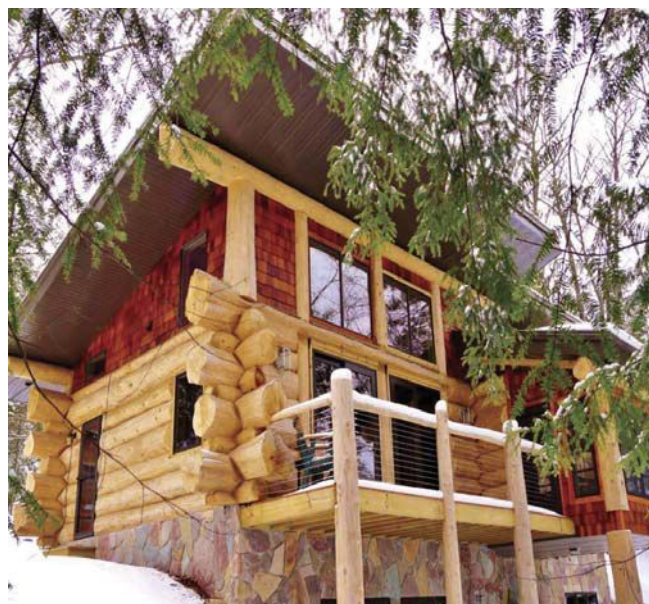


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John 3:16



LEFT: On Dedication Day, a community colorguard lines the driveway of Matthew Hutcheson's new home. This is a day that Operation FINALLY HOME recipients never forget.

BELOW: Sgt. Hutcheson bravely served in the U.S. Army for 13 years.



A Brand New Start

When his parachute failed, Army Sgt. Hutcheson fell more than 70 feet, ending his military career. Now he's fallen in love with his new home.

All U.S. Army Sgt. Matthew Hutcheson ever wanted was to provide a safe, permanent home for his family. For many years, Matthew and his wife, Leslie, had to worry about the rent or where they would have to uproot their family next, which put a strain on their health and happiness.

After serving our country for almost 13 years, Matthew's final injury occurred while he was participating in an airborne operation. At 70 feet above ground, Hutcheson's parachute lost its canopy, forcing him to hit the ground hard when he landed. He eventually was diagnosed with PTSD, TBI and a host of issues

with his back. Hutcheson medically retired on September 5, 2007.

Thanks to national nonprofit Operation FINALLY HOME, along with builder Portico Properties, the Hutcheson family will never need to worry about rent or a disruptive move again. On January 29, 2016, they became the proud owners of a custom-built, mortgage-free home in Ball Ground, Georgia.

"Our lives were forever changed that day," Leslie explains. "There's a sense of calmness over all of us, even the kids. Matthew's anxiety level is so much lower because he has finally been able to provide a home for his family."

Since the stress of finding housing has been

lifted off his shoulders, Matthew has been able to focus on one of his long-term goals: becoming a nurse. He's enrolled at Chattahoochee Technical College in Marietta, Georgia, and will start classes in January 2017. "It's always been a dream of mine to go to college, and I feel like I'm finally ready to tackle this goal," explains Matthew.

The Hutcheson family is also grateful for their new community, which has been a huge source of support. "We've known since the day we moved to Ball Ground that the people here were amazing, but this experience has brought out so much more," Leslie says. "People are always offering help — whether it be around



Thanks to the generosity of donors around the country, the Hutcheson family finally has a safe, permanent home.

the house, with the kids or even just someone to talk to.”

Thanks to a partnership with JCPenney, a group of volunteers furnished the home the night before the dedication ceremony for the Hutcheson family. “The moment we walked into the house was a mix of every emotion you could think of,” recalls Matthew. “It was crazy to think that this was all ours and that these

people did this for us.”

To the donors and partners of Operation FINALLY HOME, Matthew says, thank you. “To have people who will probably never know us donate their materials and time was a very humbling feeling. This was something we never in a million years would have expected to happen to us. Your donations don’t go unnoticed, and we are forever grateful to you.” 

THEY’VE DONE THEIR DUTY, NOW LET’S DO OURS.

This is the final installment of our “Hero House” series. We hope you’ve been inspired by the stories of courage and resilience these brave veterans have shared throughout the past year. It’s been our honor to tell them.

Though the series is concluding, the initiative will not. Please help our nation’s wounded heroes by donating to Operation FINALLY HOME. Every cent goes directly to helping a veteran and his/her family get back on their feet with a mortgage-free house. From everyone at Log Home Living, thank you.

