

SPECIAL EDITION

LOG & TIMBER HOME LIVING

The Best Floor Plans of the Year

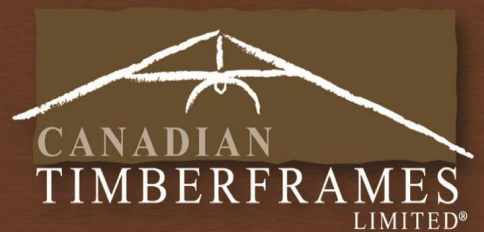
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The Best Floor Plans of the Year

10 floor plan magic

18 let's get cozy

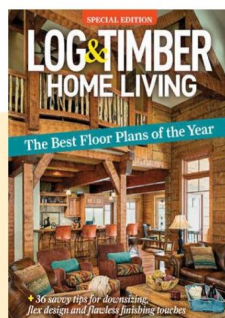
FLOOR PLANS LESS THAN 2,000 SQ FT 26

38 flex your floor plan muscle

FLOOR PLANS 2,000–3,000 SQ FT 44

54 floor plan finishing touches

FLOOR PLANS MORE THAN 3,000 SQ FT 60



Log walls and timber-framed trusses harmonize beautifully in an open-concept floor plan.

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6 Editor's Note

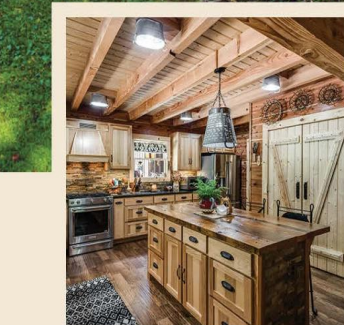
featured advertising

80 Free Information Guide

82 Builder/Dealer Marketplace

84 Supplier Marketplace

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Photo & Design
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Managing Editor
SUZANNA LOGAN

Associate Editor
GRIFFIN SUBER

Advertising Sales Director
HEATHER GLYNN
GNAZDOWSKI
703-731-9659
hgniazdowski@aimmedia.com

National Accounts Manager
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BY DESIGN

If this issue of **Log & Timber Home Living** looks a little different to you, you're not imagining things. It's dedicated to one thing only (which just happens to be our readers' favorite topic): FLOOR PLANS!

For several years running, we've crafted an annual, newsstand-only issue dedicated to the subject. In addition to articles that share smart design advice, the special edition always showcases plans in three categories: less than 2,000 square feet; 2,000 to 3,000 square feet; and over 3,000 — and this issue is no exception. What *has* changed, however, is that instead of asking you to trek to your local grocery store, home-



supply center or book depot to buy a copy to accompany your **Log & Timber Home Living** collection, we are sending it directly to you as part of your subscription.

In addition to 38 outstanding log and timber home plans ranging from cozy cottages to grand lodges, inside you will find tons of tips to shave square footage without sacrificing space, craft a home that grows older gracefully and ways to infuse it with finishing touches you won't regret — regardless of size. So whether you're designing a vacation getaway, planning an addition or creating your "forever" home from scratch, we've got you covered.

Happy planning!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna".

DONNA PEAK
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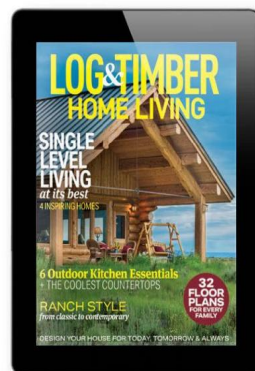


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Winterwoods Homes photo

floor plan magic

The road to home-design success isn't lined with gold; it's built with sturdy logs and timbers. But first, you need a plan.



StoneMill Log Homes photo by James Ray Spahn

floor plan magic

Dorothy said it best: “There’s no place like home.” Now, more than ever, people realize the importance and impact our homes have on our physical and emotional well being. But the perfect home isn’t going to fall from the sky, and, often, it’s not found simply by looking at countless real estate listings. You design and build it yourself.

The prospect of building a custom log or timber home is incredibly satisfying because it gives you the opportunity to construct a house perfectly suited to the way you and your family live — and surround yourself with the natural beauty of wood in the process.

But before you can build it, you need to design it; and before you can design it, you have to give some careful consideration to a host of factors, such as: the way you live now and how your lifestyle may evolve; the number of people who currently reside there and who may move out/in down the line; what you love about your current home and what you can’t wait to change.

The best thing about creating a custom log or timber home is that all of these factors not only can be considered but also addressed. There’s a temptation to jump right in and draw up the floor plan — put the kitchen here, situate the bedrooms there ... however, it’s wise to make some major decisions about form and function before you start to label spaces. Instead of “rooms,” think of your future log or timber home in terms of “activity zones” that reflect the way you live.

There are four primary activity zones: living/eating, working, sleeping and storage/garage. The size of these zones, and their proximity to each other, will be dictated by your wants and needs, as well as convenience and practicality. For instance, you may want to oversize your garage to accommodate extra storage for things like lawn mowers, jet skis or holiday decorations. You may want to locate this garage in close proximity to the living/eating zone so that it’s easy to unload groceries OR you may want to detach it from the house altogether so that starting a car engine in the wee hours of the morning won’t wake others in the house. The decision is all yours.

So while you are examining the floor plans in this special issue of **Log & Timber Home Living**, don’t just look at them in terms of square feet, number of beds and baths or one level versus two — evaluate them based on how their layouts (their zones) could work for you as they are, as well as what you would change. With thoughtful planning, a little courage and a whole lot of heart, you will be well on your way down the yellow brick road to floor plan perfection — no wizard required.

Unobstructed site lines from one room to the next will create a sense of space while keeping the square footage cozy.



Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia photo by Roger Wade



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KNOW YOUR DESIGN RIGHTS

When you're ready to purchase a floor plan from a log or timber home company or designer, be aware that you won't own the actual plan — just a one-time right to build the home. This is an important piece of the process to understand, because it protects both the company and you from copyright infringement. Deciding on a plan from one company and "shopping" it around to others is a big faux pas. A reputable log or timber home producer will never knowingly use a copyrighted plan from another company. If you do plan to build or alter an existing floor plan from a designer other than your own, be sure to get permission from the plan's originator.

To protect yourself from copyright violations, keep the following tips in mind:

- Under U.S. copyright law, a floor plan is protected the moment it's created, regardless of whether or not the creator has registered the plan with the U.S. Copyright Office.
- Copyright applies to the interior layout of a home as well as the elevations and exterior design.
- When you buy floor plans and construction documents, you are actually buying a one-time license to build that house.
- Copyright law also protects derivations of the original plan. You cannot change a wall or roofline and consider it your own plan.



A loft with a dormered window will maximize the volume of a vaulted ceiling and boost your livable space at minimal cost.

Katahdin Cedar Log Homes photo by James Ray Spahn

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Yankee Barn Homes photo courtesy of Northpeak Design

let's get cozy

8 easy ways to make your home feel
welcoming and comfortable.

let's get cozy

We all strive for it — that perfect blend of coziness and elbow room. So what does the “cozy” concept mean to you? Is it a steaming mug of coffee savored from a tiny porch on a brisk morning? Is it enjoying a good book in front of a crackling fire in an expansive great room? Maybe it's the comfort found in having a sense of order and efficiency in your home. Only you can decide how much house will be the perfect amount.

The concept of a cozy environment may be relative, but proper scale is essential to create comfort. Oversized, open spaces can be overwhelming and stressful just as much as a cramped space can feel claustrophobic.

Once you pin down the square footage that fits, there are a lot of fantastic ways to make it feel like home. We've assembled eight of our favorite ideas to keep in mind while you peruse floor plans.

1 Keep the Hearth at the Heart. Open floor plans are a great use of space, but to keep them warm and welcoming, nothing beats a central hearth. Fireplaces are a log and timber home staple. Not only do they add instant ambiance, they're they an excellent source of supplemental heat. Just be sure your firebox and ventilation are in good working order.

2 Vary Your Ceiling Heights. Log and timber home floor plans can feel quite dramatic, and soaring ceilings are often part of the appeal. But when you're trying to create a cozy cottage, that grandeur may seem a little much. Lowering the ceiling — at least

in some areas — is an easy solution. One good candidate is the kitchen, especially since vaulted ceilings can make it difficult to install cabinetry, lighting and vents. Single-story bedrooms are smart, too, because what should be cozier than the spot where you sleep?

3 Make Your Entryway Welcoming. It's the first thing guests see when they walk through the front door, and while a soaring two-story foyer is dramatic, it also can feel overpowering in a log cabin or timber cottage. Create a bit of suspense and allow your home to unfold slowly by looking to floor plans that feature a distinct, small-scale foyer.

4 Allow Your Home to Tell a Story. The natural warmth of exposed logs and timbers automatically imparts a cozy feeling to a house, but you can take that ambiance a step further



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by incorporating reclaimed materials in the mix. It could be as decorative as adding vintage doors or antique hardwood flooring, or you could source timbers from old railroad trestles and repurpose them in a more structural way. Whatever you choose, learn the provenance of the pieces so you can share their story with guests when they ask (and they will).

5 Let the Light Shine. Sunshine is nature's little pick-me-up, so infusing your home with natural light will make a small space feel bright and cheery. It's especially important to consider this fact if your home has a walk-out basement, where you'll want to introduce as much sunlight as possible. If it's feasible, opt for 9-foot ceilings in the lower level, which should allow for oversized 8-foot-tall windows. This extra height can make a huge difference in the livability and enjoyment of your home.

6 Establish a Light Mood. The sun may be the ideal light source, but once it sets, it's vital to have properly layered illumination in a log or timber home. Ambient (general) light can come from above in the form of inconspicuous recessed lights or a dramatic chandelier. Dimmer switches will let you adjust the level of light to create a specific mood. Both ambient and directed task light are essential in the kitchen for safety, and accent lighting (sconces, spotlights or even colored LEDs) add the drama.

7 Create Nooks and Crannies. After you establish the overall layout of your house, identify places where you could add a nook for a breakfast table, a reading chair or game area. Special spaces like these not only carve out spots for relaxation or casual entertaining, they take a small home's design from adequate to exceptional.

Where do you find them? Look for what design experts call "dead-end" spaces, like the end of a hallway or a corner of a great room. Then define these spaces by infusing them with architectural details that set them apart.

8 Keep it Small ... But not too Small. The "tiny home" concept seems to have had its day. While the desire for smaller homes continues, buyers have realized that they have to be realistic in terms of size — especially in a full-time residence — and if a home is too small, it will feel cramped, not cozy. While reviewing small-scale floor plans, take care to ensure the spaces are livable. Look for ways you can devote space for items like an office, media room or home library. Personalized spaces like these are what convert a plan from a house to a home.



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4 Small Home Must Haves

Jonathan Orpin, founder and owner of New Energy Works, a timber frame and design firm with locations in New York and Oregon, is a champion of smart design, no matter its size. He believes there are several elements you should squeeze into every home, regardless of square footage.

Open living area. "In our designs, we include a combined kitchen/living/dining area we call 'the commons,'" Jonathan says. By combining these important spaces in a central location, it becomes flexible space suitable for a variety of uses — a feature particularly important in a smaller home.

Pantry. No one has ever regretted having an abundance of storage, and the kitchen is one room that requires its fair share. "I always plan a pantry," explains Jonathan. "It's a cheap form of storage that saves a lot of room."

Walk-in closets. Many people think that large walk-in closets are a place to slash square footage in a small-scale home, but Jonathan disagrees. "We always include walk-ins, complete with drawers, shoe racks, shelves, etc.," he says. A built-in space like this not only maximizes the floor space in a bedroom, it can reduce the amount of costly furniture you need to buy.

Mudroom/mechanical room. "Even when there's not a lot of square footage to spare, I like to include a mudroom or mechanical room," he says. "Big or small, this type of dedicated space keeps everything organized and accessible."



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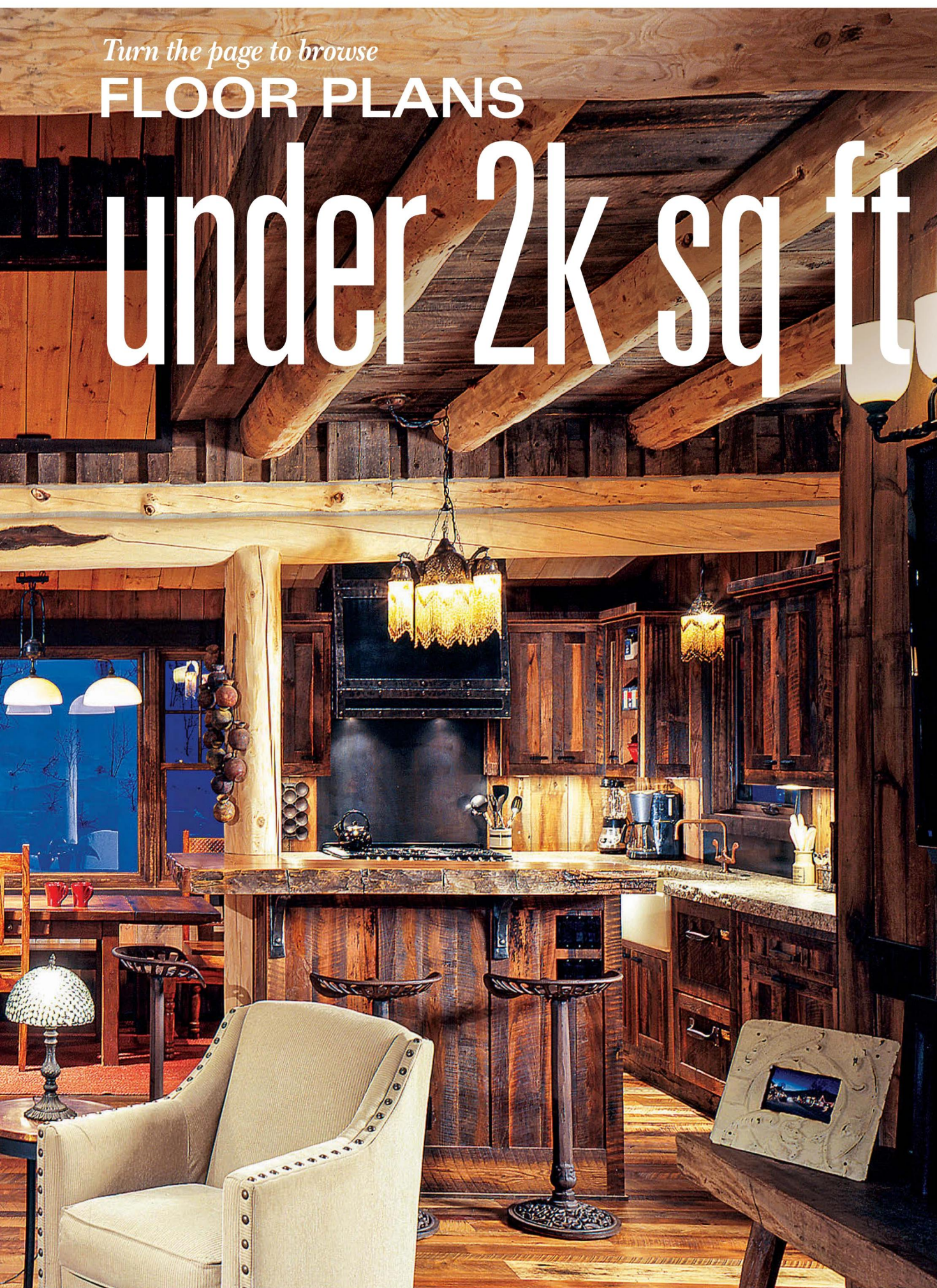
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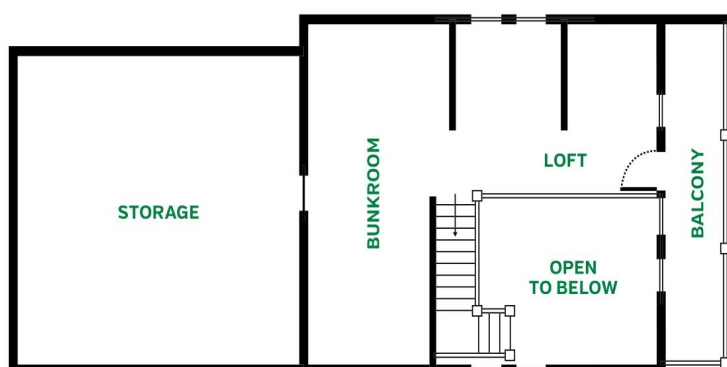
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under 2k sq ft

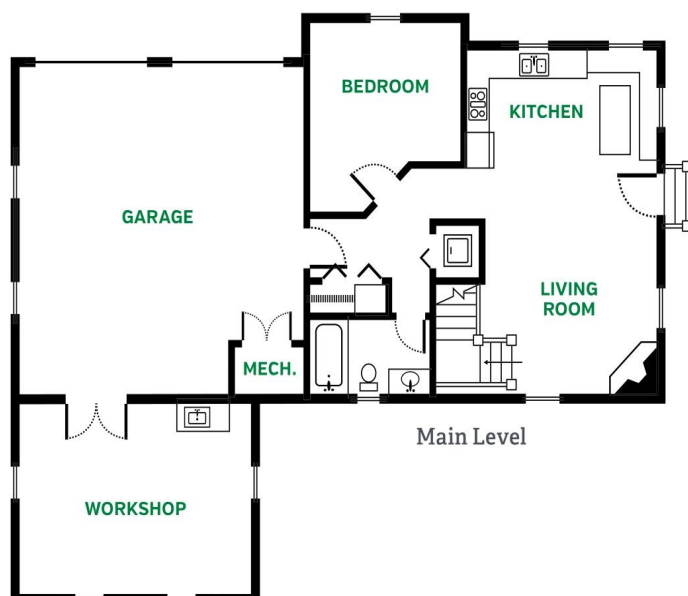


James Ray Spahn photo

FLOOR PLANS *less than 2,000 sq. ft.*



Upper Level



Main Level

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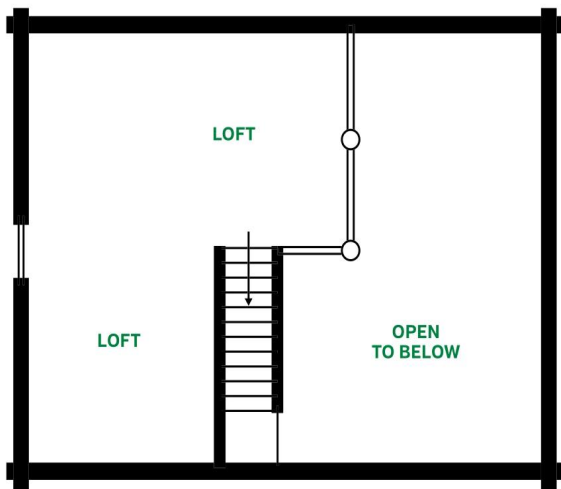
Square Footage: 1,085

Bedrooms: 1

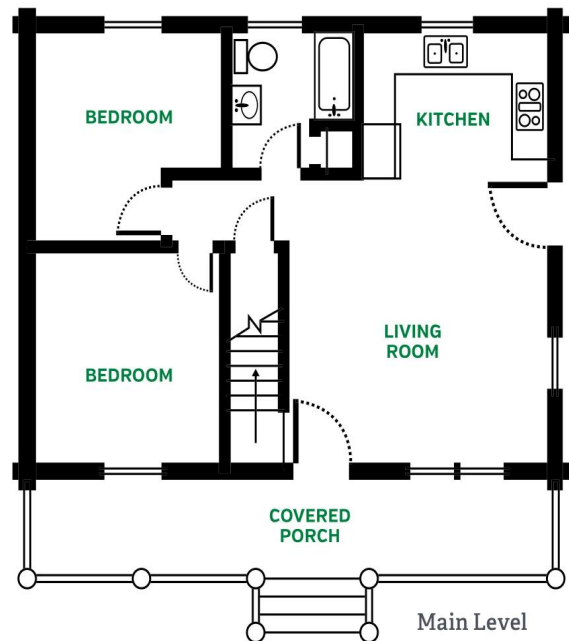
Baths: 1 full

Built as a guest house for family and friends, this home was inspired by European cottages the owners saw during the time they were stationed in Germany and Austria. The first floor has open concept living room and kitchen and a private bedroom. The second floor loft functions as a bunk room.

FLOOR PLANS *less than 2,000 sq. ft.*



Upper Level



Main Level



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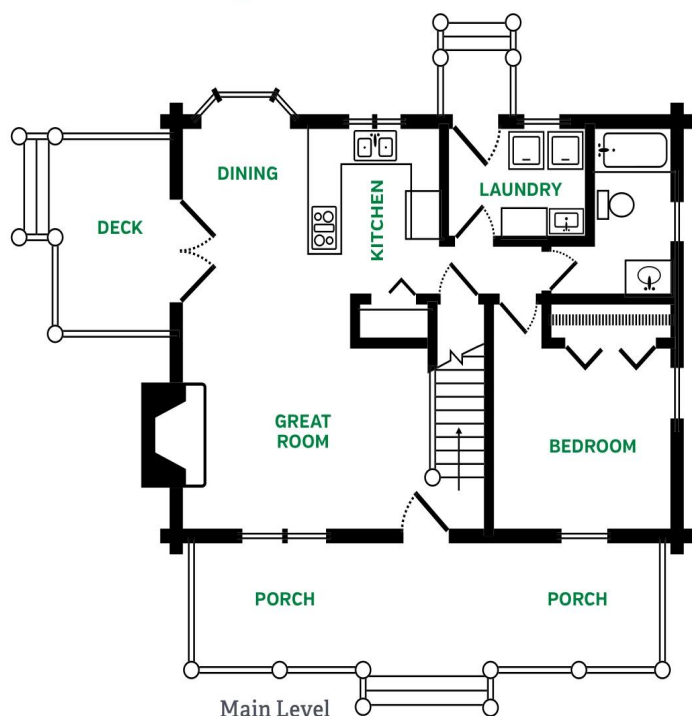
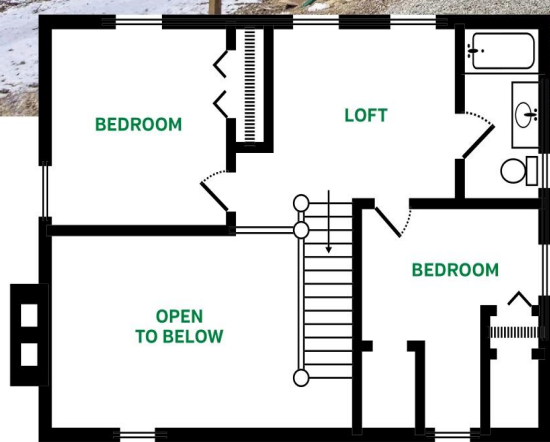
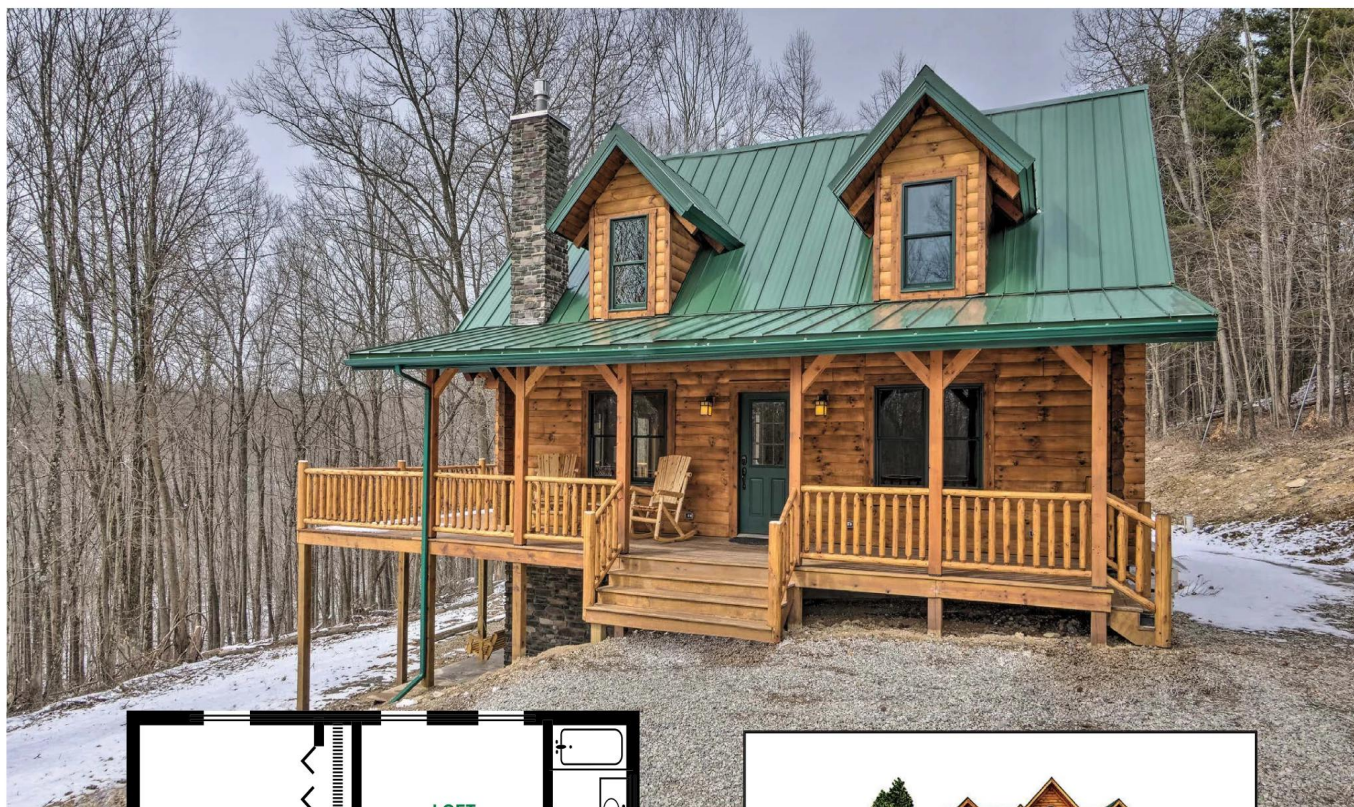
The Woodland

Square Footage: 1,140

Bedrooms: 2 Baths: 1 full

The Woodland is a popular choice in our Tradesman style. This cabin offers a functional floor plan for a weekend retreat or can be used as a great starter home. The Woodland offers an open concept design, bath, 2 bedrooms and a loft. The country porch is perfect for relaxing on at the end of the day.

FLOOR PLANS *less than 2,000 sq. ft.*



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MODEL NAME

The Cambridge

Square Footage: 1,252

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full

The Cambridge is a very popular traditional log home designed for those who desire a smaller three-bedroom plan. It still features the popular open-concept great room with exposed timbered ceiling and a stone fireplace, a deck off the dining room, and open loft overlooking the downstairs. Upstairs the rear shed dormer maximizes the space in the back bedroom, loft and bath. This efficient, step-saving floorplan also includes a convenient first-floor laundry/mudroom accessible from the kitchen or outside and a built-in kitchen pantry. A bay window in the dining area offers an expanded view out the back. The full-length front porch and double dormers grace the front.

FLOOR PLANS *less than 2,000 sq. ft.*



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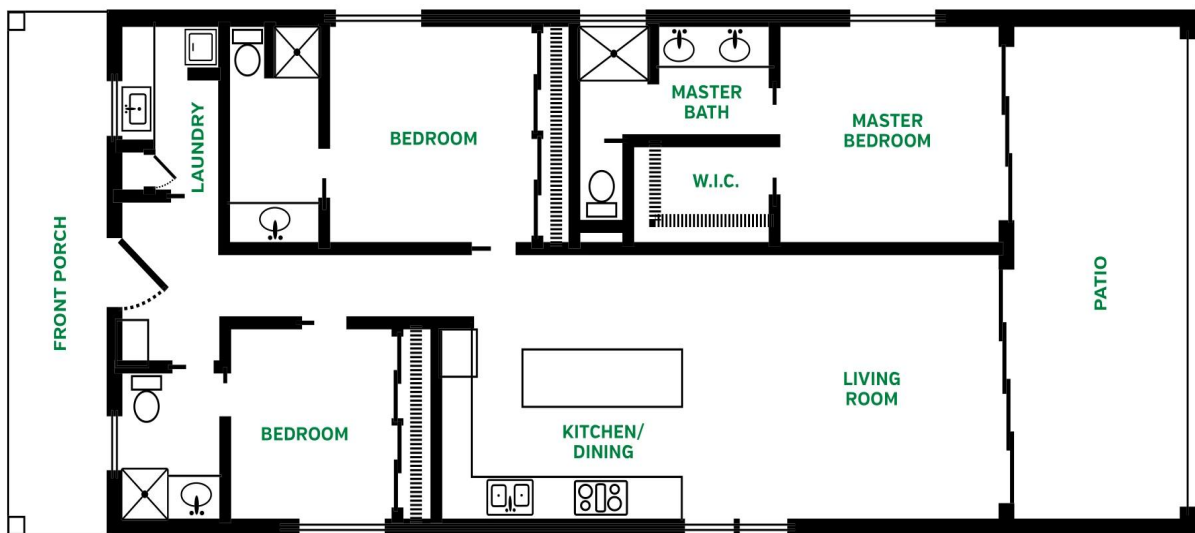
MODEL NAME

A3 - Breckenridge

Square Footage: 1,500

Bedrooms: 3

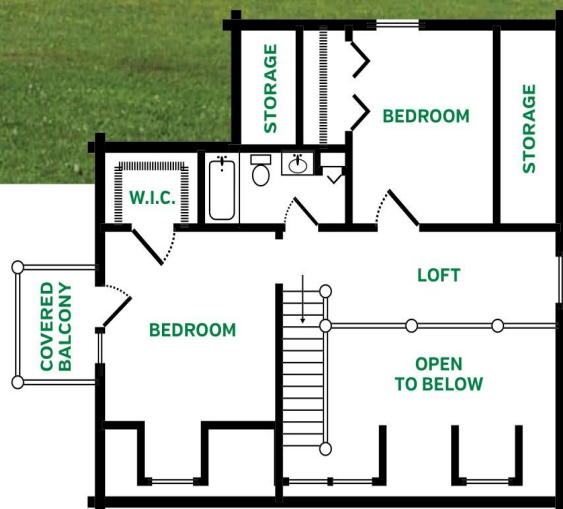
Baths: 3 full



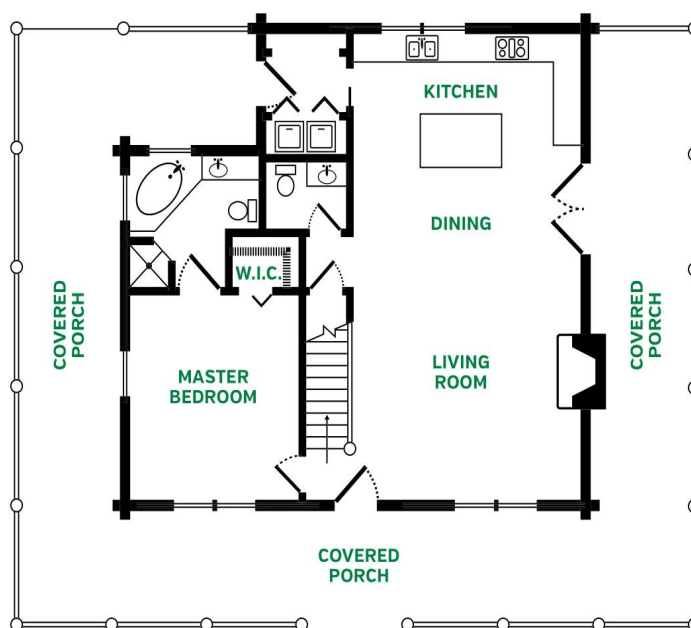
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MODEL NAME

The Country Corner

Square Footage: **1,573**

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

The Country Corner is a beautifully designed cabin that features a downstairs master bedroom with an open living room, dining room, and kitchen and a wrap around porch on three sides of the home, as well as a second story balcony off one of the bedrooms.

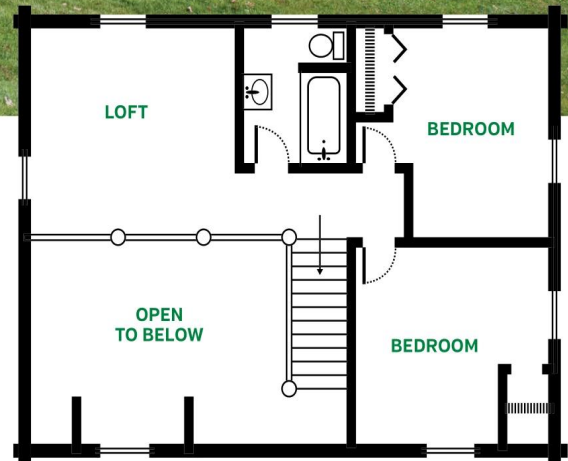


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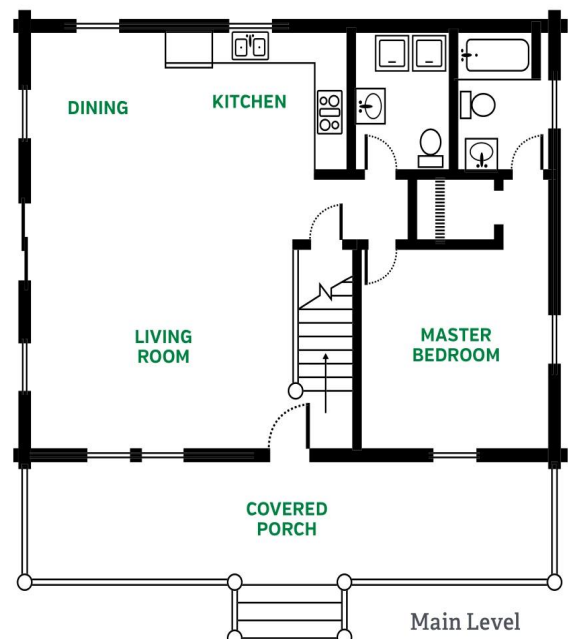
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Upper Level



Main Level

MODEL NAME

The Clearwater

Square Footage: 1,586

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

One of our most popular log home designs, this model offers all the right amenities. A covered front porch offers additional outdoor living space while a sliding glass door off the dining/living area invites in the sun. The master suite is on the first floor with a walk-in closet as you enter the master bath. The entrance is grand indeed as the cathedral ceiling over the living area, the stairway and railings add majestic log home charm. A shed dormer on one side and two gabled dormers on the other, boost its functionality and aesthetic value to the upstairs rooms and loft.

FLOOR PLANS *less than 2,000 sq. ft.*



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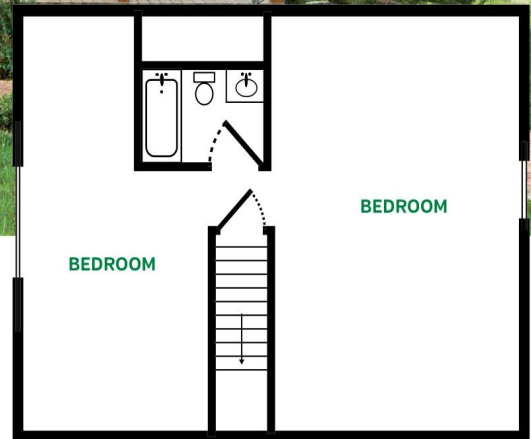
MODEL NAME

The Clayton Cabin

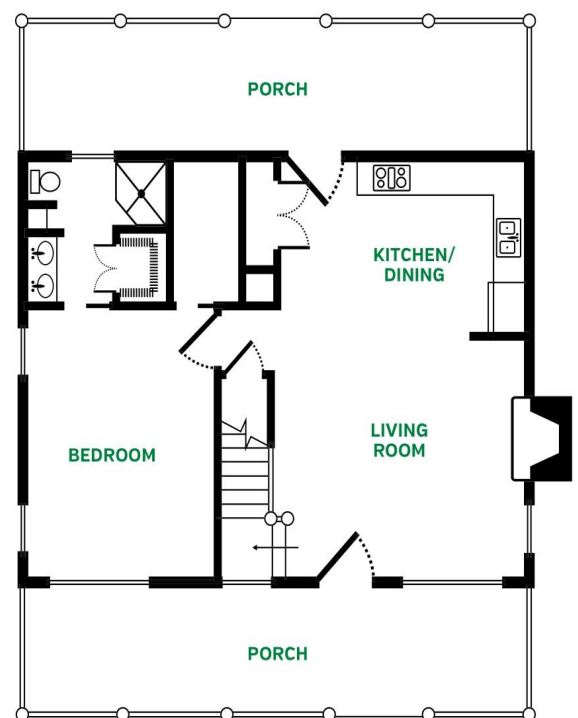
Square Footage: 1,726

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full

The Clayton Cabin was custom designed, manufactured and built by Honest Abe Log Homes in a creative collaboration with homeowners who conceived of a cabin that captured the simplicity, beauty and spirit of Southern pioneer log homes. Ideal for aging in place, the first floor has an open dining, kitchen and living area, powder room and private master suite. Upstairs there's a full bath and space for a library, office, craft room or guest quarters in either of the two large rooms. Front and back eight-foot, full-length porches extend the living and entertaining space outside. The homeowners graciously allow Honest Abe customers to use their dream house plan for their own log, timber frame or hybrid home.

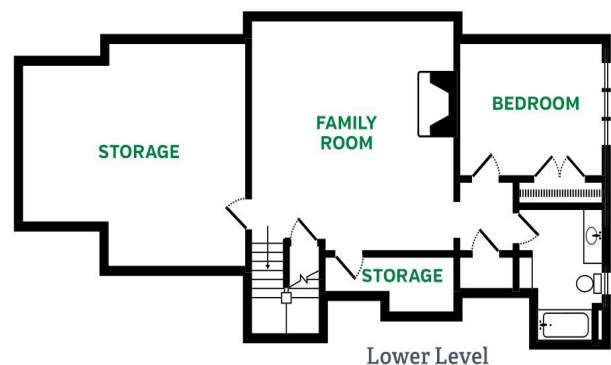
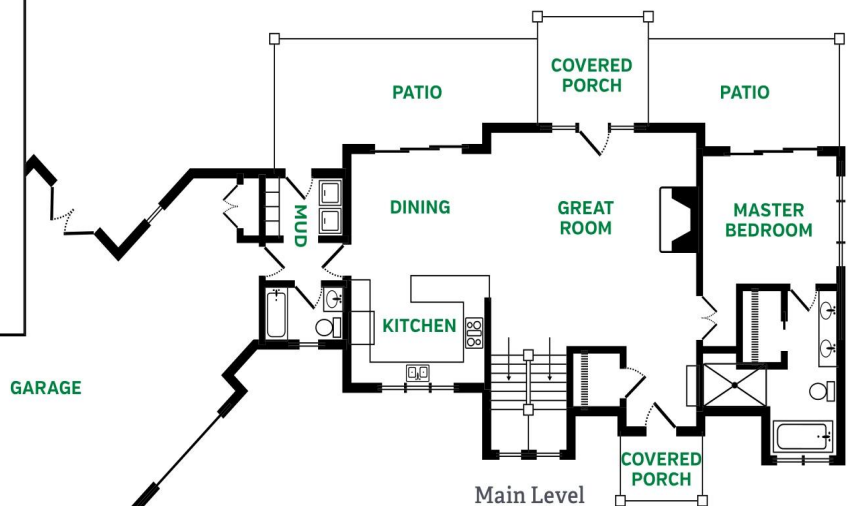
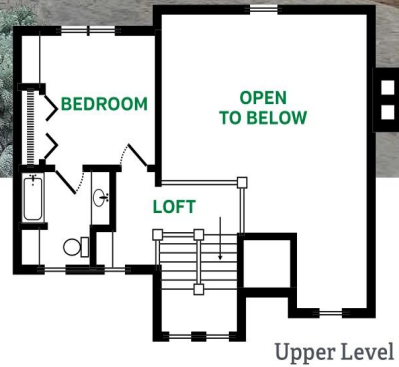


Upper Level



Main Level

FLOOR PLANS *less than 2,000 sq. ft.*



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MODEL NAME

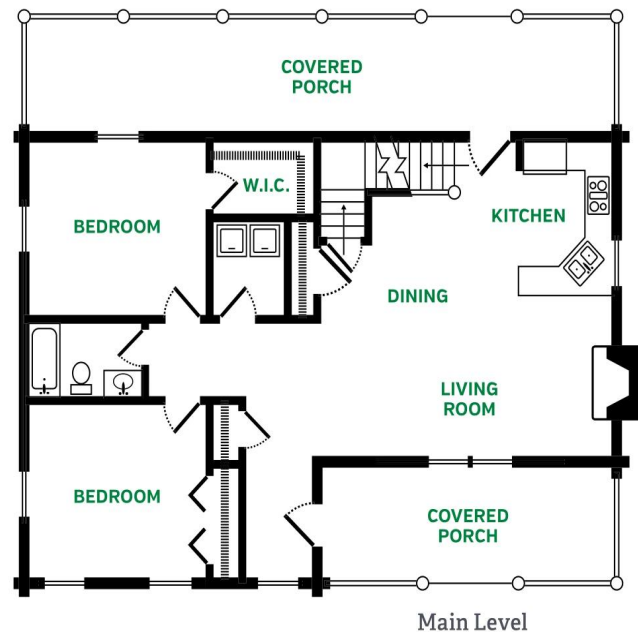
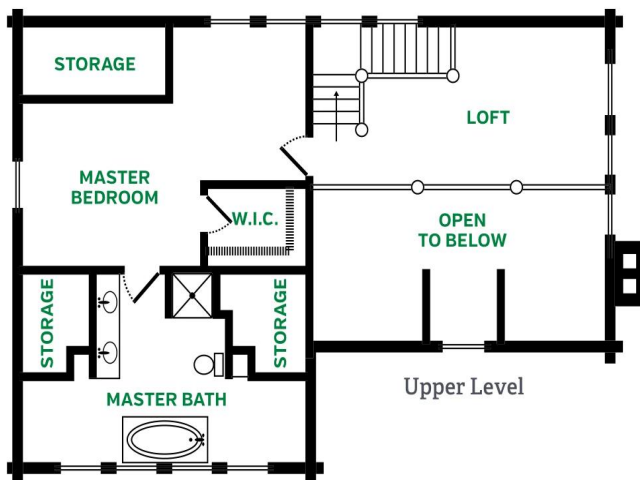
Rocklin III

Square Footage: 1,790

Bedrooms: 2 Baths: 3 full

A smaller version of our popular “original Rocklin”, this versatile mountain-style home boasts an open and efficient floor plan ideal for a primary residence or vacation home. Like all our custom homes, the Rocklin III can be modified in size, layout and style to fit your personal needs and property. Explore designs in all sizes and styles at www.wisconsinloghomes.com.