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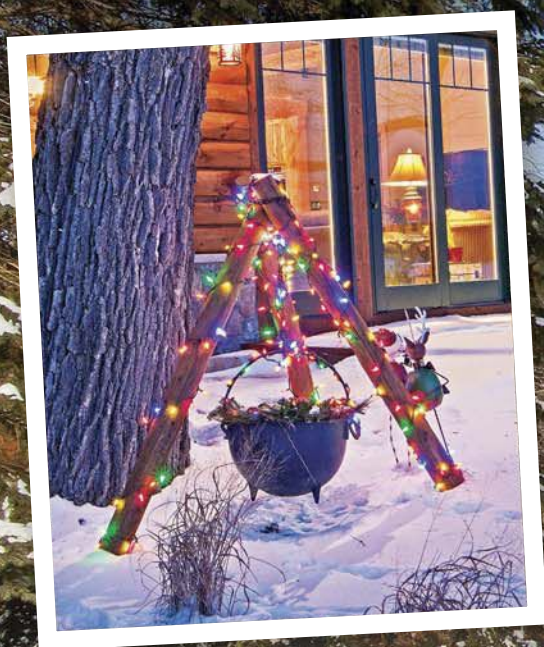
HONORING HEROES WITH HOMES

Operation FINALLY HOME provides custom-built, mortgage-free homes to wounded, ill and injured veterans, the widows of the fallen and their families, creating a solid foundation for them to move forward in their lives. To accomplish this important mission, we need support from corporate sponsors, builders, developers, volunteers, communities and people like you who can make a donation to help the next veteran.

VISIT OPERATIONFINALLYHOME.ORG/LOGHOME TO MAKE A DONATION TODAY



INSET: Colorful lights on the cauldron bring a smile of delight to all who stop by. (See the Smiths' full nighttime holiday display on page 12.)



Living the Lake Life

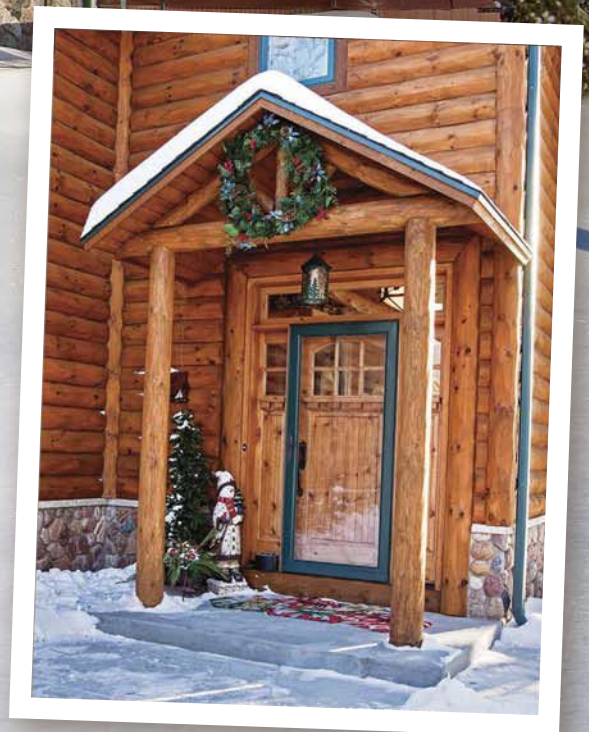


One of Jim and Stephanie Smith's biggest design challenges was figuring out how to incorporate everything they wanted into 2,500 square feet. Not a single niche went unused.

INSET: Because of code restrictions, even the overhangs had to be calculated into permissible square footage, necessitating fewer but bolder architectural details, including the eaved portico for the entryway door.

A couple trades an oversized city home for a cozy log cottage along Wisconsin's North Lake.

story by **Chris Wood** | photography by **Joseph Hilliard**



Don't tell Stephanie and Jim Smith about space. For 18 years, they spent summers with their three sons on Wisconsin's North Lake in their 1960s two-bedroom, one-bath cottage. They had one prime directive: Any fights and we drive home.

Although Stephanie says they only had to head back once, space in their 7,500-square-foot home in Brookfield has always been equally compromised by Jim's extensive collection of 37 pinball machines and 18 upright arcade games. With their youngest son now off at college, the Smiths decided to move permanently to North Lake, demolish the cottage and fulfill a dream of owning a log cabin by the water.

It's a natural dream for the couple who met in 1977 when their families were vacationing on Green Lake and have been sweethearts since their junior year in high school. "We've literally been on the lakes since childhood," says Stephanie. "Since I was 4 years old, I've been coming up here. Jim's family members were all builders on Green Lake. It's our year-round lifestyle: We sail, we fish, we garden, we water-ski in the summer; snow ski and ice skate in the winter."

When Jim ran across a log home magazine article several years ago, he read aloud to Stephanie about the guy who would come home to his log cabin and feel like he was on a North Woods vacation with the stress

RIGHT AND INSET: The mantel above the gas-fueled fireplace and the window sills provide ample space for Stephanie to generate Christmas spirit with her extensive miniatures collection and holiday decor.









melting away. There was only one response: “I think the time is now,” Stephanie recalls.

Built in 2010, the Smiths’ cabin features half-log walls with post corners over structural panels from Great Lakes Components. Gary Tenfel of Custom Craft Carpentry was the builder.