FLOOR PLANS *less than 2,000 sq. ft.*



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MODEL NAME

The Beaver Creek

Square Footage: 1,806 Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full

The Beaver Creek model is a wonderfully designed home with a master bedroom upstairs with a full master bathroom, and a loft sitting area. It also has two bedrooms on the first floor with an open living room area and adjacent kitchen and utility room.



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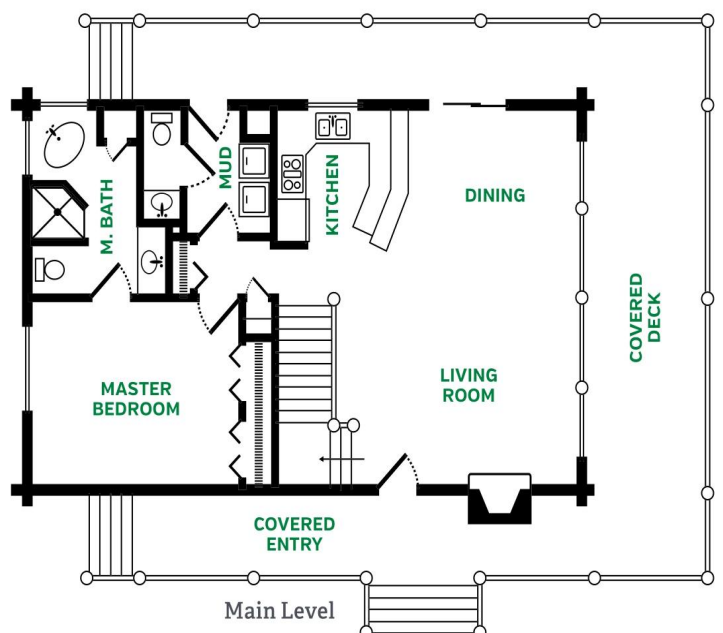
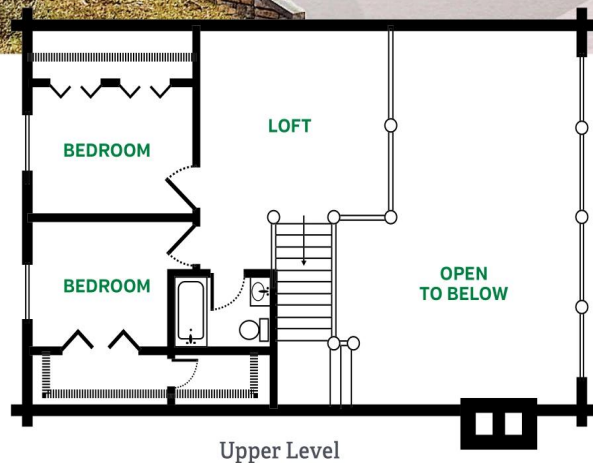
MODEL NAME

The Wyoming

Square Footage: 1,877

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

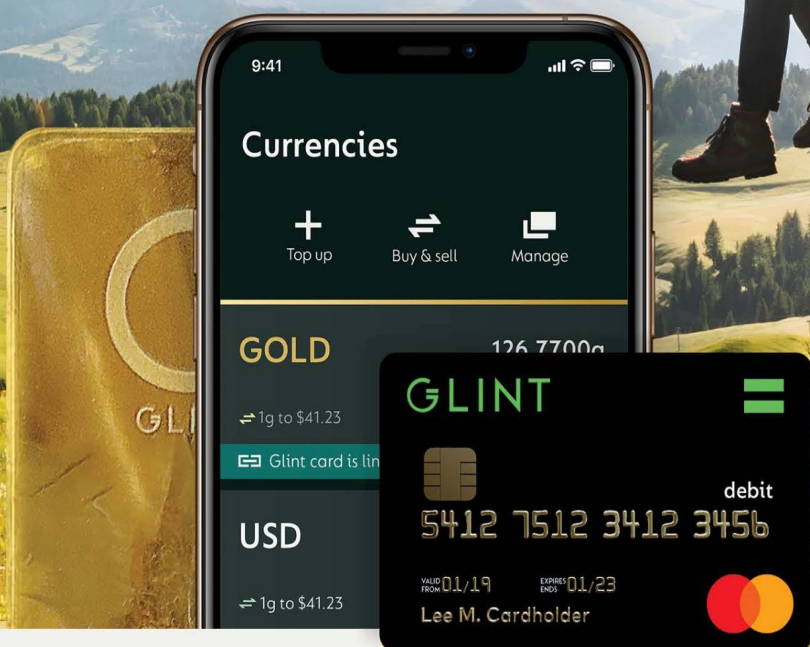
It's easy to call the Wyoming home with its protective wrap around porches and big beautiful windows. Enjoy the falling rain or snow from inside, knowing the covered decks are safe from harsh weather. The Wyoming is simple to build with lots of curb appeal. It's an ideal plan for areas that receive a lot of snow. This plan comes with an optional basement if desired.



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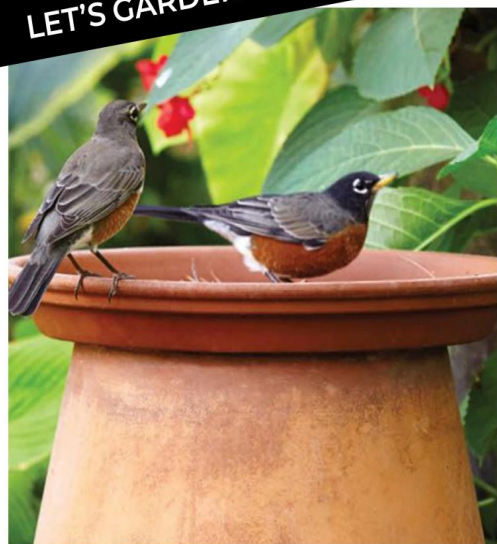
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Colorado Timberframe photo

flex your floor plan muscle

If you want your home to get even better over time,
these 6 tips lead to a floor plan that won't require
cosmetic surgery to age gracefully.

flex your floor plan muscle

If you plan to own a log or timber home, chances are you also intend for this to be your *last* house ... your “forever” home. This kind of commitment to your abode emphasizes the importance of having an adaptable design — one that will continue to serve you well as your needs change. Some floor plans offer “flex rooms” that can be used for everything from a guest room to an office to a yoga studio, but why not make your entire log or timber home plan flexible? Here’s how:

1 Ignore Labels. It’s common practice to identify each room within a floor plan, and while this may help to avoid confusion, it also may restrict how you perceive the spaces. Of course, some areas, like the kitchen or a bathroom, are obvious, but the ways in which you utilize those other spaces is really up to you. Is it a garage or a pottery studio? A guest bedroom or a meditation area? A basement or a wine cellar? They are your spaces — YOU define them. Your needs will likely evolve over time, so narrowing your focus now could prevent you from seeing all the possibilities.

2 Be Our Guest. Providing comfortable accommodations for the occasional overnight visitor is always a good idea, but nothing says it has to take up valuable square footage in your home. Consider adding an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on your property. Most ADUs are separate, small buildings that provide a living area, bedroom, bath and, often, a kitchenette, giving your guests the option for complete autonomy. This kind of space also can provide a safe haven for an aging parent, a private place for kids returning from college or supplementary rental income, if needed, all while increasing your property value.

3 Universal Needs. Whether you opt for a stock floor plan, a modified design or create your home from scratch, be sure to consider your needs both now and in the future.

Fewer stairs and hallways, wider doorways, convenient room placement and ample light (both natural and artificial) are essential elements of a house that will continue to fulfill your daily needs.

4 Masterful Design. In a two-story plan, a second-level master feels like a private retreat, but someday climbing the stairs to go to bed every night may be anything but dreamy. One option: put a master suite on each level — one for now and one for later. Another idea is to install a residential elevator or, if that’s not currently in the budget, stack closets on top of each other to convert to an elevator shaft down the line.

5 Less is More. The open plans common to log and timber homes are the very essence of flexible design, since they adapt to accommodate a host of activities in a single space. If you are more accustomed to a compartmentalized house, you may think you need more square footage than you really need in a log or timber home. Remember that interior walls and hallways don’t create real living space. Once removed, you’ll find a smaller footprint may do just fine.

6 But More is Never Enough. ... when it comes to storage, that is. From kids toys to off-season wardrobes to seasonal decor, inventory of all the stuff you need to stash and how often you need to access it. While evaluating plans, keep a keen eye out for unused or under-utilized spaces that could solve your storage needs. Look vertically as well as horizontally, like dead zones beneath eaves or air space that hovers above your cars in the garage. They can give you the storage you need at minimal cost.

4 Design Choices You Won’t Regret

How do you know which design decisions are best for your log or timber home and which are best to pass up? We share four faithful design decisions that won’t steer you wrong.

Kitchen. To get a kitchen that performs to your expectations, you have to rethink what you think you already know about designing this very important space. Where once the concept of the kitchen triangle (the proximity and location of the stove, sink and refrigerator) reigned supreme, there’s a new configuration on the scene: zone design. Think of your kitchen in terms of functions, like baking, food prep, serving and cleaning, as well as how many people will be working in the kitchen at one time. You may find you need two sinks, a cooktop that’s separate from a pair of wall ovens and a small under-counter fridge in the island detached from the main refrigerator. Don’t forget space for people to gather together while you cook.

Entryway. While in some cases, log and timber home entryways have become more grand, you’ll want to ensure that this first-impression space is warm and welcoming. As a gauge, designers suggest a minimum of 2 to 4 percent of the total square footage of the house. To avoid feeling cramped, guests each need 3 feet of space to remove coats, so consider the average number of people who will enter your home at one time, and be sure to have a closet or coat rack to keep their items off the floor.

Master Bath. Aside from the kitchen, a master bath is one of the most expensive rooms in the house. Even so, it’s one space where it can be less costly to “over design” now than to expand or retrofit later on. This includes planning for future needs. Incorporate 3-foot-wide doorways, a curbless shower or wet room, floating vanities that would allow for a chair to slide beneath and resilient, low-maintenance materials like quartz counters and porcelain tile.

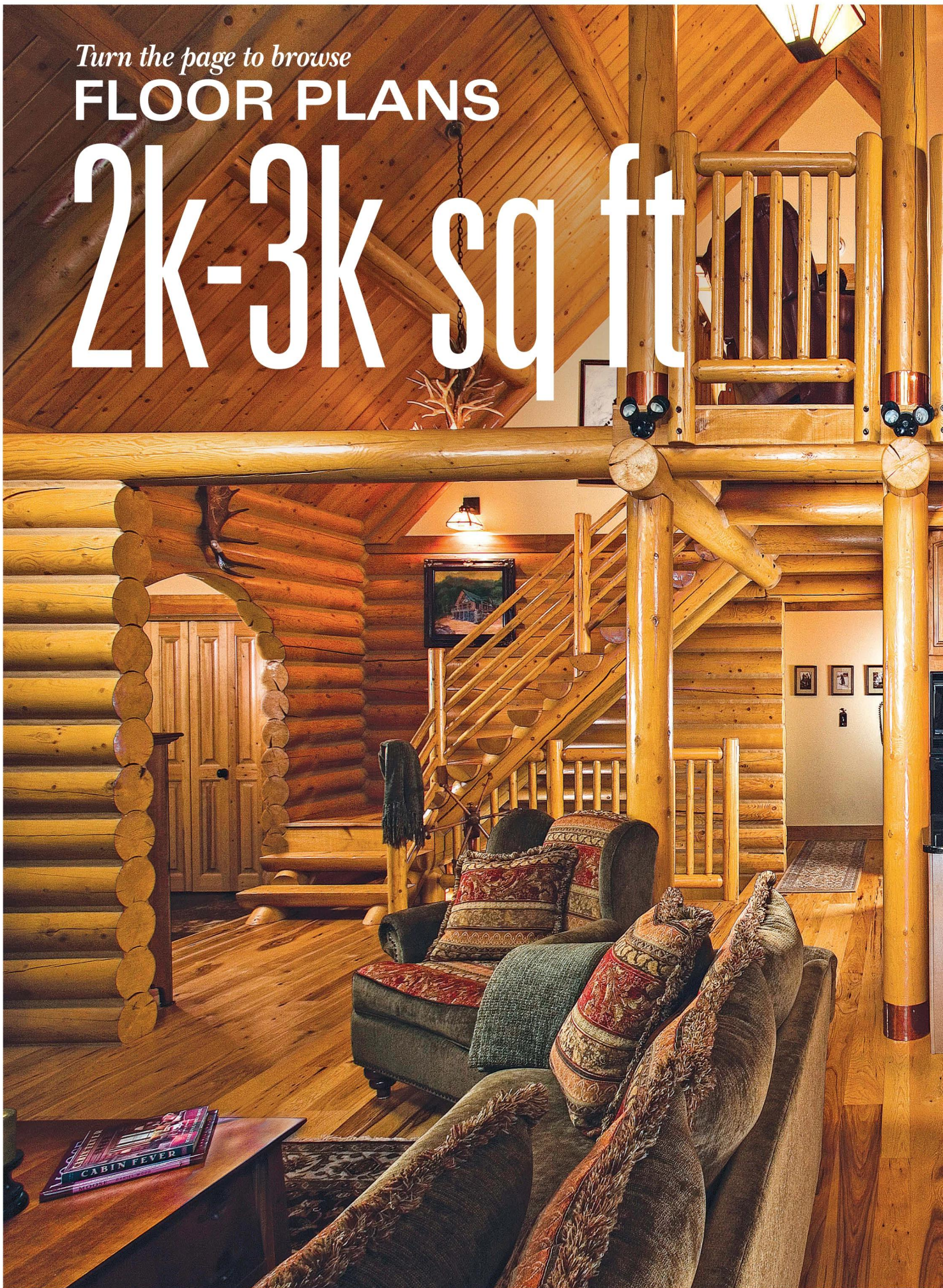
Loft. If there’s a better log or timber home feature, we don’t know of it. They don’t cost much to build but they add incredible value and provide endless possibilities in a flexible floor plan, serving a range of needs from offices and exercise rooms to kids’ lounges and guest bedrooms, making a loft a smart investment.



Turn the page to browse

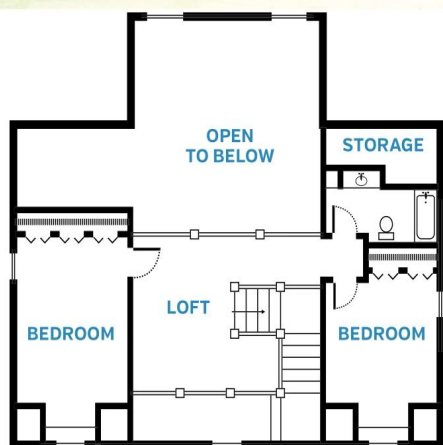
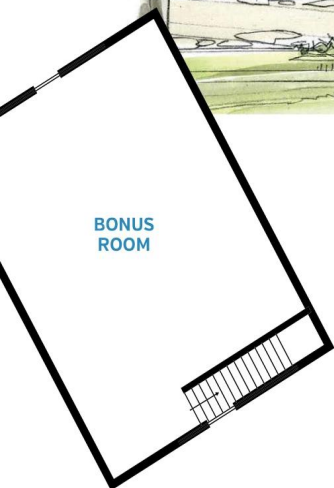
FLOOR PLANS

2k-3k sq ft

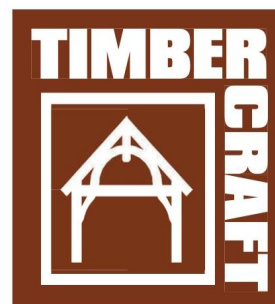




Rocky Mountain Log Homes photo



Upper Level



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MODEL NAME

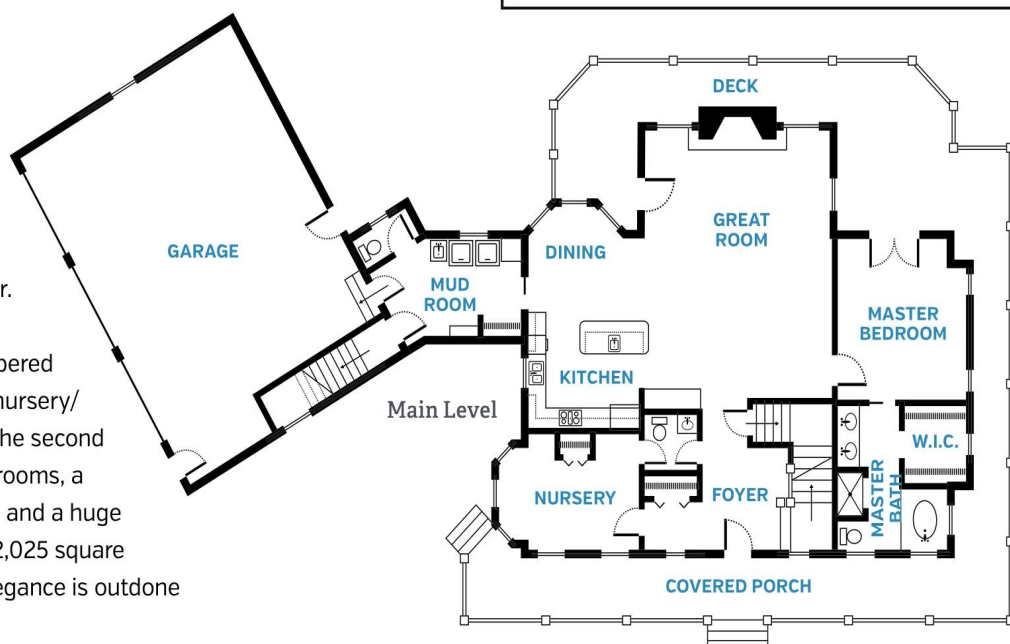
The Clarkston Place

Square Footage: 2,025

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2 full

Wrap-around timbered porch in the front, wrap-around deck in the back, hammer beam entry, all before you enter the front door. Inside, the plan features a formal foyer, first floor master suite, timbered great room, kitchen and nook, a nursery/library and an attached garage. The second floor features two additional bedrooms, a loft area, open connecting bridge and a huge bonus room over the garage. At 2,025 square feet of living space, this plan's elegance is outdone only by its efficient use of space.



Main Level



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MODEL NAME

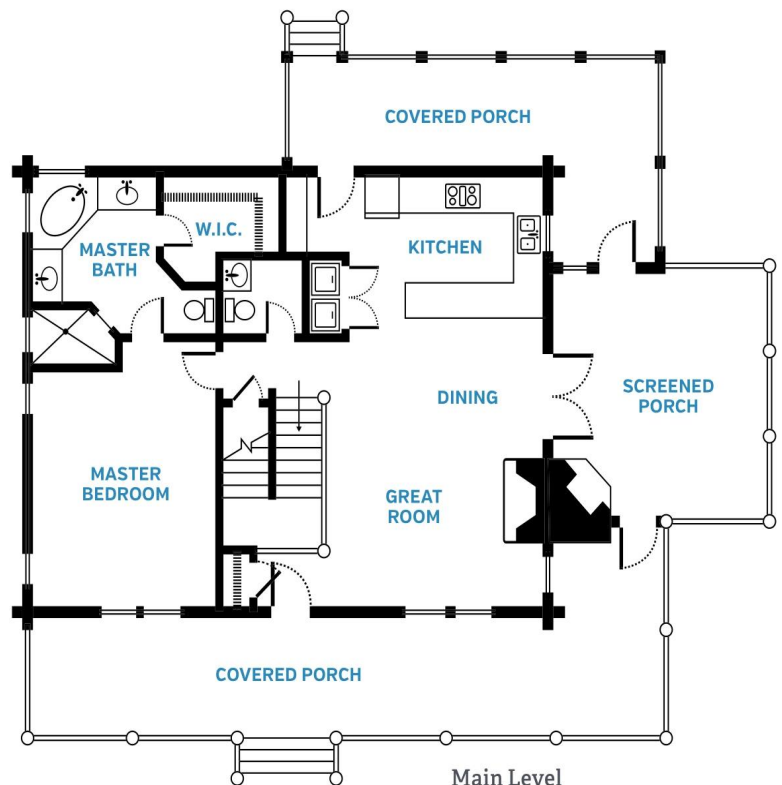
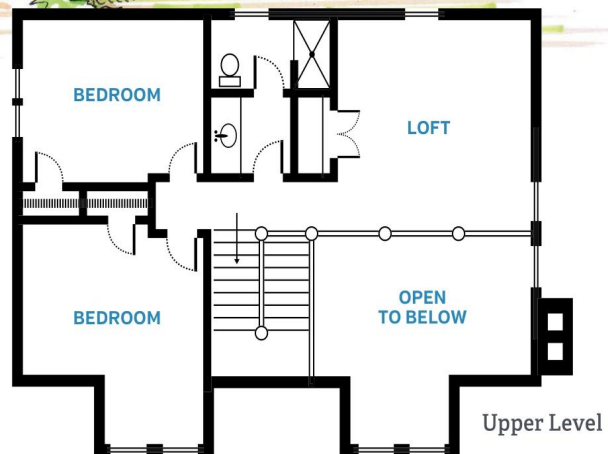
Cimarron Mountain Retreat

Square Footage: 2,082

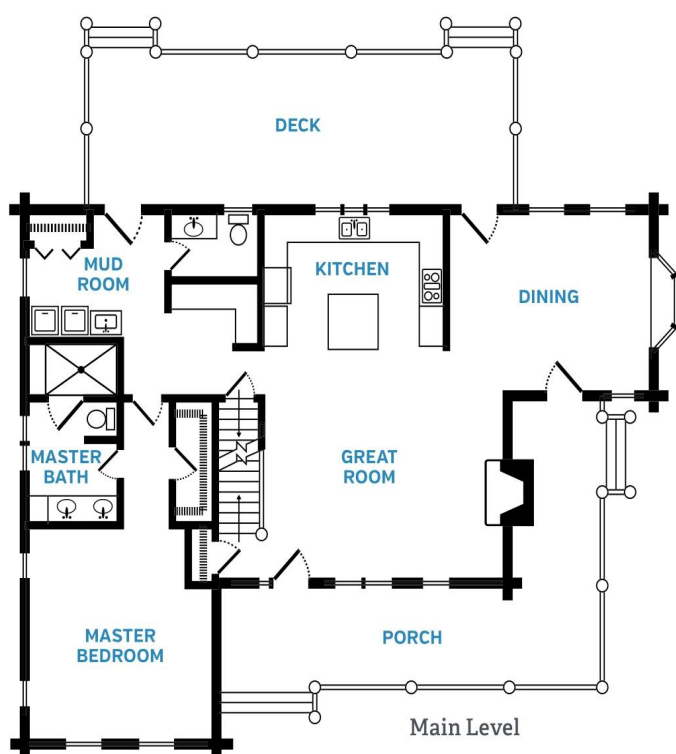
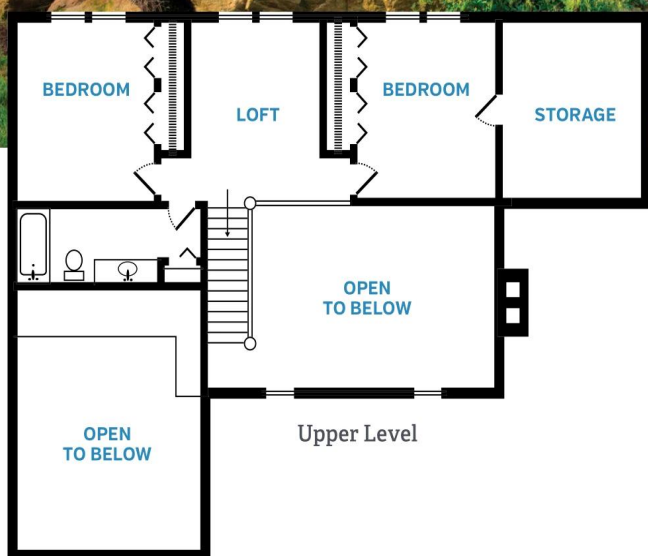
Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2 full, 1 half

This classic Appalachian style home with an open, modern floor plan offers a first floor master suite with ample storage, loft area and two upstairs bedrooms complete the design. Spacious outdoor living area, with fireplace and two covered porches bring the great outdoors to every occasion.



FLOOR PLANS 2,000–3,000 sq. ft.




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MODEL NAME

The Loudonville

Square Footage: 2,232

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2 full, 1 half

The Loudonville features dramatic curb appeal with its wraparound porch, dining area bay window and timbered gable. Inside the fully timbered, open-concept great room and stone fireplace greet your guests—plus you'll love the step-saving convenience of the first floor laundry and computer nook off the kitchen. The showpiece master bedroom includes a walk-in closet and master bath with walk-in shower. The dining area opens to the large rear deck and affords plenty of space for hosting parties and social events. You'll love this thoughtfully designed plan for its practicality and versatility.



MODEL NAME

Elk River II

Square Footage: 2,234

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

The Elk River II is a contemporary design with a rustic feel. The impressive great room is showcased by a gabled end featuring floor-to-ceiling windows that take advantage of natural light and spectacular views.

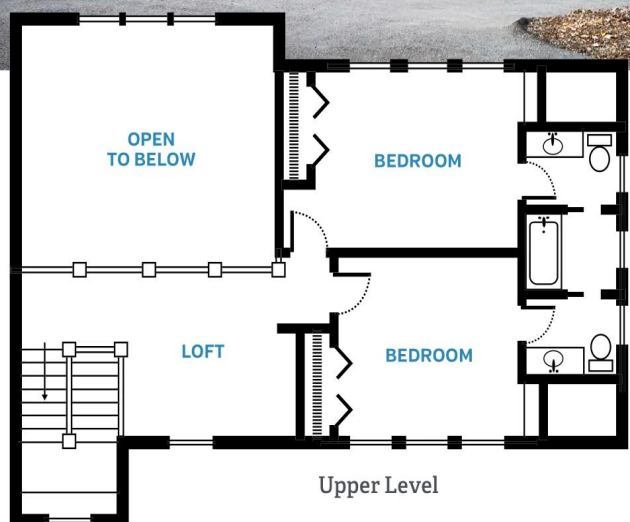
For those that love outdoor living, a wrap-around porch, screened porch, and an upstairs deck make this the perfect design. A main level master suite, spacious kitchen and dining area, along with a powder and laundry room complete the first level. The upstairs has two guest rooms, bath, and loft. The Elk River II is one of our more popular designs.

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MODEL NAME

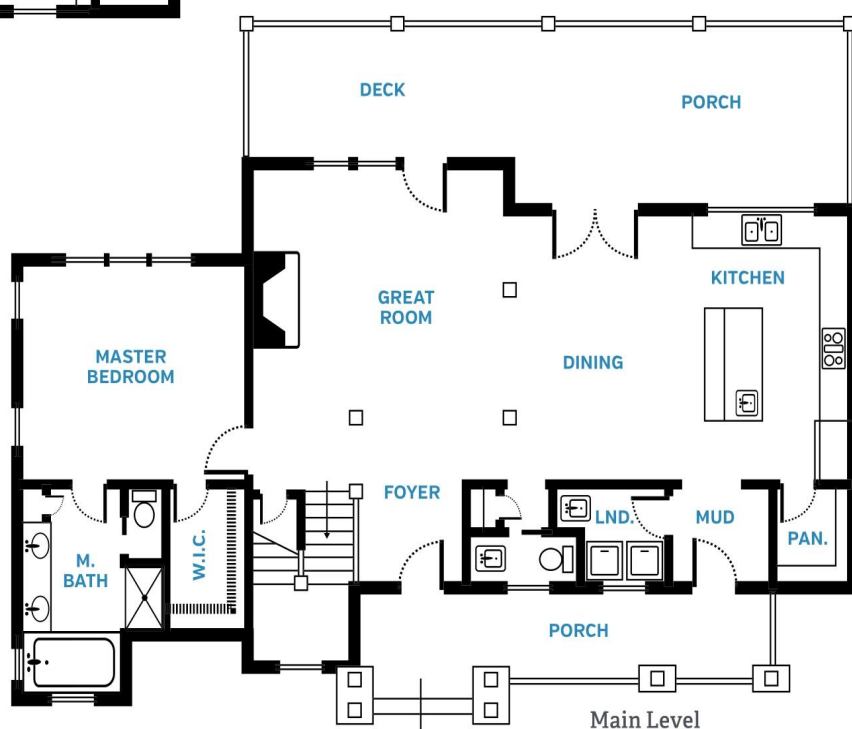
Bitterroot

Square Footage: 2,379

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

The Bitterroot is a true rustic American style home. The design features a main-level master suite with two bedrooms and a shared bath upstairs. The “open plan” design lives like a home many times its true size. A gracious screened porch creates outdoor opportunities free from insects.

The Bitterroot’s earthy exterior is defined by wood siding, timbers, glass, and stone.





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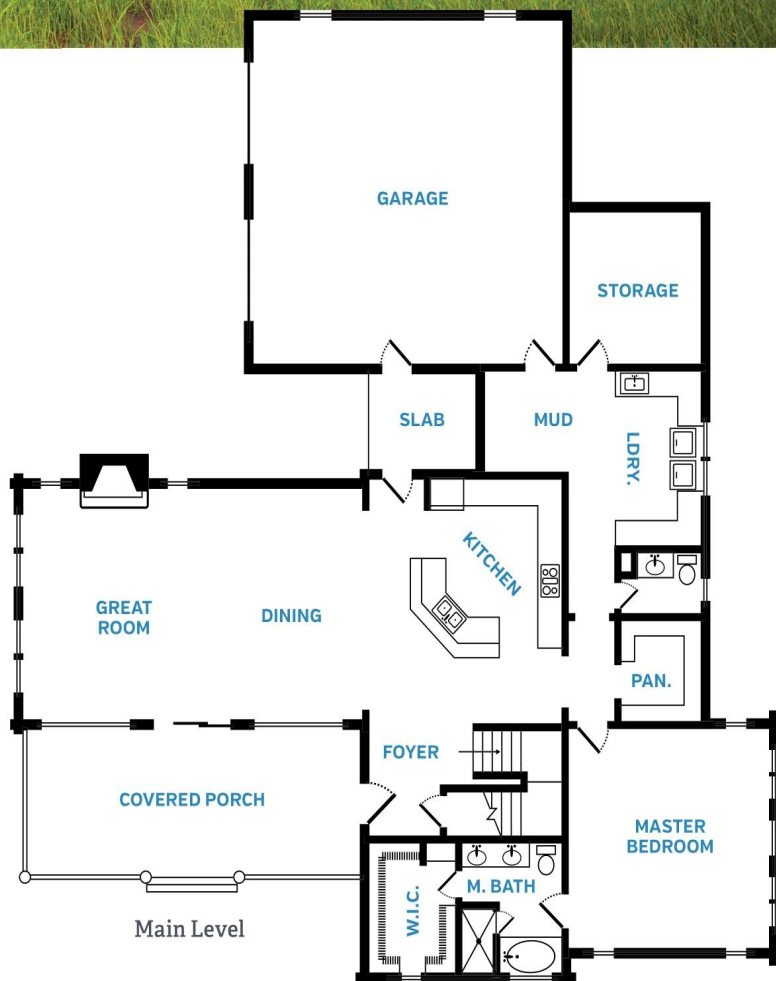
MODEL NAME

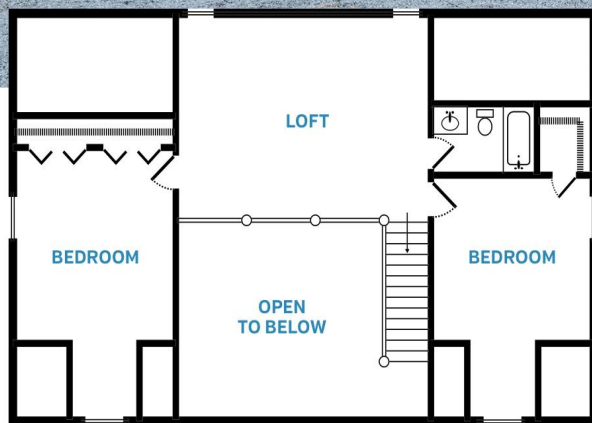
The Everwood

Square Footage: 2,513

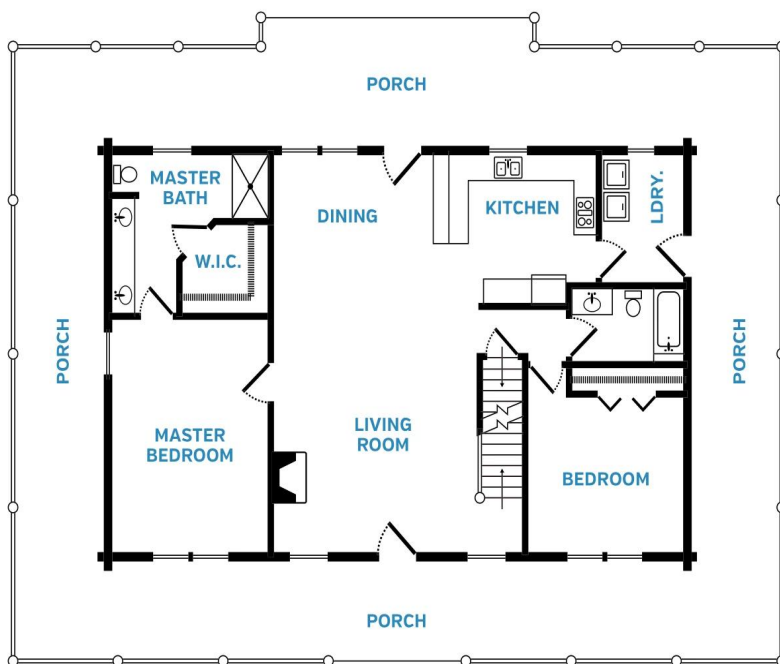
Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

The Everwood is the ideal hybrid of traditional log home construction coupled with contemporary timber design. With living space and master suite on the main floor, a second floor suitable for kids or entertaining guests, and attached garage plus storage room, it makes for either the “forever” home of your dreams or the ideal second home.





Upper Level



Main Level


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MODEL NAME

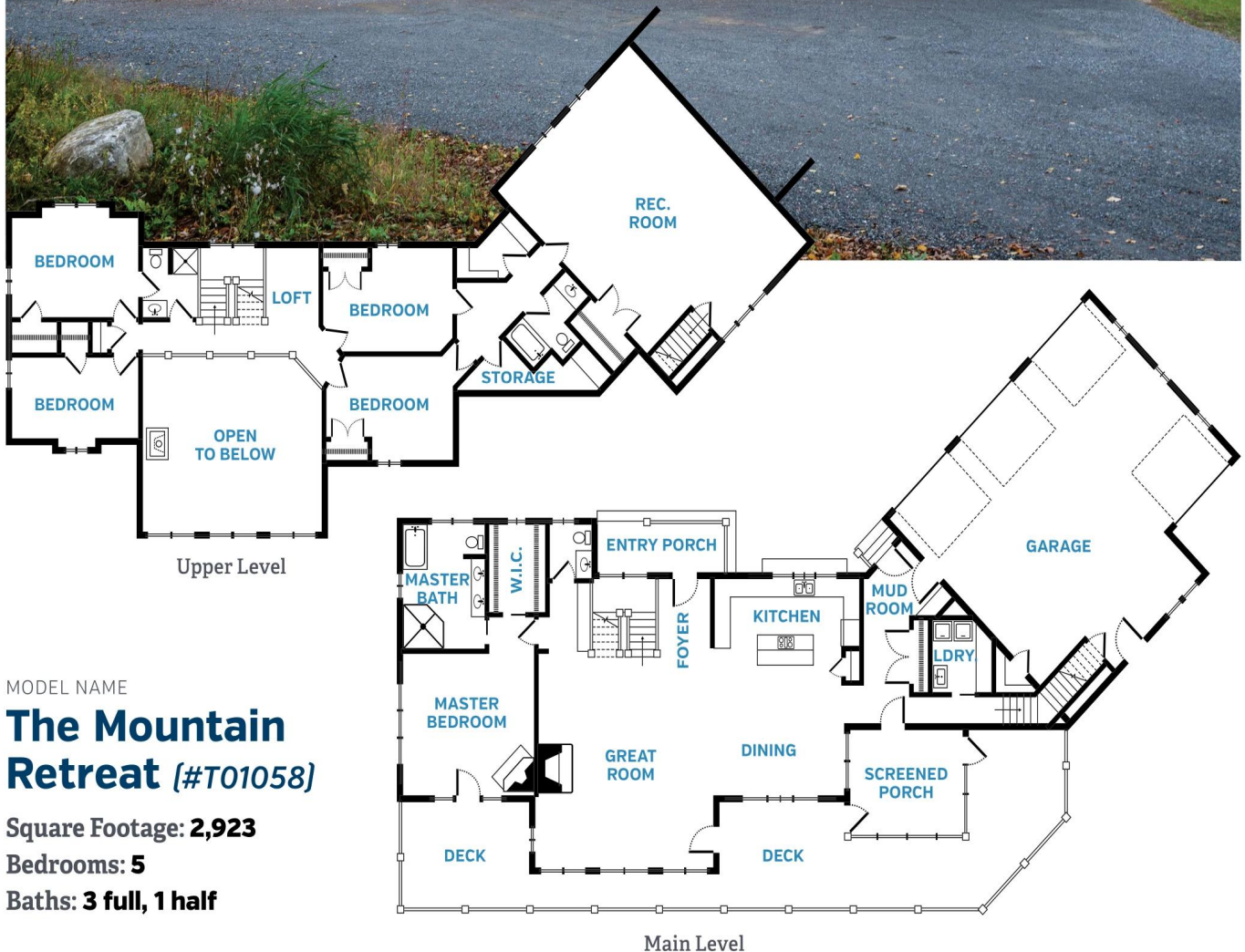
The Etheridge

Square Footage: 2,750

Bedrooms: 4

Baths: 3 full

The Etheridge, customized from a stock Honest Abe plan, was designed to accommodate the homeowner's frequent extended family visits. It features a wrap-around covered porch for outdoor living, an open vaulted great room for all-season natural light, and a second-floor bedroom suite for guests.



MODEL NAME

The Mountain Retreat (#T01058)

Square Footage: 2,923

Bedrooms: 5

Baths: 3 full, 1 half

Designed as mountain retreat for a family who loves the outdoors and spending time with family and friends, the open spaces in this Timberpeg are great for large gatherings. With 4 bedrooms in addition to the first floor master ensuite, guests are encouraged to stay overnight after a day of outdoor adventure.