One of the major challenges was incorporating as many design elements the Smiths could fit onto the 2,500-square-foot design, which in Waukesha County includes all attached construction, like decks, garages and even overhangs. Such restrictions prevented the use of butt-and-pass corners on the 50-foot-wide lot.

“When we were done, there was not a single niche that wasn’t being used — they thought of everything,” says Gary, who used structural panels for the first time on this home and now considers himself a total convert. “They had to make a lot of particular

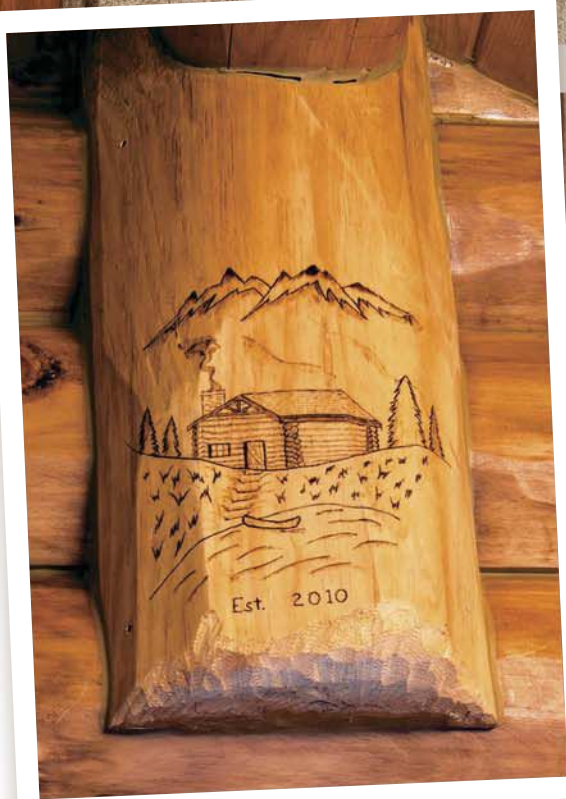
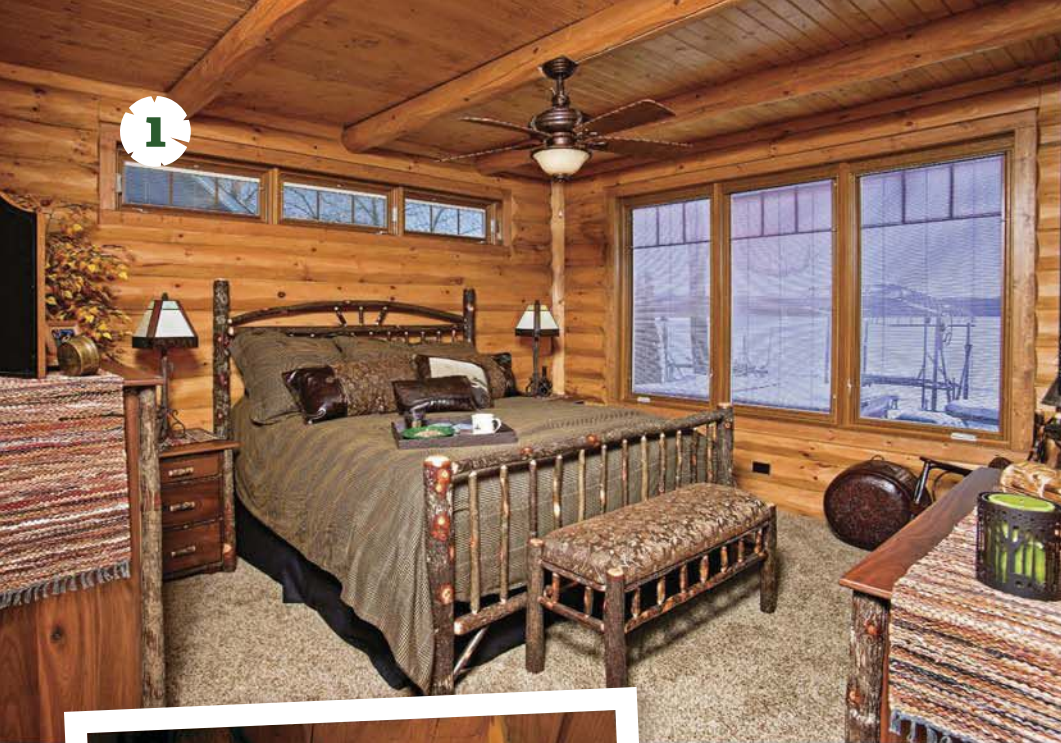
decisions on space, but from there, the construction process was really smooth.”

Credit the pre-planning to Stephanie, who drew upon her experience as a former real-estate agent and also as a miniatures enthusiast to construct a scale model of the cabin with a removable roof and modular walls and furniture to help design the floor plan. Space consciousness is evident in the bathrooms, where double sinks give way to a single pedestal basin. The kitchen boasts granite counters and stainless steel appliances, but is able to functionally blend into the great room by using a bar as a dining area, visually separating living areas without the bulk of walls or added construction expense. That and lots of windows, including four vintage portholes recovered off the coast of Key West, give the place an airy feeling.

With the Smiths about to close the sale of their Brookfield city home, the only thing left is to figure out where to put Jim’s pinball and

ABOVE: Even at one-third the size of their previous residence, the Smiths’ well-appointed cabin kitchen gives them plenty of space to prepare large holiday feasts when the kids and friends come to visit.

OPPOSITE: Even though home’s design is flowing, with a clear line of sight from room to room, each zone is clearly defined with the creative use of posts, counters or bump-outs. Choosing one uniform flooring choice – tile – throughout the space ties the whole level together and makes it appear larger than it is.



arcade machines, three of which have already been tabbed for the cabin's loft.

"We're probably going to do a bigger garage in the back, portion it off to include conditioned space and put some of the games back there, but we'll still be limited in our square footage," says Stephanie, adding that space will be even more important when the Smith boys start coming back to the lake with their own families. "We figure the boys will

never mind coming back for vacation if we live on the lake. If you're familiar with lakeside living, you know there are always toys to store in the winter, but this cabin is proof that you can do it. It's amazing because people think they can't do a log home on a 50-foot lot. Well, guess what? You can do a nice log home on a 50-foot lot." And with the Smiths' home as a shining example, you can do much more than "nice." **L**

TIP

Browse hundreds of log home and cabin designs and floor plans:

loghome.com/floorplans



1: Hickory furniture in each of the bedrooms give the Smiths' house that authentic cabin vibe. All rooms come with a view of the North Lake.

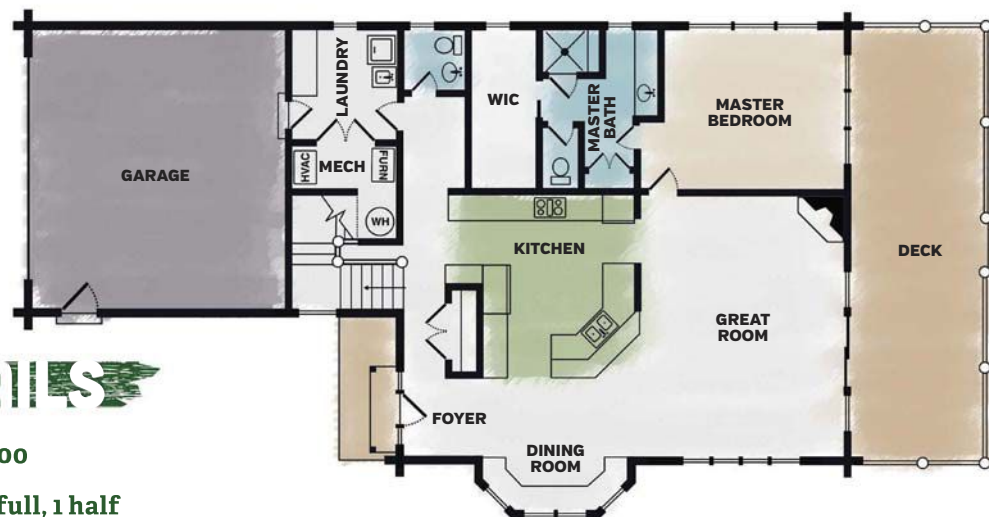
2: Small spaces need not sacrifice on luxury. The Smiths' master bathroom comes complete with an oversized steam shower with plenty of room for two.

3: Stephanie's love of miniatures came in handy – it helped her design a mini-model of their home, complete with removable roof and modular walls, during the design and planning stage.

4: The cozy lofted family room is poised to house at least a few of Jim's 50-plus pinball machines and arcade games.



UPPER LEVEL



MAIN LEVEL



Square Footage: 2,500

Bedrooms: 3 **Bathrooms:** 2 full, 1 half

Builder: Custom Craft Carpentry



Illustration by Jim Starr

Perfect Harmony

Bickering over differing design ideas?
Conversation and compromise go a long way toward
creating a log home floor plan you'll both love.

story by **Stacy Durr Albert**



The idea that opposites attract may certainly ring true in the realm of relationships, but when it comes to home design, incompatibly could be a recipe for disaster.

“People often go into a home project with two very different ideas,” explains Jay Parmeter, president of Golden Eagle Log Homes in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. “And, in a log home, every single wall and ceiling has to be talked about, so there is a great deal of thinking, discussion and compromise that needs to take place.”

The good news is that with the right attitude and sufficient planning, you can indeed achieve floor plan harmony (no matter how different your tastes may be), creating a home that all parties will love. Here’s how to get started.

Can’t We All Just Get Along?