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ARTICLES

- 20 Tips for the Perfect Floor Plan
- Five Secrets to Simplifying Log Home Maintenances
- The Lowdown on Hybrids
- Pick a Plan, Make it Yours
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- Universal Design
- Restoring the Dream



Golden Eagle Log & Timber Homes photo

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Rocky Mountain Homes photo

floor plan finishing touches

For a design that will make your heart skip a beat,
use these 11 tips to finalize your floor plan.

floor plan finishing touches

If you're like most people who want to have a log or timber home of your own, you will dedicate a great deal of thought, time and energy into the way you want your floor plan to flow. You've jotted down your "must-haves," your "nice-to-haves" and perhaps even your "someday-maybes" on your wish list. But have you thought of everything?

Before finalizing your floor plan, tweak the layout with these 11 smart design solutions and watch your log or timber home go from good to great.

1 Enclose a Porch. Sheltered exterior spaces allow you to enjoy the great outdoors — even in less-than-perfect weather. A simple screen will help keep summer bugs at bay, but a sunroom will extend your outdoor enjoyment far beyond fair-weather months. Consider a hybrid option where you can swap out glass panels for screens when the temperature permits.

2 Let the Sunshine in. In four-season climates, a south-facing home will take advantage of passive solar gain, reducing your heating bill. A window wall will not only help you take advantage of this free heat source, it will afford dramatic views and give your exterior a major dose of character.

3 Add Window Drama. While we're on the subject, there's no rule that says all your windows have to be the same size, shape or style. A transom over a standard-size window will give it additional height for very little cost. A casement window above a kitchen sink will be easier to operate than one that's hung. Grouping round, half-round or triangular windows together can create a piece of functional art.

4 Keep the Bedroom Cozy. The master bedroom is the most intimate space in your house, so avoid soaring ceilings and the urge toward excessive oversizing. By all means, incorporate a soothing, spa-like bath and a walk-in closet or two, but save the drama for the great room.

5 Create Ample Clearance. If your staircase is situated in a front entryway, it should be located far enough from the front door so there's a minimum of 5 to 8 feet of clearance when the door is open. Without enough space, a large group of arriving or departing guests may feel wedged into the foyer. Even smaller clusters of people may find they don't have enough room to remove coats comfortably.

6 Consolidate Dining. All too often, people dedicate too many spaces in their homes to eating, and most of the time, these rooms go unused. Instead of a formal dining room, a breakfast nook and an island bar, consolidate your mealtime options into one comfortable space.

7 Don't Skimp on Storage. Closets are crucial. Even secondary bedrooms should have between 6 and 7 feet of closet space — not just for clothes, but for stowing items you don't use everyday but access often. Pantries are another essential. If you have the real estate, a walk-in is ideal, but in smaller kitchens, a floor-to-ceiling cabinet pantry can do the trick. Most log and timber homes have vaulted ceilings in the great room and other public areas, but in spaces with concealed-rafter systems, add a little attic space. A garage is another area ripe for an elevated storage spot.

8 Think Outside the Box — Literally. Decks and covered porches can add hundreds of square feet of living space at far less cost than the rooms inside. Balconies off of bed-

rooms create an intimate area to enjoy the outdoors and enhance your log or timber home's exterior appeal.

9 Expand the Laundry Beyond the Wash. There was a time when planning a space to do laundry meant nothing more than ensuring the proper water, electrical and vent connections were in place. Today, laundry rooms are log and timber home heroes, often put on display almost as frequently as kitchens — and why not? They, too, come complete with gorgeous cabinetry, exquisite countertops and high-end appliances. Make sure yours is fully functional with storage (there's that word again) that can stash shoes, backpacks, gardening supplies ... the works.

10 Play with Fire. Fireplaces are a log and timber home staple. It would almost feel wrong *not* to have one. But let's face it — they don't come cheap — so be smart when positioning your fireplace. Locate it in harmony with your view, not in competition with it. Also, consider a double- or multi-sided hearth so you can enjoy the crackle of a fire from several rooms at once. A two-sided unit also can bridge the indoor/outdoor gap between a great room and a sunroom, providing warm ambiance to both spaces with one price tag.

11 Plan Ahead. Once you think your plan is all set, take a step back and think about how it will look to you 10 to 20 years down the line. Will it still work? If you're approaching your retirement years, perhaps you should plan for a day when stairs will become a challenge and design a first floor master suite or elevator. If you currently have young children, plan for the teen years by devising space where they can have some privacy (and you can have some sanity). With forethought during the design phase, you can create a home that will evolve with you.



Floor Plan Problem Solvers

In log and timber home design, there are a few characteristics that appeal to their future owners more than those who are into conventional housing styles. Soaring ceilings, tons of glass and a web of exposed trusses are features you see in the majority of log and timber structures, and as spectacular as they are, they can present some challenges. These practical solutions will help you avoid potential pitfalls.

Window Walls

Challenge: While this dramatic feature enables you to open your home up to a magnificent view during the day, at night, with the lights on inside, it can become a humongous, dark mirror.

Fix: Incorporate lighting into your landscape. A well-lit path, uplighting playing off the trees and spotlights illuminating architectural features, you will provide a visible nighttime focal point.

Vaulted Ceilings

Challenge: It's tempting to create dramatic soaring spaces in a log or timber home, but two-story-tall walls can feel uncomfortable if the floor area of the room is much smaller than its volume.

Fix: A strategically placed loft or catwalk will visually lower the space to more comfortable levels without losing any of the grandeur of the vaulted ceiling.

Exposed Trusses

Challenge: Exposed rafters, beams and trusses are a big draw and a primary reason why people fall in love with log and timber homes in the first place. But too many trusses or a web of posts and beams can be more of a distraction than an enhancement.

Fix: To create visual harmony, trusses should be aligned with the natural flow and room divisions. This will allow you to "define" spaces within an open-concept plan without inserting actual walls.

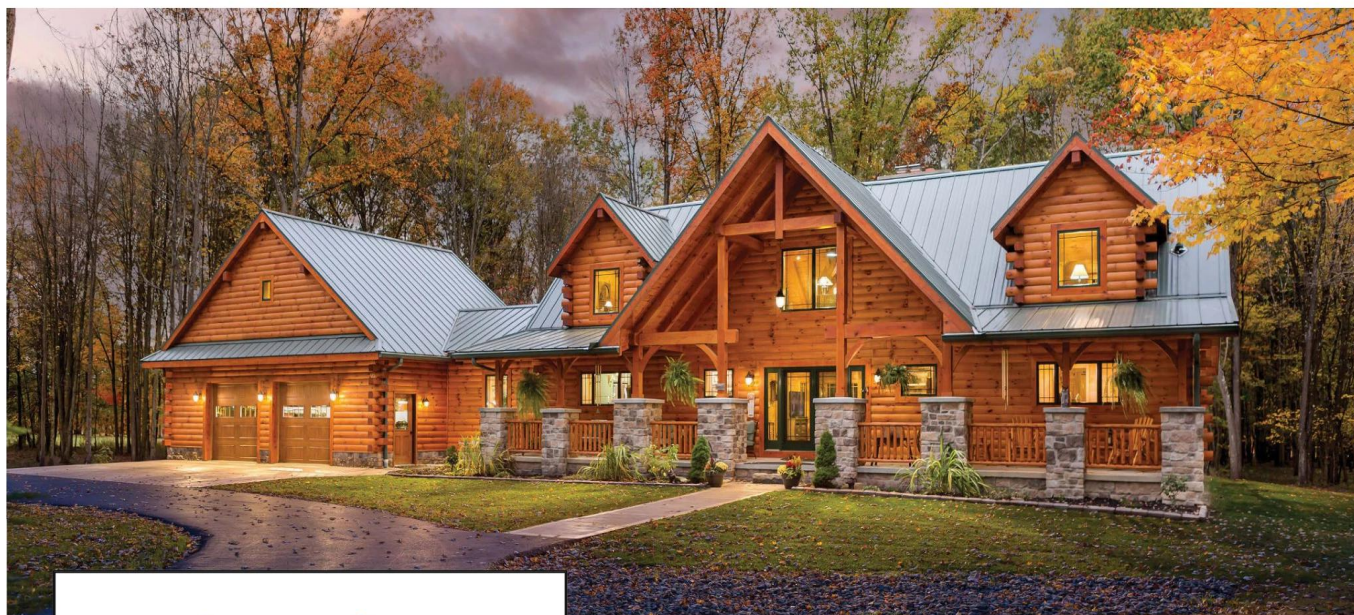
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FLOOR PLANS

3k+ sq ft





StoneMill Log & Timber Homes photo James Ray Spahn



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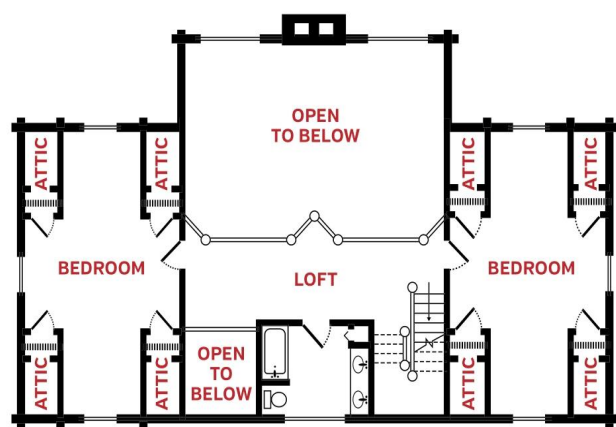
MODEL NAME

The Grand Teton

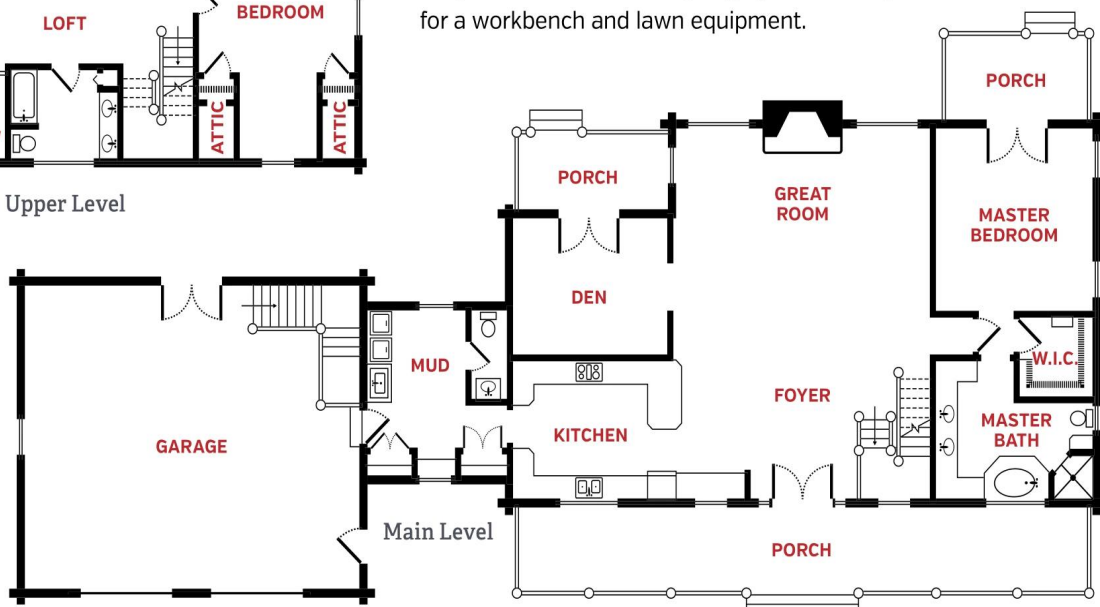
Square Footage: 3,055 Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

The Grand Teton resonates the classic craftsman's architectural style, an attractive characteristic that comes naturally with a log home. With its full-length front porch, massive exposed beams in the great room, and den, the home is a testament to a classic, secure, and comfortable lifestyle. It features a large, first floor master bedroom with master bath and a large walk-in closet; private rear porches off the master bedroom and den; and first floor laundry/mudroom between the kitchen and garage.

Upstairs, the loft offers a majestic view of the great room with its large stone fireplace and spacious entry. Two additional bedrooms with plenty of closet space and a full bath provide room for guests. The oversized garage provides ample room for a workbench and lawn equipment.



Upper Level



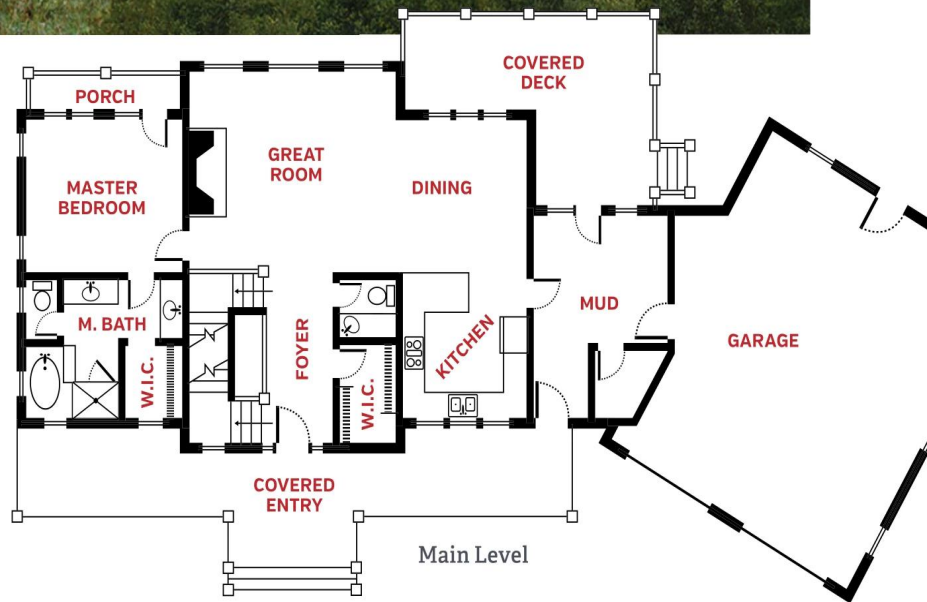
Main Level

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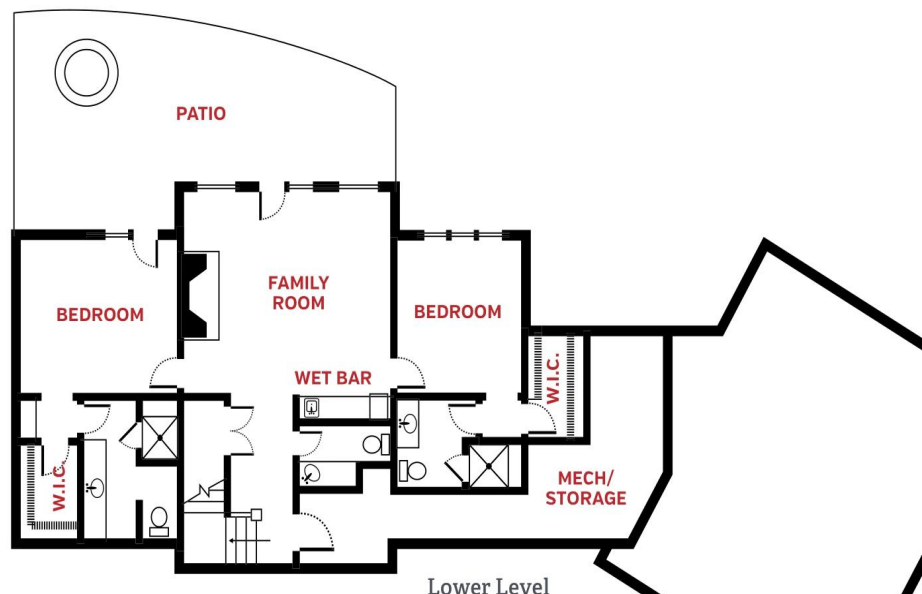
MODEL NAME

Bragg Creek

Square Footage: 3,084

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 3 full, 2 half

This main floor Master suite ranch design is attractive, extremely functional and satisfies a more subtle appeal. It was created with an over height daylight basement with 2 junior Masters that walk out to a patio and are kept separate by a large recreation room, fireplace and wet bar. The main floor produces living spaces that flow from its open concept design and is capped off by a private sitting room to the left that perches above the main level.



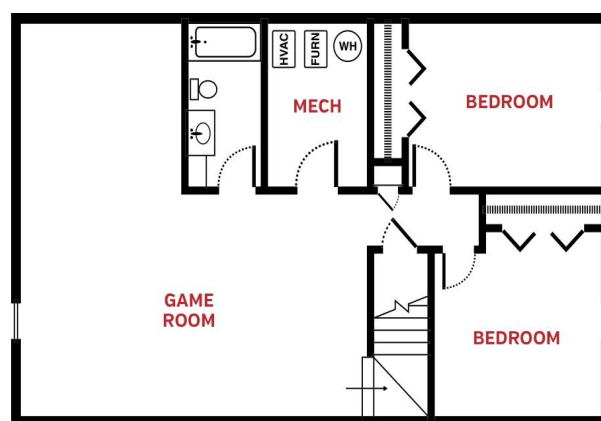
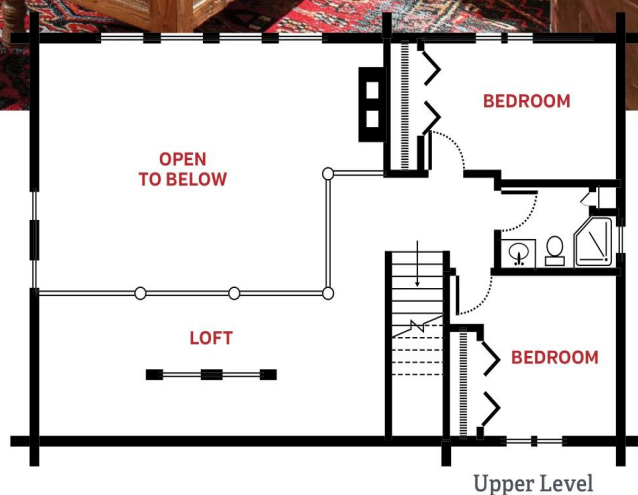
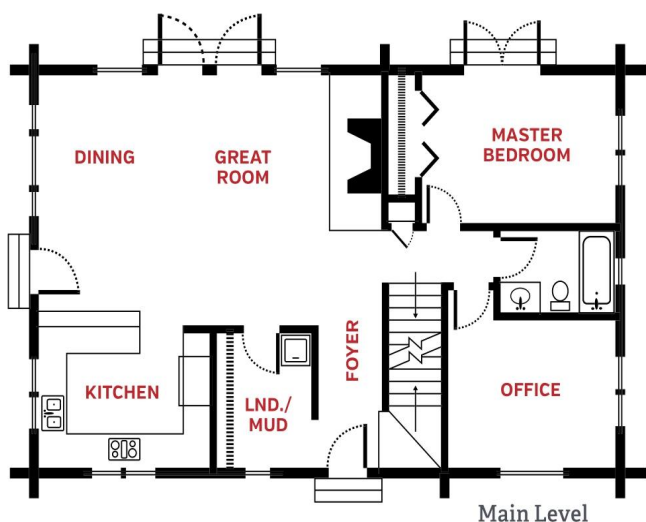
FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



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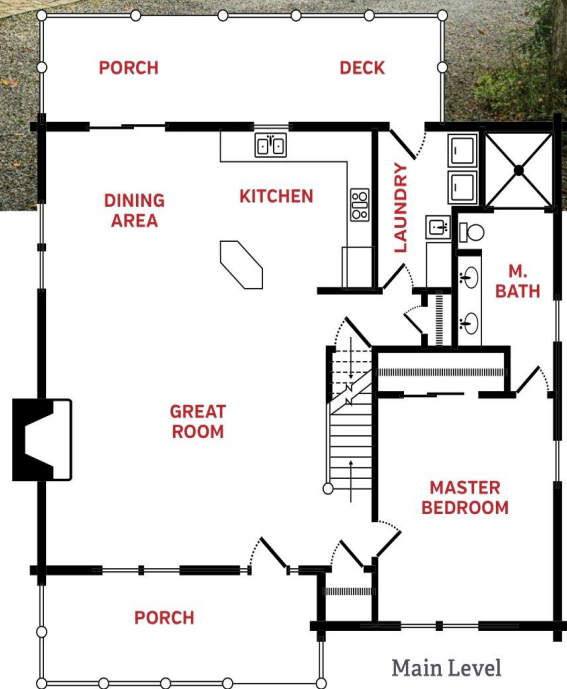
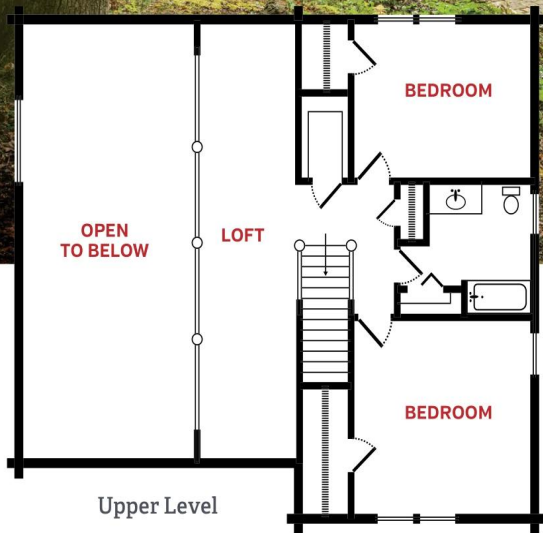


MODEL NAME

MLH-078

Square Footage: 3,134 Bedrooms: 5 Baths: 3 full

This lakeside home features 5 bedrooms and 3 baths in a 1,260 square foot "footprint". Designed for a smaller lot, this cozy home includes an ample kitchen open to an inviting great room with massive stone fireplace. A wall of windows in the great room flood the home with natural light.