Whether you’re building a house with your soul mate, a family member or a friend, disagreements are bound to pop up; after all, no two people, nor their needs, are exactly alike.

“Each person may love log homes, but for different reasons,” explains Karen Youngstrom of Yellowstone Log Homes in Rigby, Idaho. “One may view it as a perfect getaway for fishing and outdoor sports, while the other loves it for its coziness — a place to get all the family together.”

Another issue that may fuel the fire is the dynamics of modern relationships. “Modern couples oftentimes lead very independent lives,” shares Allen Halcomb of MossCreek Designs. “Designing a house requires a higher level of agreement and interaction than may be the norm for them.”



Though there are occasions where typecasts don't ring true, there are gender threads that surface in home design, like men hankering for a man cave or women craving control over the kitchen.

The Biggest Battles

So what design elements cause the lion's share of squabbles? It varies by home owner, but the top contenders are the kitchen, great room and master bath. Often, couples place different levels of importance on these areas or have wide-ranging visions for their layout, personalization and ambiance.

"The size of the house is one of the biggest areas of disagreement," says Allen. "It usually tends to end up bigger than one partner would like. In addition, the outside look, amount of sunlight that comes into the house, volume of glass and how they should capture the view are talked about all the time."

In some cases, one party leans toward having a large amount of glass because they

love the light and the outdoor views, while the other is resistant to the idea because he/she is thinking about the cleaning this entails.

"My advice would be to go for the window look you want and just hire cleaners as needed," says Jay. "Achieving harmony and design satisfaction is worth those extra few hundred dollars occasionally."

He Said, She Said...

Let's face it: Men and women often have very different ideas about what constitutes a dream home. While every case is unique, there are some common gender threads that surface with home design. A popular toy company's study shed light on this recently:

"Lego discovered that when boys built a

Lego house, they played on the outside with Lego cars, trucks and people," shares Allen. "When girls built a Lego house, they played on the inside, imagining relationships between the Lego people."

While this scenario may not fit every man or woman out there, it does offer insight into why some men and women have trouble agreeing on different aspects of their home's design.

"In some cases, women are inclined toward a more refined and finished look and are more cognizant of things like rough surfaces causing later issues," explains Allen. "They also may be better budget-trackers. On the other hand, men may be more drawn to a certain exterior look, materials, decks, stone, prominent fireplaces and big-view windows."

Karl Neumann photo

See this
home's plans
on page
42



3D CAD — Not Your Father's Blue Prints

Individual rooms and spatial relationships also seem to be more of a priority for one gender than another. “The kitchen is often a priority for women,” says Karen. “They usually want the kitchen combined with the living and dining areas because they envision their children and grandchildren coming over, and they don’t want to feel like they are missing out on the family being together. Men, however, are often the ones who want the big garage and a theater room.”

While some men crave a designated “man cave” or similar space carved out for hobbies, others might be the resident chefs, and therefore want a bigger say in the kitchen space. “The bottom line is that you need to figure out what’s the most important thing to you,” suggests Jay. “Whoever will use a particular room the most should be in charge of the design decisions for that room.”

First Steps

Once you decide to build your dream home, priority-one is to find a professional who will steer you in the right direction. Whether you are working with an architect, a log home staff designer or a company sales rep, you need to ensure he or she is a person who will be alert to your needs, present various options and offer recommendations.

“You need to find someone who will really listen to you,” advises Jay. “It’s important that he or she addresses your concerns and guides you. This person will serve as a referee at times, hearing both sides and pointing out the pros and cons, leading you toward a compromise that works for both of you.”

Before floor plans are drawn, you should have a number of constructive conversations with your chosen professional, working through what you want to achieve, how much you want to spend, what you are and aren’t willing to give up and why certain features matter to you. Don’t be afraid to meet as often as you need to finalize the design.

“Designing is as much about eliminating options as it is about generating new ideas,”

Once upon a time, homes were designed with the most technologically advanced equipment available: a pencil ... with an eraser. Thirty years ago, the architectural field was revolutionized with computer-aided design (AutoCAD) software, making for faster designs and easier corrections. But the design world was still flat.

“It’s difficult for a lot people to really visualize what the home will look like and how it will flow from a from a two-dimensional set of blue prints,” says Rodney Robertson, president of International Homes of Cedar based in Woodinville, Washington.

Then about 15 years ago, the home-design process was turned on its ear with the adoption of two revolutionary concepts: 3D computer-aided design and something called “building information modeling” or BIM. Now, instead of drawing lines, designers work with objects. Rodney explains how it works:

“For us, being a timber-wall company, we can pre-define all the parameters for our systems, create timber-wall “objects” and the components, like roofs and such, that encompass the home. Then we can arrange and rearrange those objects, rather than draw, erase and redraw,” he says. “From a design perspective it saves a lot of time and is much more

accurate. It also allows us to show customers what the home will look like conceptually.

“We can even determine some things we couldn’t with 2D design, like whether a door’s swing will clear a beam or we need to raise the roof,” Rodney continues. “In the past it could take a designer an hour or more to figure that out. With the 3D program we can answer those kinds of questions in seconds.”

The design complexity of log and timber homes makes avoiding these kinds of mistakes even more crucial. It also helps buyers think through their choices, like the location of the stairs, the placement of closets or the size of a pantry.

“Another benefit of the 3D modeling is that the program allows us to create fly-through videos of the house – even ones that are self-guided – in an easy, cost-effective way,” Rodney says.

Finally, and perhaps one of the greatest boons on the BIM side, is the ability to transfer all the cutting information to the mill for precision fabrication. Changes made to the design are automatically transferred as well, drastically reducing the margin for error. And, of course, the programs create construction docs for permitting and for the builder, so everyone is on the same, albeit digital, page.

3D rendering courtesy of PrecisionCraft Log & Timber Homes

shares Allen. “Before we start drawing, we have a lot of conversations with our clients. We joke that we start from a 40,000-square-foot view of the project and then continue to drill down to smaller and smaller components. A conversation at the project site also helps us all understand the limits of the footprint of the house, the orientation of the views and driveway, the style of surrounding homes and the topography of the land. With these in mind, couples often start dreaming much more in unison.”

Learn to Compromise

It may not always be easy, but compromise is a key ingredient to creating harmony in your home, and understanding the reasoning behind your significant other's priorities is crucial.

“Instead of automatically saying ‘no way’ to your partner's idea, ask why that particular thing is important,” recommends Karen. “Be willing to hear him or her out and compromise

on items that you may not feel strongly about. Think about the things that matter most to you, and remember that this is a dream that both of you are bringing to life.”

Listing priorities out ahead of time may help, perhaps even dividing the list between must-haves and wishes. “One house simply can't contain every dream you've ever had,” explains Allen. “A house is undoubtedly a series of compromises of style, size and budget.”

Sometimes budget can promote compromise, since it may dictate which items on your wish list are feasible and which are not. “Usually budget drives size, giving us boundaries to work within,” says Allen. “It also helps to put everything on the table in the way of features, *and* their associated costs. This encourages ‘value judgments’ as to just how important a certain feature is.”

Once people see their ideas drawn on paper, they sometimes decide they really don't

need certain features anymore, and many disagreements tend to work themselves out.

Practice Patience

It may be a bit cliché, but the old saying that “Rome wasn't built in a day” is a good adage to keep in mind when designing your dream home. Don't rush important decisions; take the time to have multiple meetings and really think it through. Listen to the advice of the professionals, and don't be afraid to speak up and make revisions. If you find yourself at an impasse, take time off and come back to it later with a clear head.

“If you and your partner disagree on major features such as budget, size or style of the home, all we can do is suggest that you put a pause on the project for a little while and come back when you have worked it out between yourselves,” says Allen. “Trying to force agreement can cause a larger disagreement and bad feelings later on in the project.”

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A Happy Ending

In the end, taking the time to work out a plan that everyone agrees on will make all the difference. "Make sure that you are both getting something that makes you happy every day you wake up there," advises Karen. "The process can test your patience, but you won't remember that process to be quite as hard when you enter that door for the first time and walk into the dream that you can now call home." 



Second Chance Do Overs

Worried about making design decisions you'll regret?

According to the experts we interviewed, here are the biggest changes that log home owners would make if they had the chance to do it all over again:

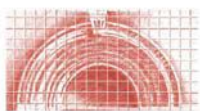
1. Add more storage – especially closets.
2. Create a bigger great room.
3. Plan more open space for families to gather together.
4. Bring nature inside more: Capture views and expand outdoor living.

JK Lawrence photo



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- Site considerations
- Deciding on a lender, supplier and builder
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- Manufacturing, delivery and installation
- Finishing your home

The presentation also includes a question and answer session with our professor and numerous images from the pages of our magazines to inspire your own design.

The Log and Timber University is the hands-down choice when you're ready for a graduate's degree in building your dream home. Attend The Log and Timber University and graduate with the knowledge that you need to confidently build your own custom wood home!

Visit loghome.com/university for updates.

Schedule subject to change without notice.

Check website for most accurate and up-to-date information.