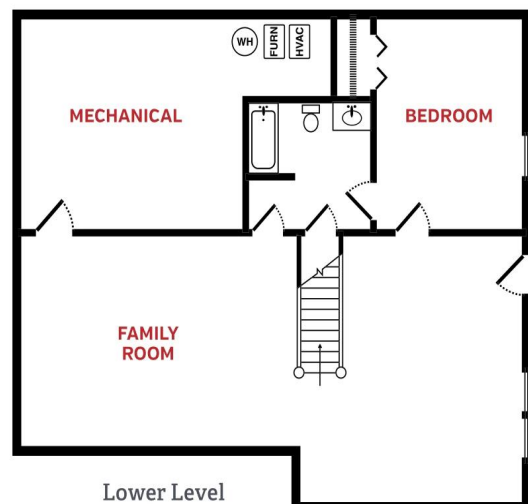


MODEL NAME

The Custom Oakland

Square Footage: 3,200 Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 3 full

This design features an easy-to-navigate layout, with main-level master suite and ADA-compliant doorways. An open loft, a lower level with family room and an attached garage with direct kitchen access round out the offerings.

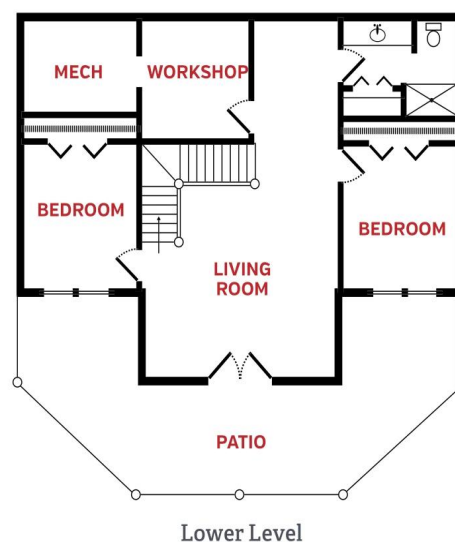
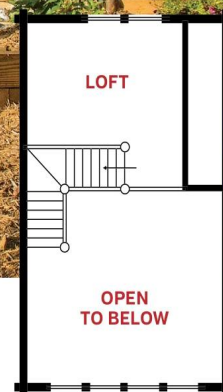
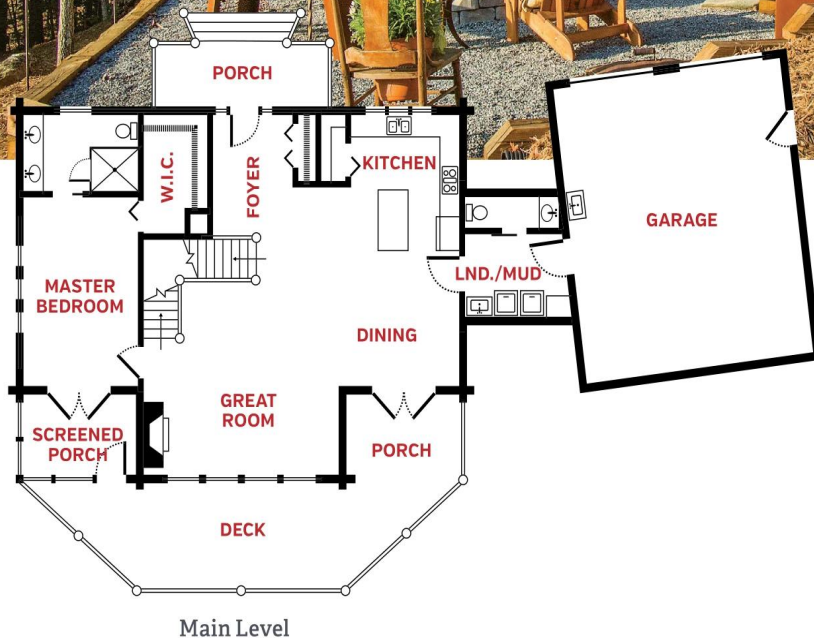




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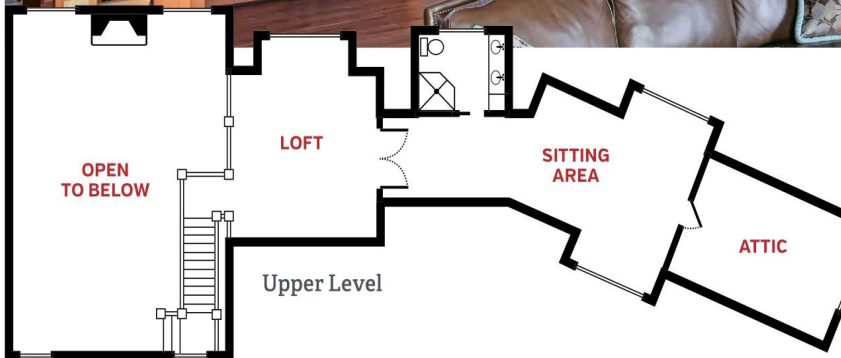
MODEL NAME

The Peterson

Square Footage: 3,250 Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

Designed for relaxation on three levels, the Peterson plan is an original customer concept. Nineteen windows flood the home with natural light. A finished basement opens onto a deck overlooking a gravel patio and fire pit. The plan may be built as a log, timber frame or hybrid.

FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*

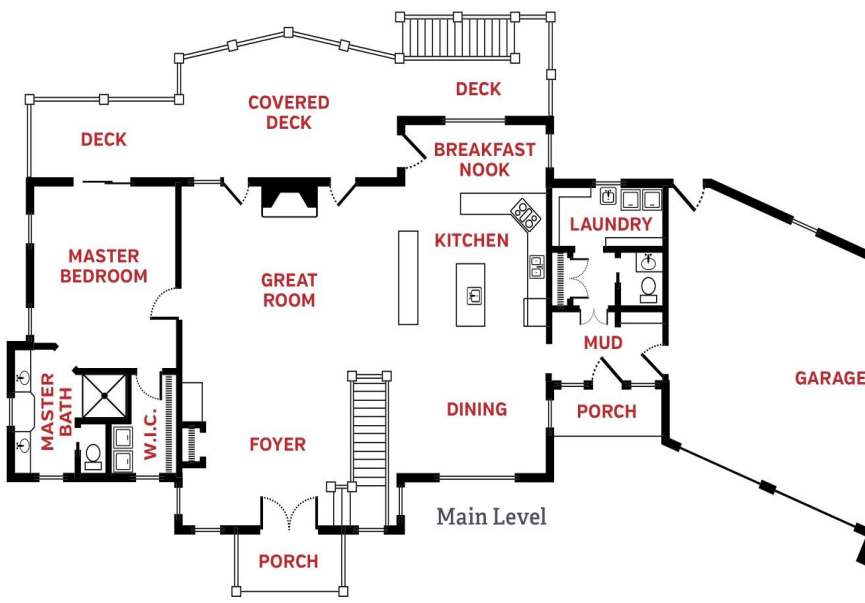


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MODEL NAME

The Dubois

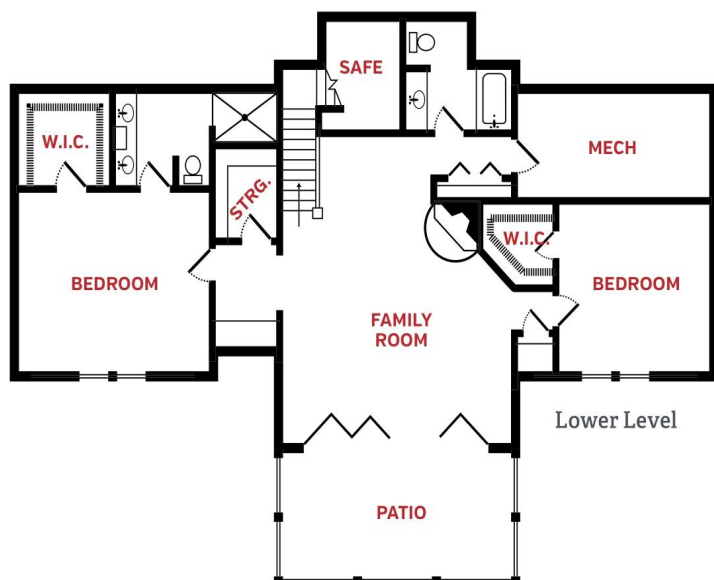
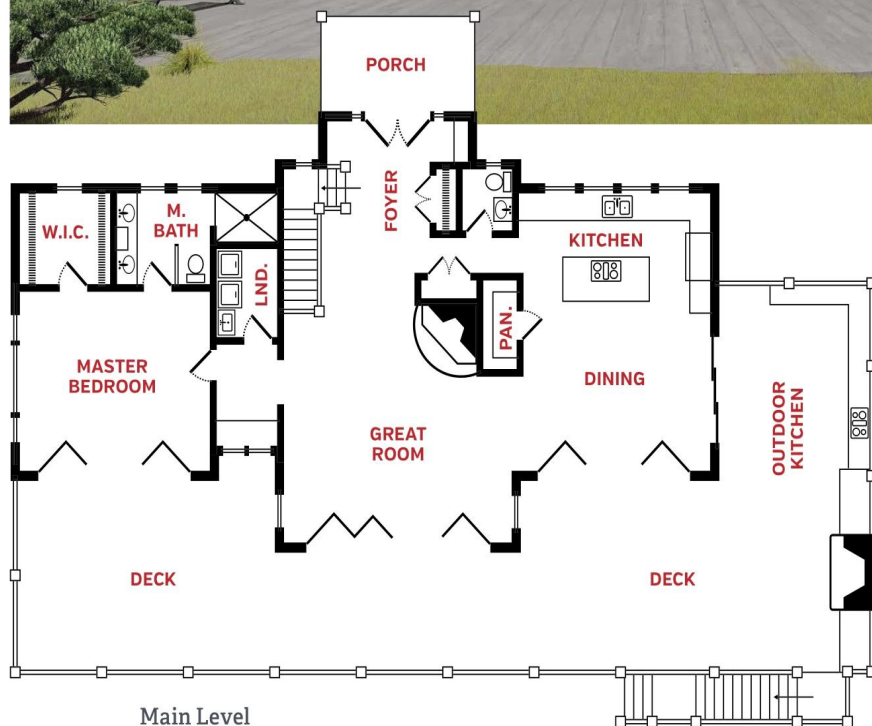
Square Footage: 3,300

Bedrooms: 1 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

The Dubois model features a vaulted great room accented by a curved bridge connecting a second-floor sitting area and office.

The spacious kitchen with breakfast nook opens onto a deck, while a laundry room connects the home to a garage. Custom doors from our millwork shop complete the project.

FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



MODEL NAME

Candria

Square Footage: 3,544

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 3 full, 1 half

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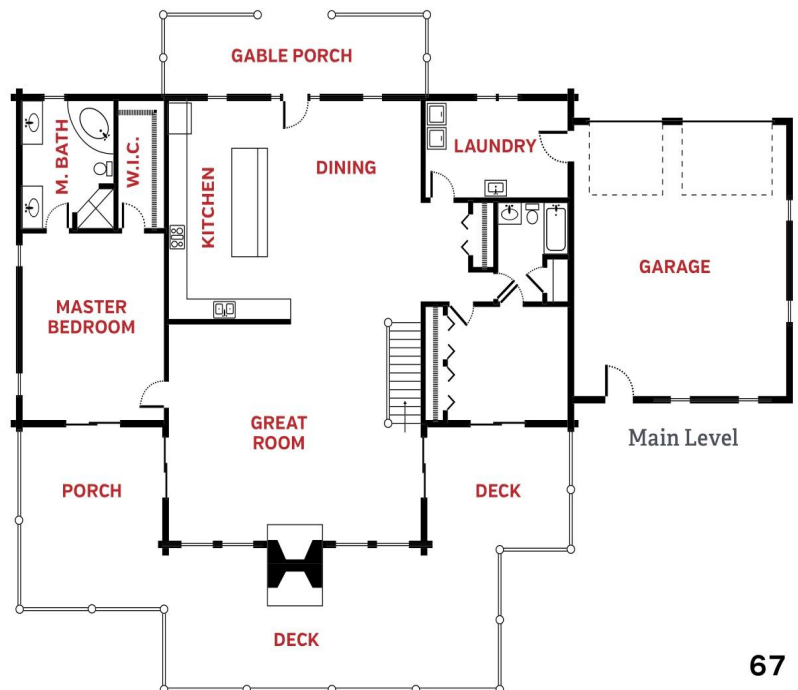
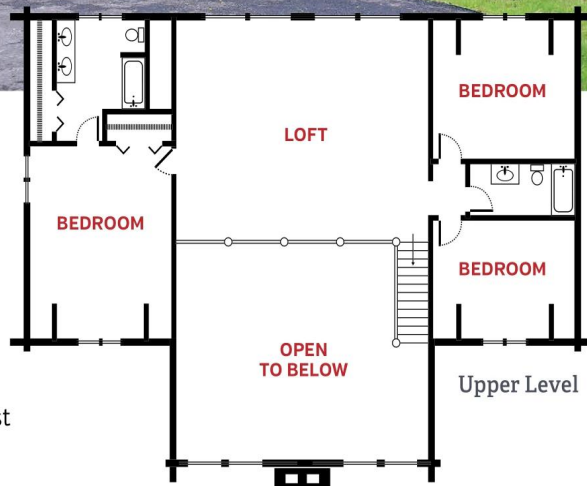
Green Gables

Square Footage: 3,896

Bedrooms: 4

Baths: 4 full

Green Gables' open floor plan is perfectly suited to host a large crowd. The first floor master bedroom includes a large walk-in closet and spacious ensuite. A guest bedroom on the first floor, three additional bedrooms on the second floor and a loft filled with bunk beds makes hosting lots of overnight guests a breeze.



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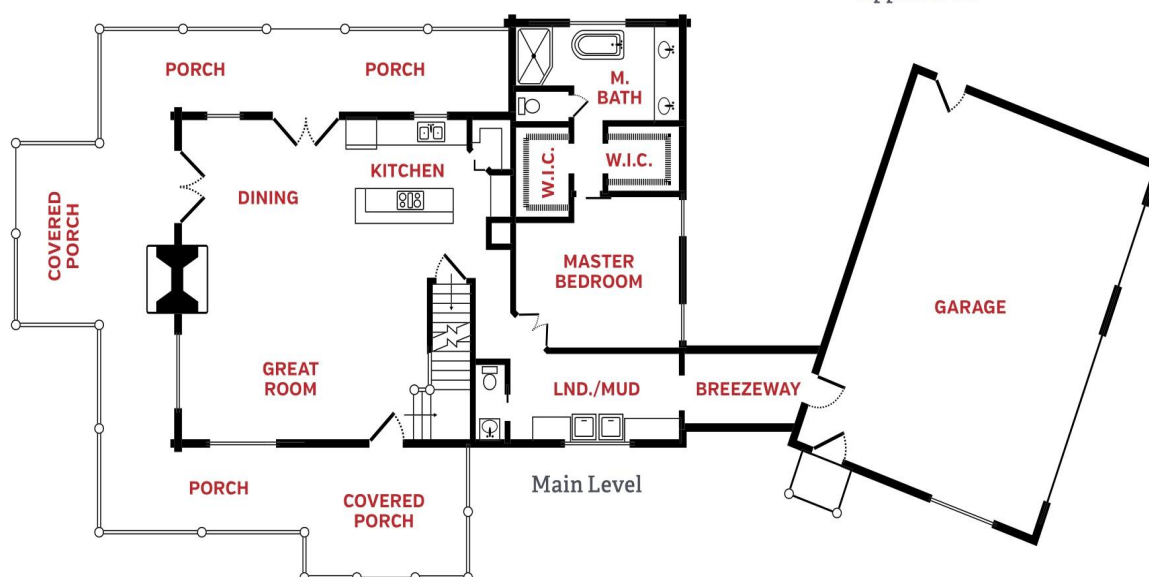
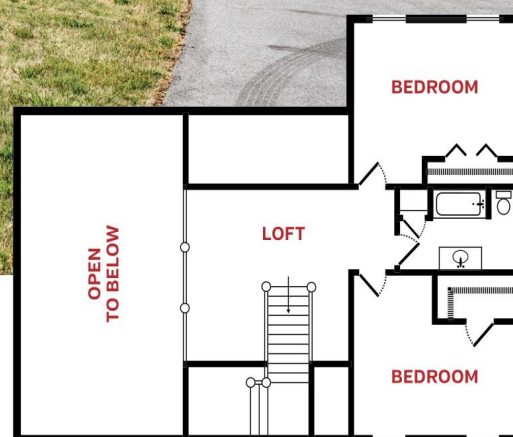
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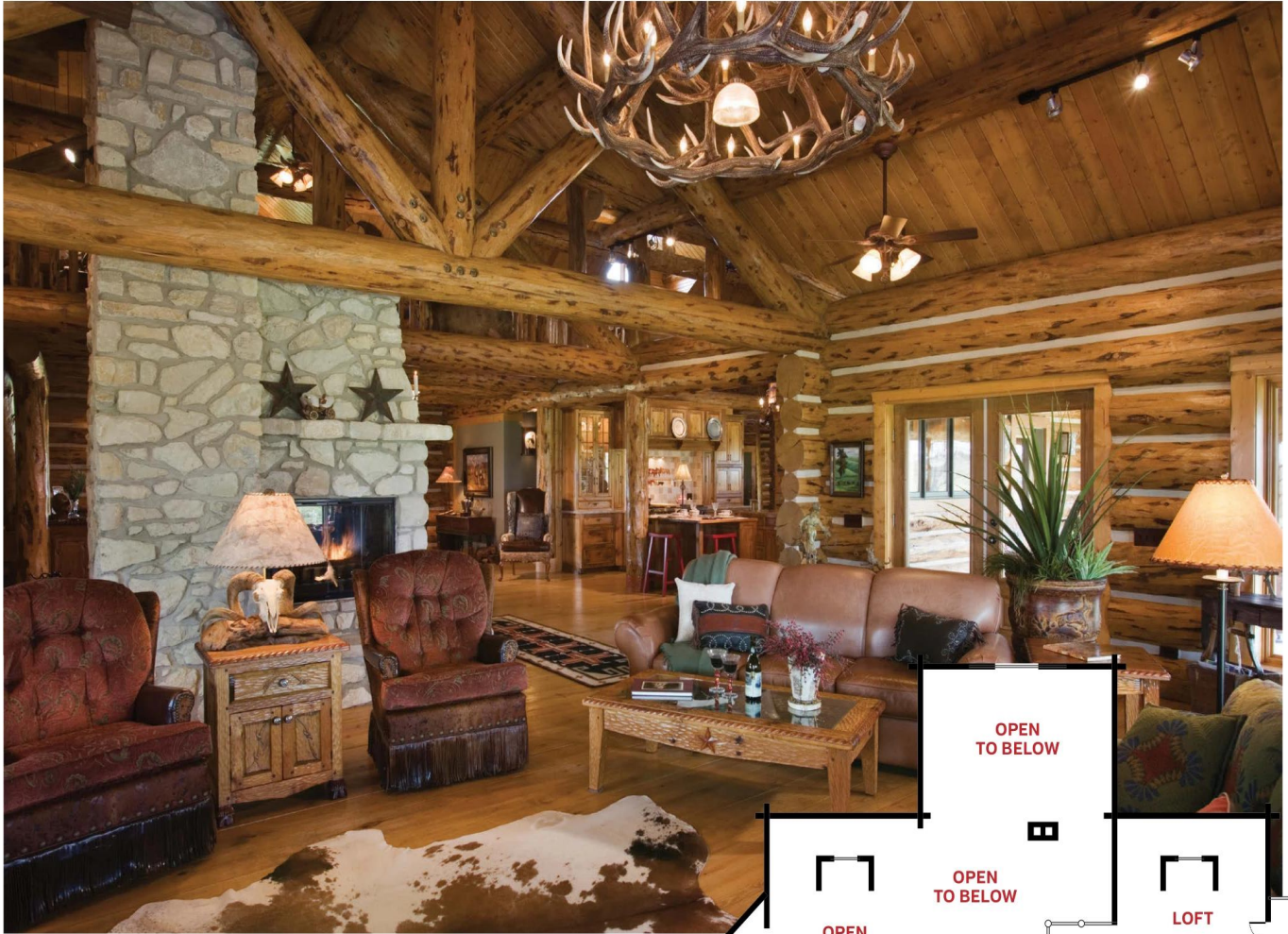
The Silver Point

Square Footage: 3,960

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

The custom Silver Point plan encompasses modern must-haves like a porch with outdoor living space, a man-cave and a full walkout basement with wet bar, lounge and exercise room. This model may be constructed as a log, timber frame or hybrid home.

FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



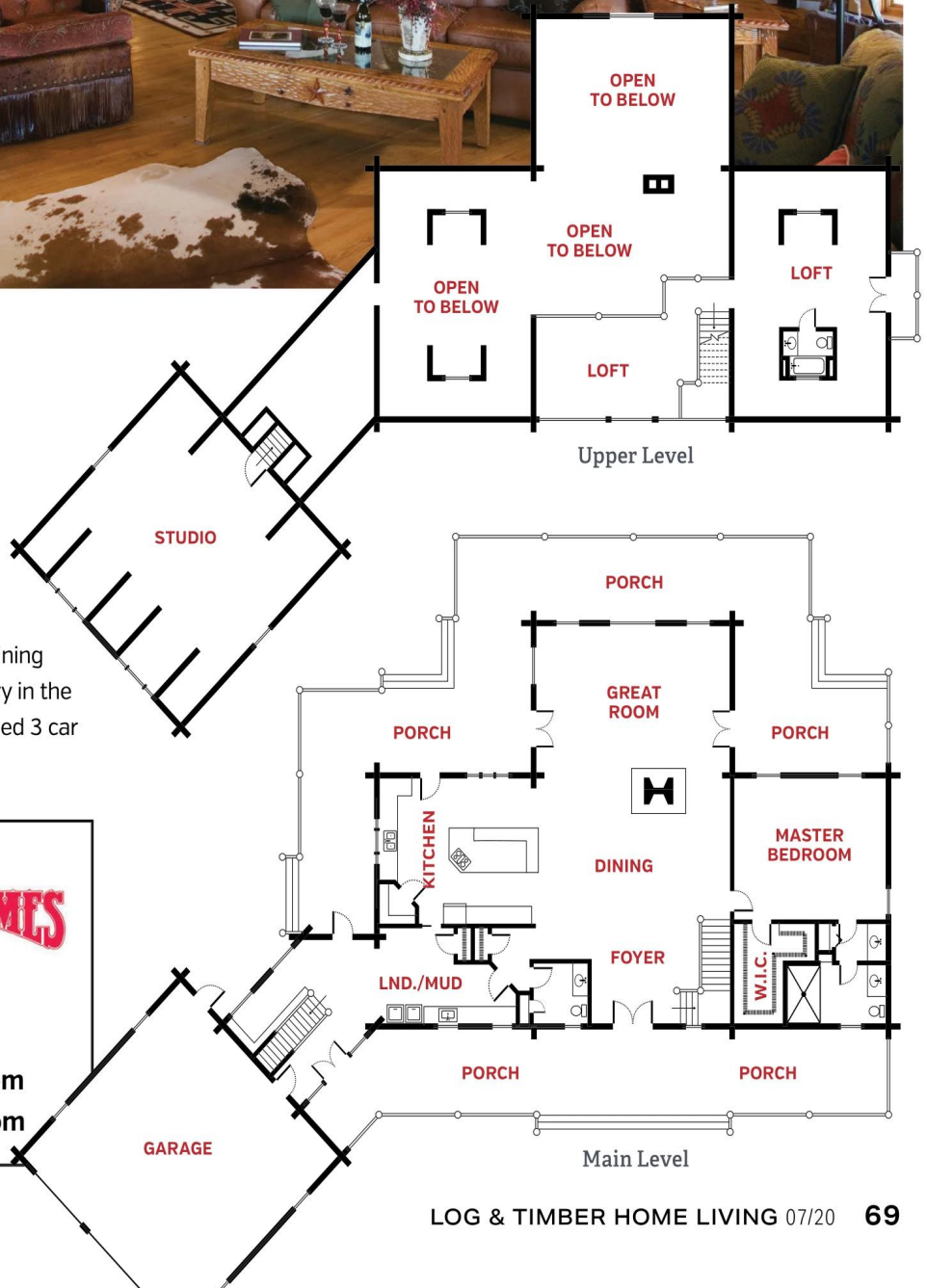
MODEL NAME

MLH-059

Square Footage: 4,327

Bedrooms: 2 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

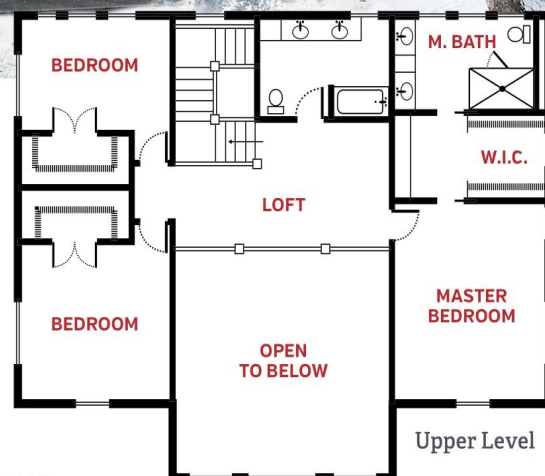
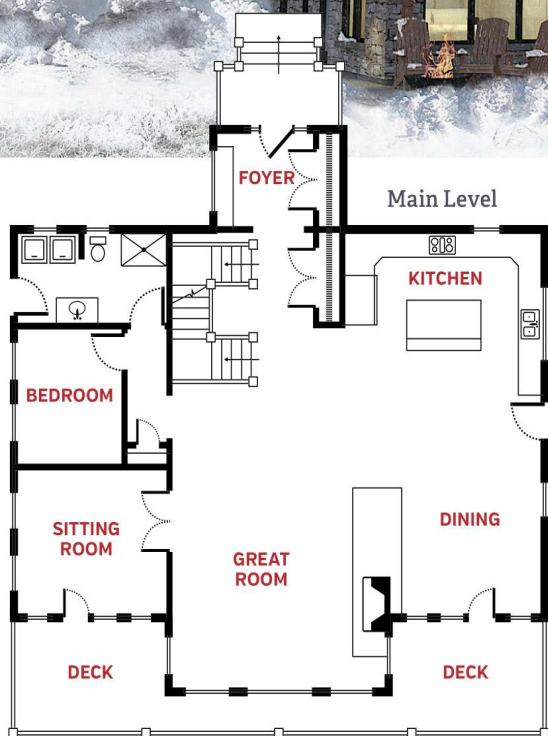
This ranch home features a wide open living space, a large laundry/mudroom and private master suite. Wrap around porches ensure plenty of outdoor entertaining regardless of the weather! An office/library in the loft can also double as a bedroom. Attached 3 car garage has a wonderful studio above.



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FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



MODEL NAME

Glacier

Square Footage: 4,612 Bedrooms: 6 Baths: 4 full, 1 half

This 6 bedroom 4.5 bath 4,612 sq. ft. design boasts dramatic two-story vaulted ceilings exposed with timber frame trusses and a generous deck for seamless indoor/outdoor living. The Glacier features a wealth of amenities on the inside - from two gourmet kitchens and a media room to a luxurious master suite that spans from the front of the house to the back. Generous entertainment spaces and guest accommodations are the hallmark of this spectacular home.



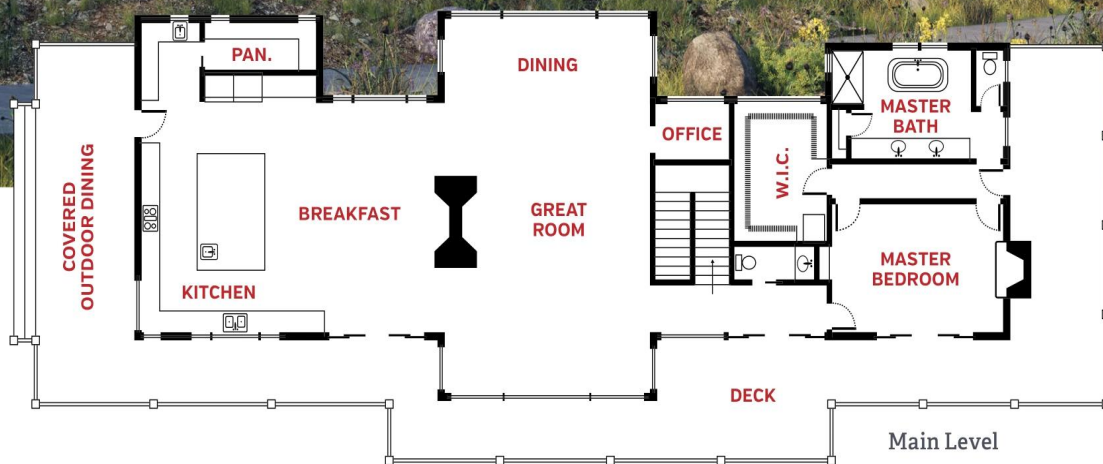
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FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



MODEL NAME

The Caribou Ridge

Square Footage: 4,741

Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 3 full, 1 half

This stunning mountain contemporary home is designed to embrace the breathtaking views and surrounding nature. The moment you step through the front door, expansive views and natural light fill the room. The large open floor plan is perfect for everyday living and entertaining while decks off the main living area and master bedroom allow for year-round outdoor living.



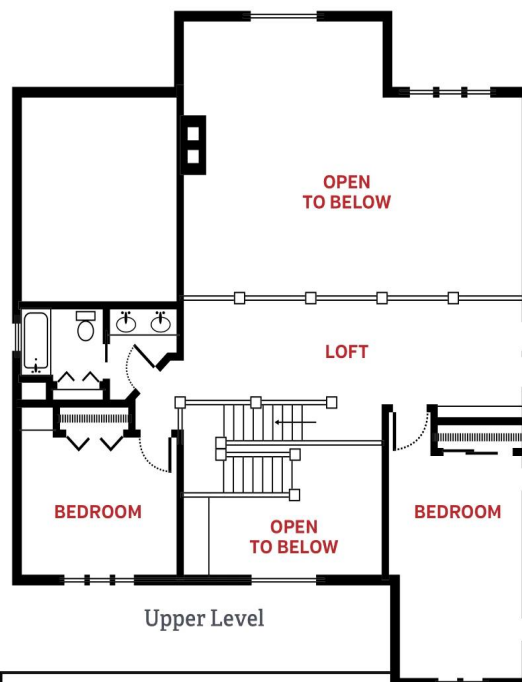
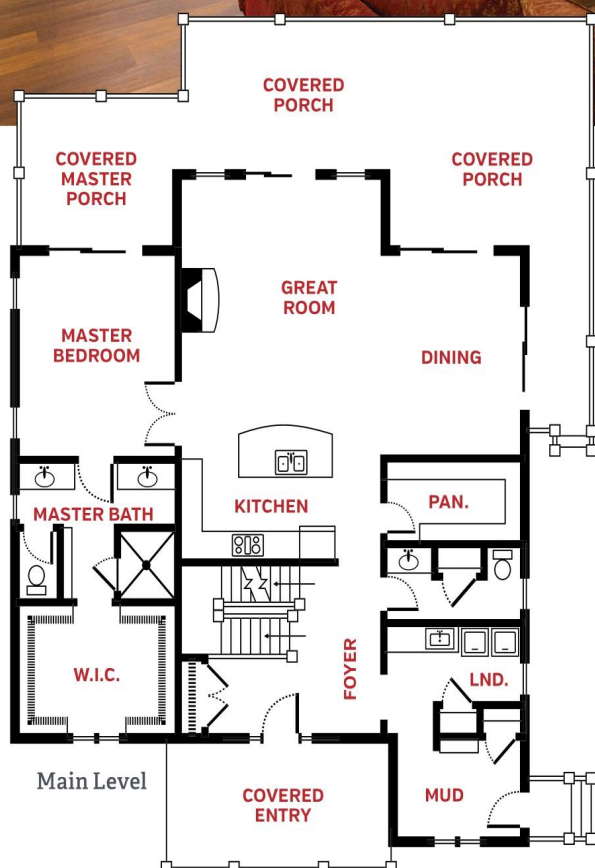
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FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



MODEL NAME

The Potts

Square Footage: 4,745 Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full, 1 half

The Potts home is located directly on a beautiful lake. It features a country aesthetic on the inside, combining the various elements in a way that makes you feel at home.

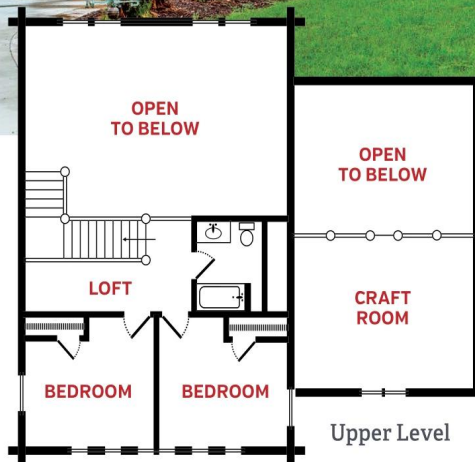


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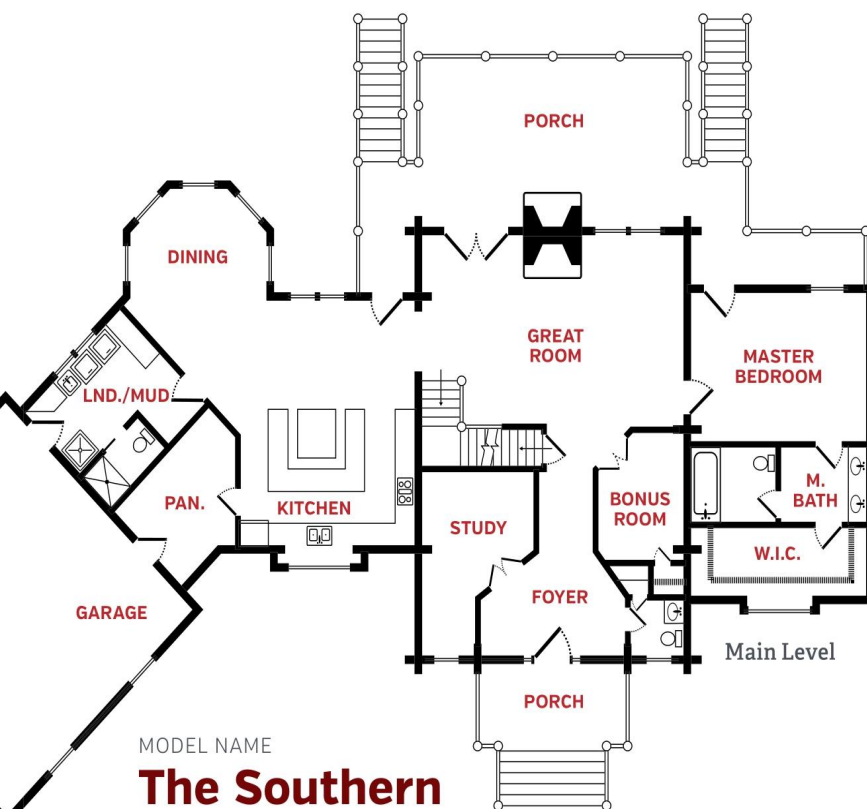
FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



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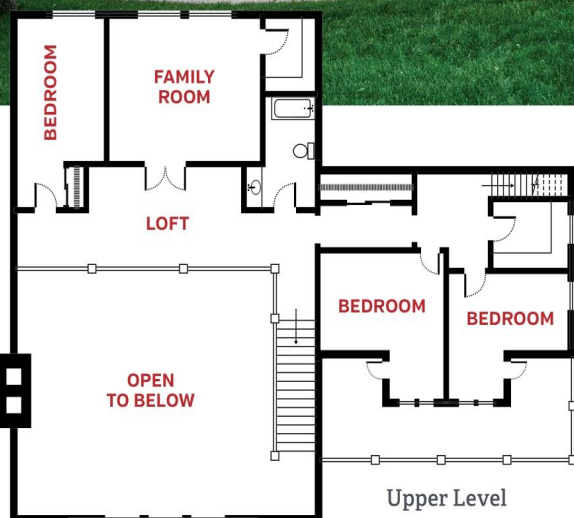
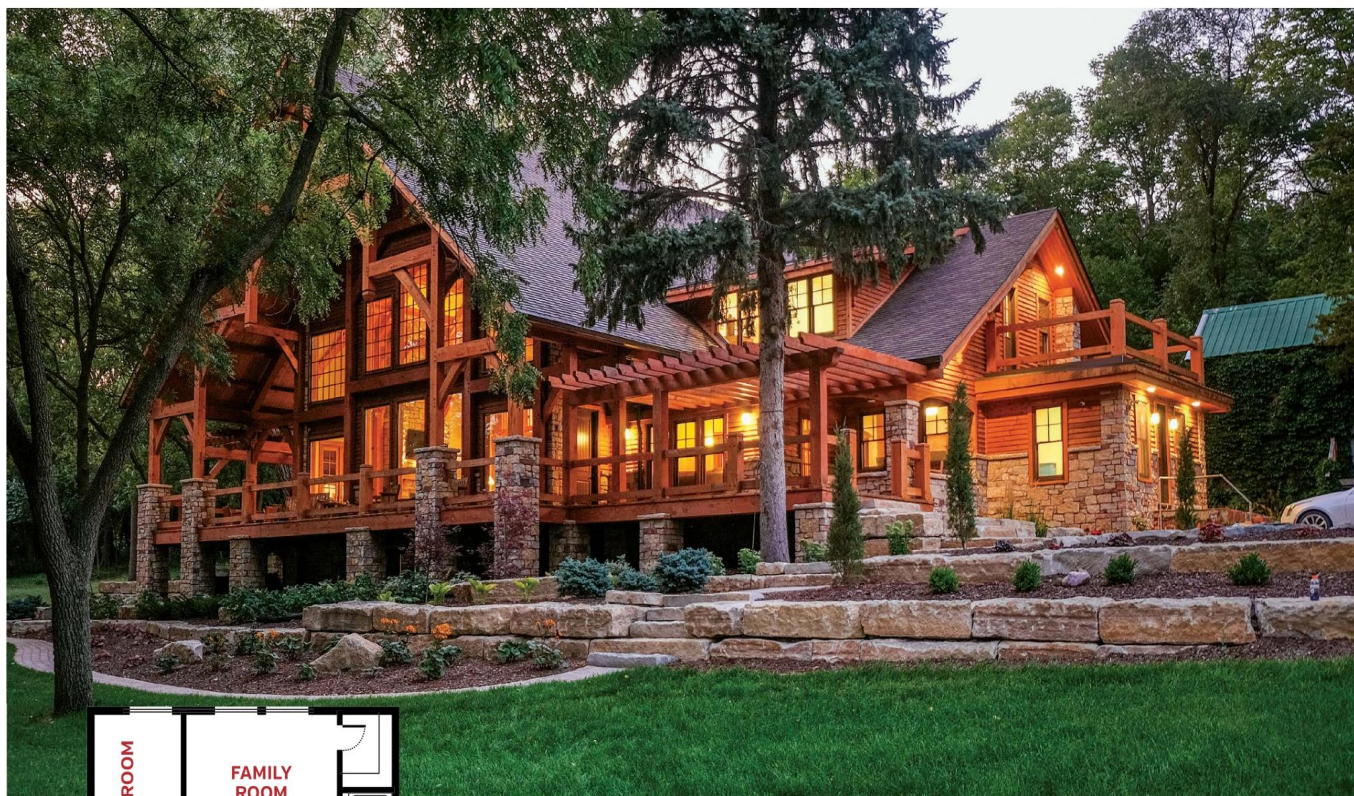
The Southern Grace

Square Footage: **4,924** Bedrooms: **3** Baths: **3 full, 2 half**

On the 3,300 SF main floor the Southern Grace features two guest bedrooms with a shared bath; a timber frame master suite with a dressing room, bathroom and walk-in closet; a first floor open kitchen and dining room; and a separate living room with a fireplace. There are his and hers offices; a laundry/mud room with a full bathroom accessible from an attached 784 SF garage; and a second story craft room. Both the master suite and living room open onto a deck with an outdoor living room warmed by a stone fireplace. The 1,624 SF basement boasts a full kitchen with a dining space and fireplace; a den convertible to sleeping quarters; and a half bathroom.



FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



MODEL NAME

The Midwest Marvel

Square Footage: 4,961

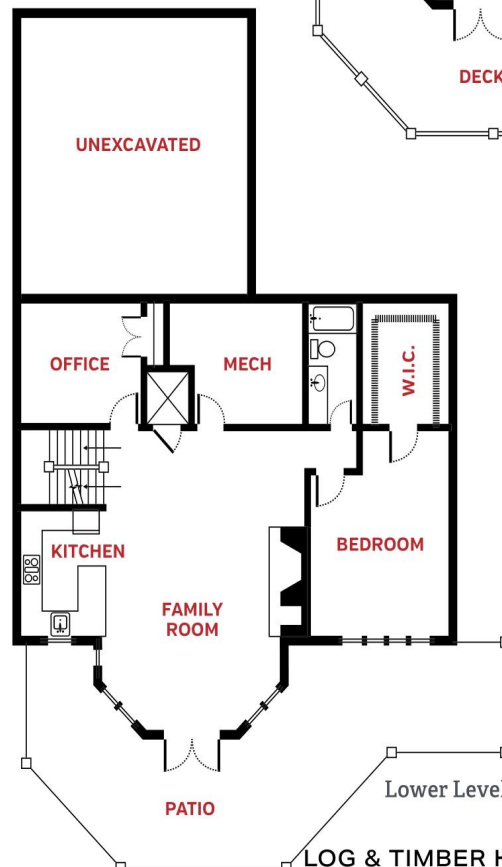
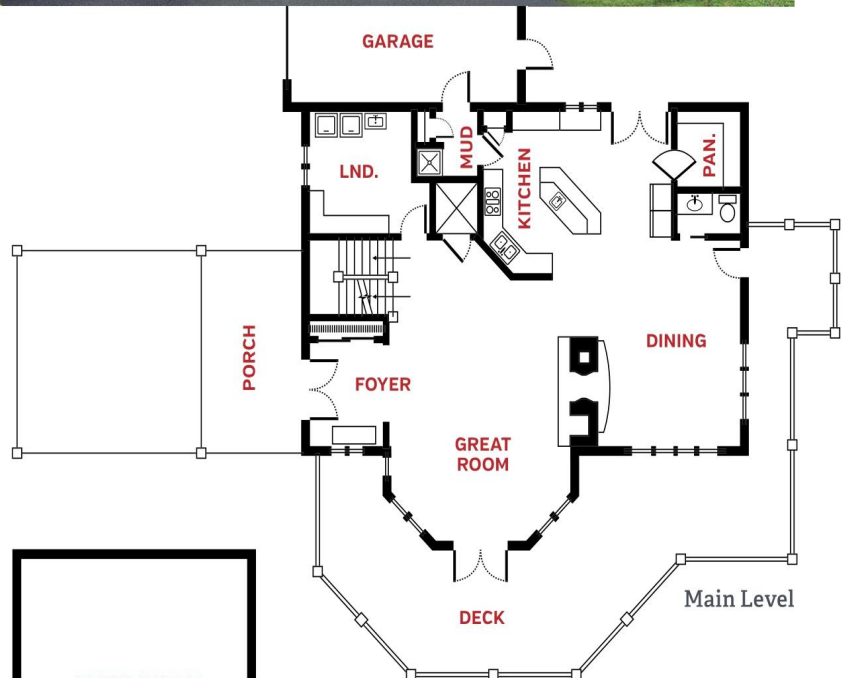
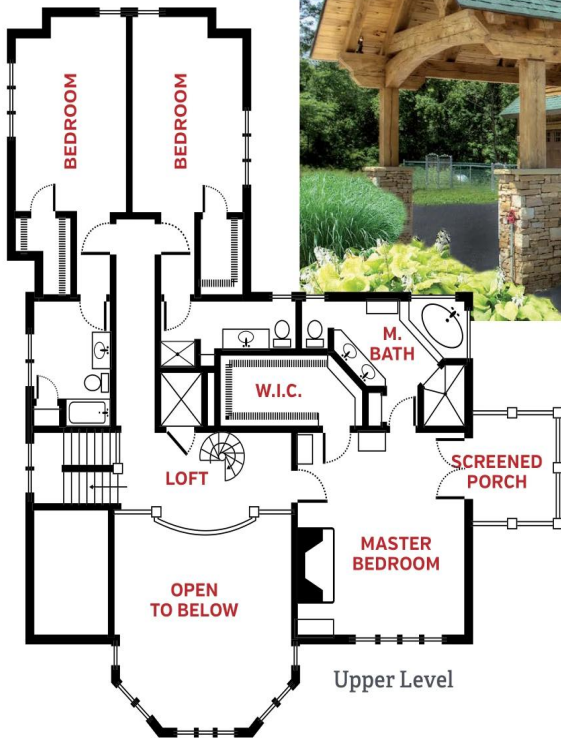
Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 3 full

This floor plan was a 2020 Log & Timber Home of the Year winner. Built with entertaining in mind, it features a large great room which you've come to expect in timber frames. The most impressive part of the design however is the vast outdoor spaces this home has to offer.



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MODEL NAME

The Dupree

Square Footage: **5,194**

Bedrooms: **3** Baths: **3 full, 1 half**



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The Dupree is designed with spacious areas for living and entertaining. The first floor features a large kitchen/dining area along with a large vaulted great room. The second floor master bedroom has a private patio for your personal enjoyment. Above the garage there is room for an additional two bedrooms and two baths.

FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



Upper Level

MODEL NAME

Sierra

Square Footage: 5,379

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 3 full, 1 half

This mountain craftsman timber frame ranch makes rustic living easy. The convenience of one level living coupled with outdoor access off every room will make you never want to leave. Large windows deliver wonderful views and plenty of natural light while the spacious open concept layout provides the perfect space for entertaining. Extra amenities include a double-sided stone fireplace, an enormous master walk-in closet, and a bonus room above the garage.



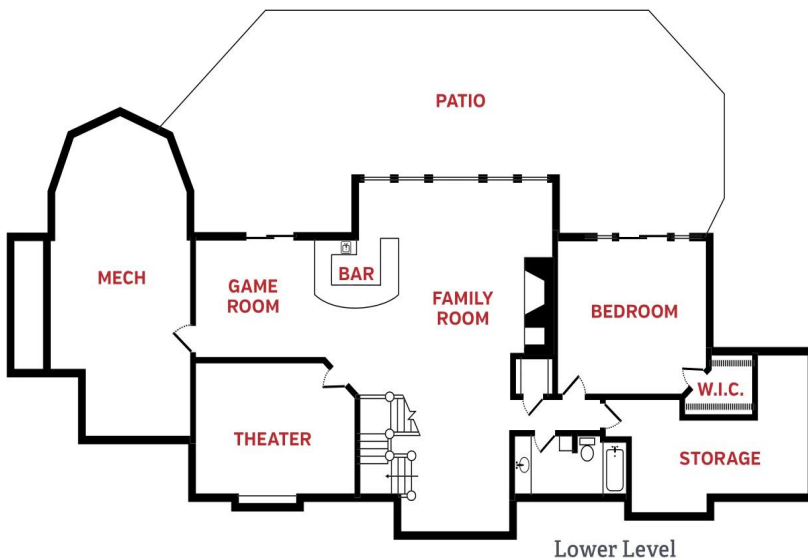
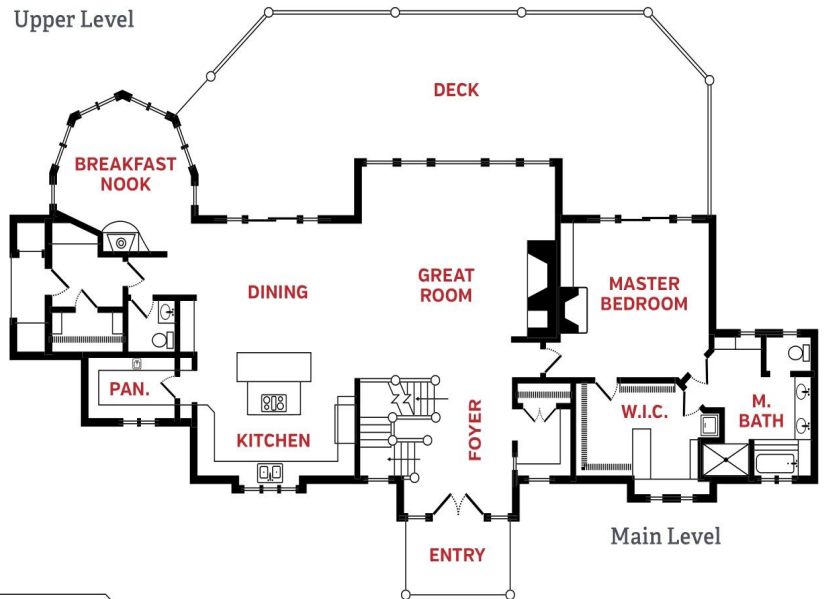
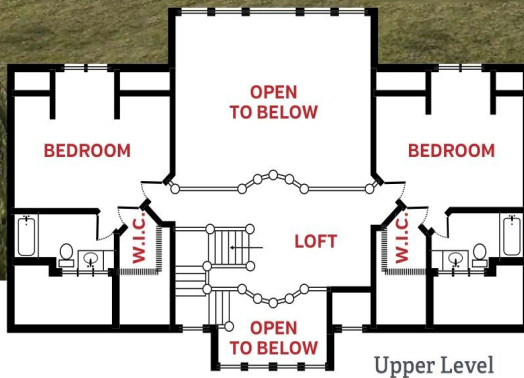
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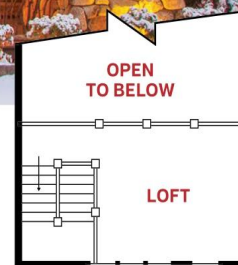
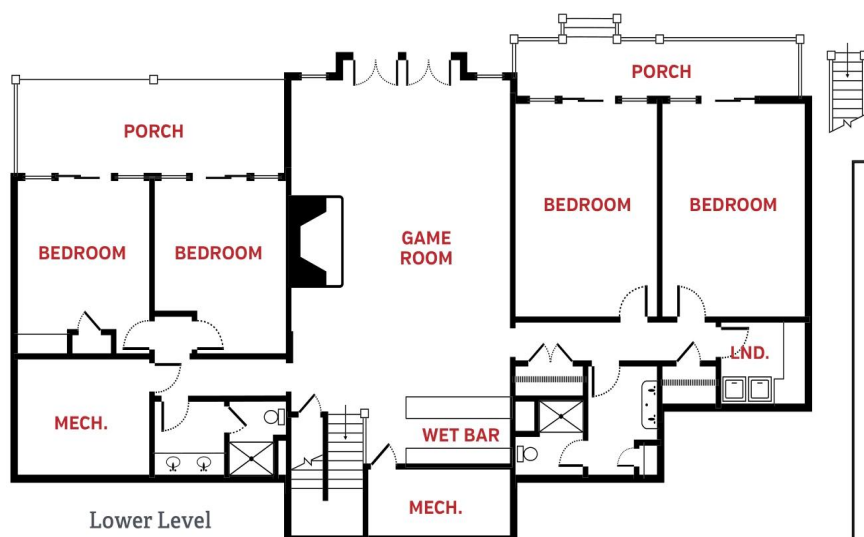
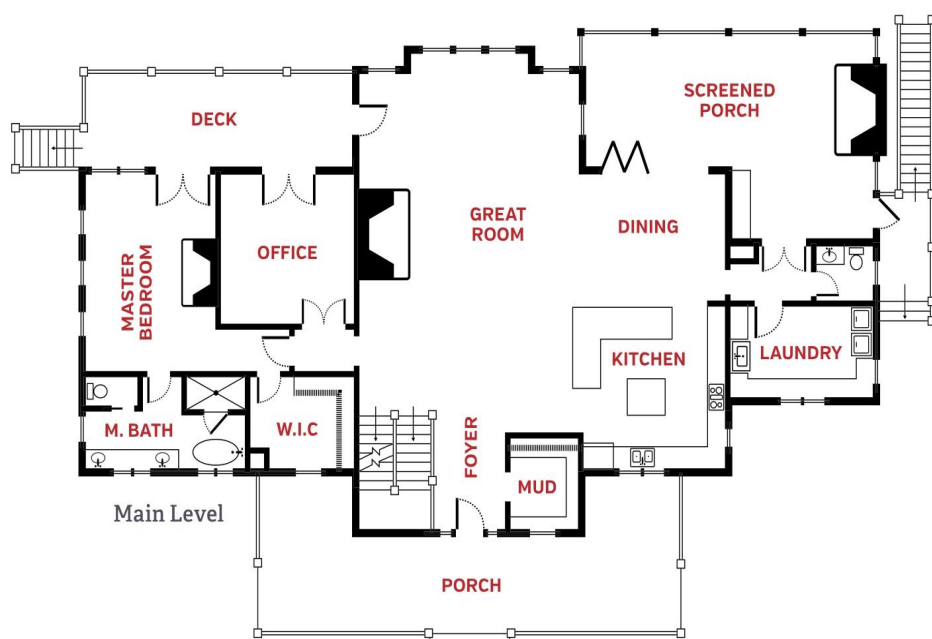
Jackson

Square Footage: 5,902

Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 4 full, 1 half

A bold architectural response to its surrounding mountainous landscape, the Jackson's oversized wood and stone accents convey strength and dramatic elegance. Like all our custom homes, the Jackson can be modified in size, layout and style to fit your personal needs and property. Explore designs in all sizes and styles at www.wisconsinloghomes.com.

FLOOR PLANS *more than 3,000 sq. ft.*



MODEL NAME

The Sunapee

Square Footage: 6,321

Bedrooms: 5 Baths: 3 full, 1 half

The Sunapee lake and snow lodge features conventional and timber frame construction. MossCreek's exquisite use of exterior materials includes poplar bark, antique log siding with dovetail corners, hand cut timber frame, barn board siding and local river stone piers and foundation. Inside, the home features reclaimed barn wood walls, floors, and ceilings, as well as a master suite on the main level.



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Appalachian Log Homes	45
Appalachian Log Structures.....	63
Archetype Homes	29
Battle Creek Log Homes	30, 34
Canadian Timberframes Ltd.....	Inside Front Cover-1, 61
Colorado Timberframe.....	9, 70, 71, 76
Coventry Log Homes	27, 31
CTA Products	8
Eagle Panel Systems	22
Hochstetler Log Homes	28, 46, 60
Honest Abe Log Homes	3, 32, 50, 64, 68, 73
Johnson's Log Home & Timber Frame Shows.....	86
The Log & Timber Home Show.....	23
The Log & Timber University.....	53
Mid-Atlantic Timberframes	65

COMPANY	PAGE
Montana Log Homes	62, 69
MossCreek Designs	48, 78
New Energy Works	15, Back Cover
Oakbridge Timber Framing Ltd.	5, 72
Perma-Chink Systems	Inside Back Cover
Real Log Homes	67
Sashco	7
Schroeder Log Home Supply.....	21
StoneMill Log & Timber Homes.....	20, 47, 49
Texas Timber Frames.....	74
Timbercraft-Built for Life	44
Timberpeg	4, 26, 51
Wisconsin Log Homes.....	33, 66, 77, 79
Woodland Timberframing	21, 75
Yellowstone Log Homes.....	35

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Rich Wilkinson
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NATIONAL ACCOUNTS MANAGER
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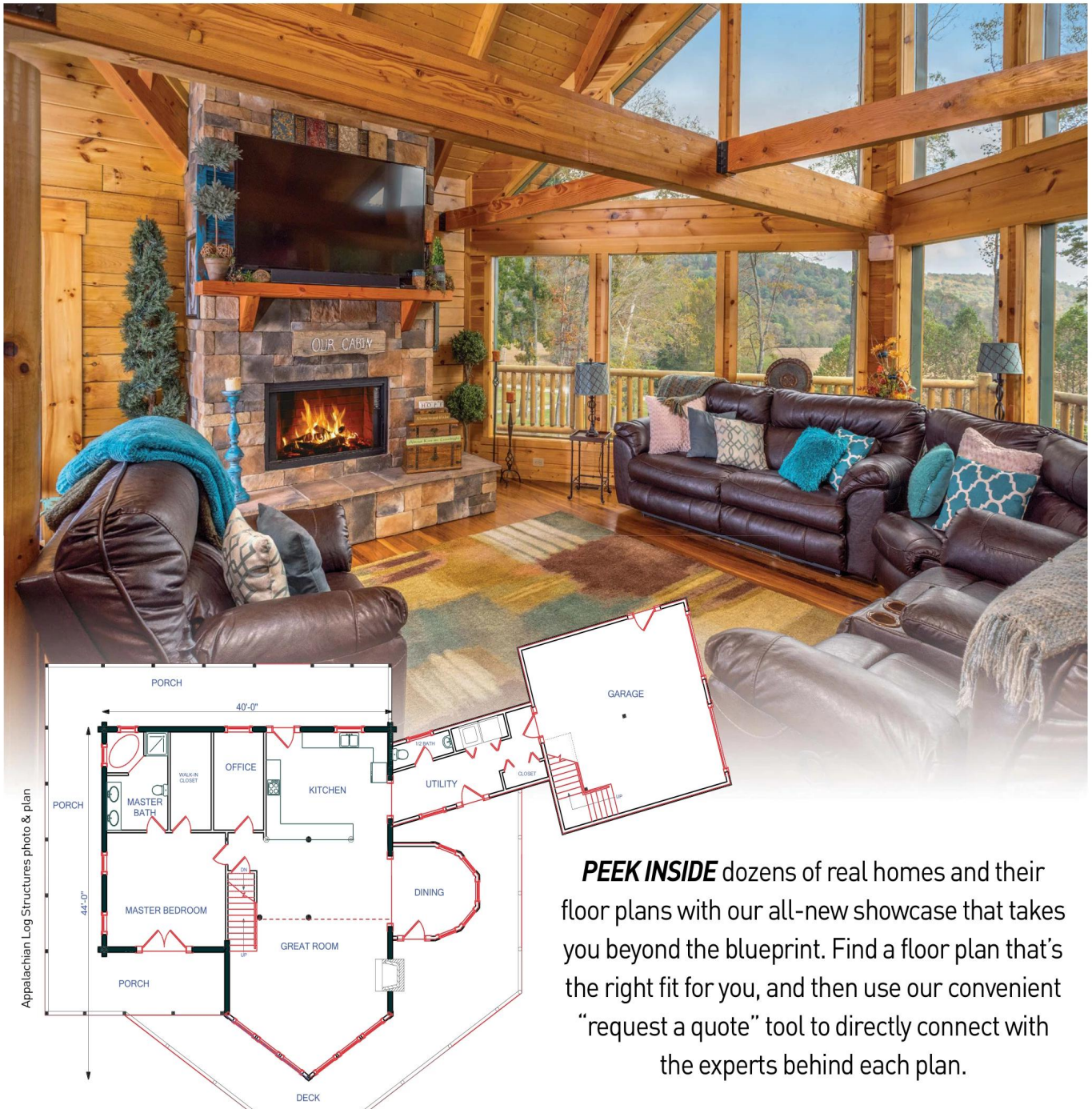


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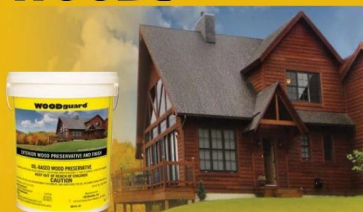
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