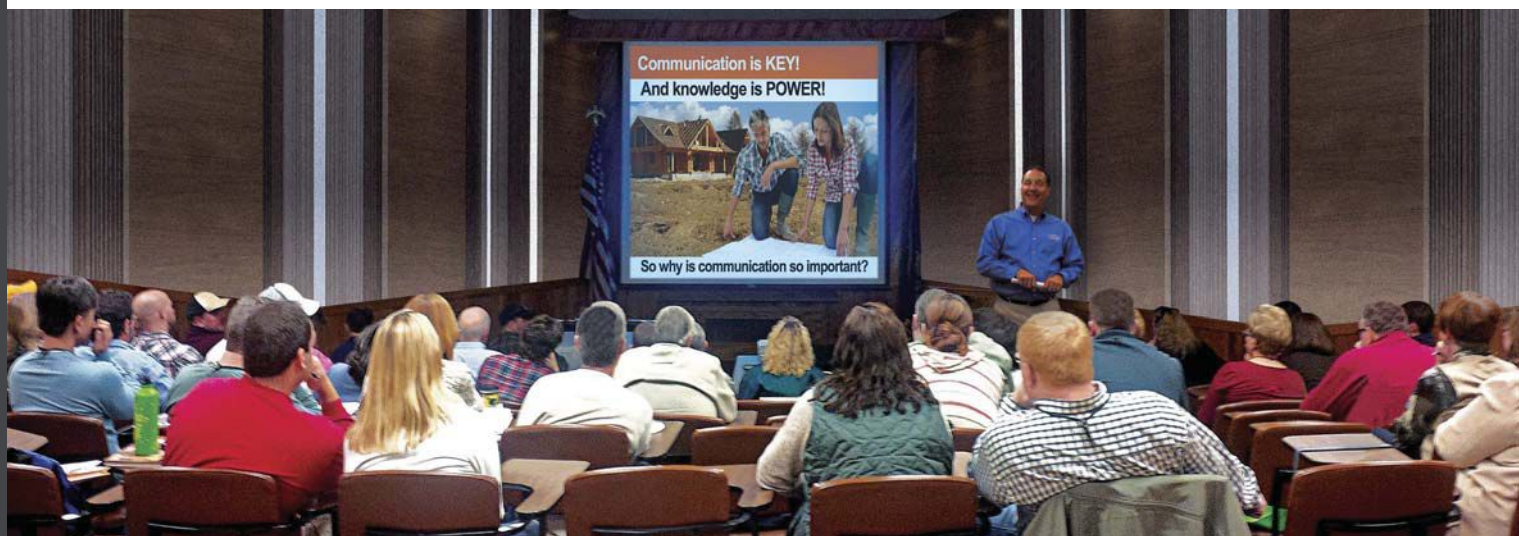
The course is \$119 per couple or \$85 per person, which includes the *Course Guide*, a comprehensive textbook to guide you through the entire homebuilding process; *Annual Buyer's Guide*; continental breakfast or snacks; plus **FREE** Lifetime Alumni Pass to the Log & Timber Home Shows.



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90% of the people who take this course would recommend it to others.

Why Buy From A Log and Timber Homes Council Member?

By Devin Perry

Real Log Homes photo by Peter Amend

Remote settings are beautiful, but can present some obstacles to the construction process. Log and Timber Homes Council members are adept at working with even the most challenging sites.

RIGHT: Every type of buildable wood species and timber profile are represented in the LTHC.

To find a log or timber home producer in the Council, you've got two great online resources at your disposal: nahb.org and loghomes.org.

For additional information, contact the LTHC at 800-368-5242 ext. 8576.



Every industry has brands that are universally known for quality and integrity. Some brands reverberate so powerfully that they become ingrained in our speech. If you have shopped for appliances and heard the salesman say, the Cadillac of washing machines, then you are familiar with this phenomenon. Putting the cheesy line aside, wouldn't it be wonderful if a similar "Cadillac standard" existed for log and timber frame homes? It does; it's called The National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) Log and Timber Homes Council (LTHC).

Founded in 1977 to resolve technical and code-compliance issues that were impacting the industry, members of the Log and Timber Homes Council have worked tirelessly for almost 40 years to protect America's archetypal home style.

Representing more than 30 of the top manufacturers in North America, home buyers would do well to work with companies that are part of NAHB's Log and Timber Homes Council, as they hold themselves to a higher standard of business and construction practices. Log and Timber Homes Council members must:

- Abide by a strict code of ethics.
- Grade their logs and timbers by third party agencies to ensure structural integrity.
- Provide detailed construction manuals to ensure correct construction techniques.
- Sponsor scientific studies that advance log building technologies.
- Provide free information to help consumers make smart choices.

"Members of the Log and Timber Homes Council share the same passion for living in log and timber frame homes as their customers do," says Council Chairman Doug Parsons of Appalachian Log Structures in Ripley, West Virginia. "Each company invests in the Council to develop and improve construction practices and policies that will extend and protect the log home living lifestyle well into the future."

Members of the Log and Timber Homes Council also abide by the free-enterprise system, where companies compete on a level playing field for their clients' business. Members agree that

they will not attempt to injure, with malicious intent, either directly or indirectly, the professional reputation of other members, nor to indiscriminately criticize another member's work in public or take unfair advantage over fellow members. Each member agrees to conduct his or her business in a manner that avoids controversy, but if disagreements do arise, to resolve disputes through non-litigation mechanisms wherever possible.

Speaking of which, what happens if there is a dispute involving a company that belongs to the Log and Timber Homes Council? After hearing all sides of an issue, the Log and Timber Homes Council Ethics Committee will suggest ways to resolve the issue and to prevent future conflicts. A company in question may also receive a warning with specific recommendations to bring its actions in line with accepted practices. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Ethics Committee will advise all parties to pursue legal solutions. If, however, a member of the Council fails to live up to its expectations, the Ethics Committee has the right to revoke or suspend Council membership.

Log and Timber Homes Council members will tailor your home's design to meet all your aesthetic and structural needs. So whether you want a traditional squared, log-on-log look (right), a cozy cabin with rounded logs (bottom right) or a mountain-modern masterpiece (below), look to the members of the LTHC to design and manufacture the home of your dreams. You can find a member at loghomes.org or nahb.org.



RIGHT: Coventry Log Homes photo by Roger Wade
 FAR RIGHT: Golden Eagle Log Homes photo
 TOP RIGHT: Appalachian Log Structures photo



Although the Log and Timber Homes Council has no way of mediating disputes with non-members, the Council maintains a file on all non-member complaints it receives. This helps the Council to protect the entire industry – whether they're members or not. The Ethics Committee also reviews this file when considering a log or timber home manufacturer for membership, to ensure the Council seal always denotes a quality log or timber home provider.

To ensure the best experience possible for your log home plans, look for the NAHB Log and Timber Homes Council logo before you design or build your dream log home. To learn more about the Council and its members, visit the official consumer website loghomes.org or, call the Log and Timber Home Council at 800-368-5242, ext. 8576.

DID YOU KNOW that log and timber homes are considered systems-built structures? This classification comes from the systematic approach to building the homes, as well as the controlled environments in which they are crafted. Other building system methods include modular, panelized and concrete construction, and often these systems combine to make for a truly unique and high-performance house. The National Association of Home Builders' Building Systems Councils (BSC) represents all of these types of housing and the highly skilled men and women who build them. For more information, contact the BSC at 800-368-5242, ext. 8576 or visit nahb.org.



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NAHB Log and
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Visit loghomes.org
for more information.



Looking for information on how to build your dream home?

Want DIY maintenance tips? Need hiring guidance?

THE FREE RESOURCE PAGE

is the perfect place to find the content you're looking for.

There are tons of topics for you to explore! Check out a few listed below:

ARTICLES:

- Finance Your Dream
- Guide to Building your Log Home
- Staining Options for Your Log Home
- Universal Design

VIDEOS:

- Energy Efficiency 101

WEBINARS:

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Visit loghome.com/resources and start planning your dream home now!

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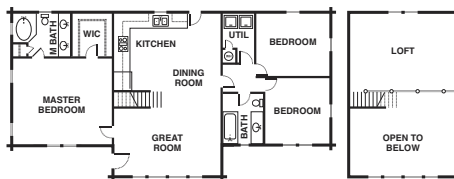
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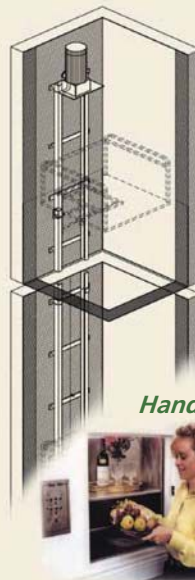
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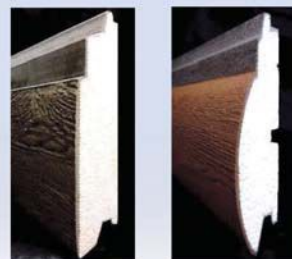
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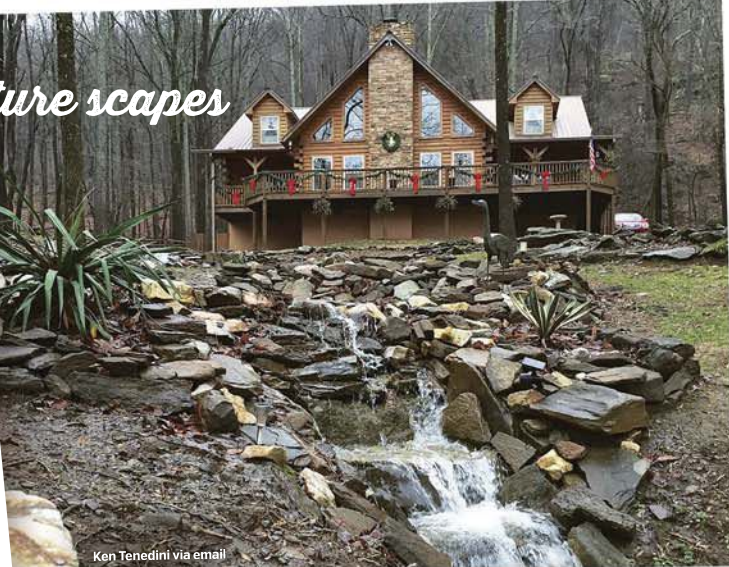
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