


FROM start TO FINISH


In Idaho's Sun Valley, an engineer builds an impressive, energy-efficient log home that saves money in style.

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HOME BY WISCONSIN LOG HOMES

RIVERSIDE REFUGE. To take advantage of the mountain setting and nearby river, this log home features ample windows and plenty of deck space. "It's easy to become one with the river—no matter where you are, you can see it," notes homeowner Art Carlson. Architectural shake-style shingles on the roof tie the house into its surroundings.



BOLD & BEAUTIFUL. A distressed Mexican buffet beneath the staircase blends perfectly with the pine logs. The black-and-white color scheme of the cow-print chair is echoed in the zebra-print rug that tops the pine floor. Art credits his wife, Susan, with the decor: "She's accessory oriented and added contrast to make our home more vibrant."



MODERN ART. Art designed the fireplace in the great room, and worked closely with two masons on its construction. "We used 20 tons of river rock from the Big Wood River," he notes. The mantel was made from a pine log that was quartered, and the unique table behind the sofa features sandstone on top of a metal base. The lighting was situated on tracks and placed on top of the collar-tie beams.

THE HOMEOWNERS' STORY

Not all homeowners can say that they were involved with every aspect of designing and building their log home. But Art Carlson, an engineer who was the brainchild behind many of his home's distinctive elements, can say that and more.

"This is my first log home. It's my dream home—I always wanted to do it," Art says.

Art built his dream-come-true in Ketchum, Idaho, part of the ski-resort area in the Sun Valley region. He and his wife, Susan, owned a summer home in Idaho for years, but eventually decided to make Ketchum their permanent address, moving from Salt Lake City, Utah. "We left the big city and went seriously country," Art says with a laugh.

Although aesthetics were important to Art, his primary focus was on creating an energy-efficient home. He designed a reflective-insulation system featuring radiant barriers and reflective foils, reducing the amount of energy the home requires, and consequently, the cost of his utility bills.

"The engineer in me kicked in. A lot of technology is in the structure, but it didn't interfere with the design," explains Art, who founded Radiant Foil.com to provide radiant barriers for buildings. "I did everything possible to limit our energy use. This quaint log cabin is a high-tech, energy-efficient home."

Art's engineering influence can be found in every nook and cranny of his

savvy 2,827-square-foot abode. "I touched every aspect of it at least once, including all the mechanicals, heating and plumbing," he notes.

According to Art, the location of his home dictated the choices he made. The house sits on three-quarters of an acre and has a magnificent landscape. "It's in a mountain setting, and it asks for something that fits in with the mountains—something natural. We built a home that looks, acts and feels right," Art says.

Though the project was demanding, Art says it was worth all the effort: "I've gotten a tremendous amount of positive feedback from people who've visited. I'd do it again in a heartbeat."



TO DINE FOR. A captivating table is the focal point of the dining room. John Becking of Bent Log Designs in Draper, Utah, found a tree root to use as a table base, and designer Dan Cummings produced a glass tabletop etched to look like spring waters intersecting. The striking light fixture casts a soft, mood-inducing glow, and the modern upholstered chairs were custom made.



SMALL WONDER. The diminutive kitchen melds rustic details with modern conveniences. The distinctive island countertop was crafted from a pine log, and the bar stools are embellished with cow-print cushions. Stainless steel appliances are sleek, contemporary elements juxtaposed against the otherwise rugged space.

THE LOG HOME COMPANY'S STORY

After careful research, Art Carlson selected Wisconsin Log Homes to supply his log home's package. Brian Delwiche, design manager at the Green Bay-based company, clicked with Art right from the start. "We had a great design relationship. I'd present an idea to Art, and with his background in engineering, he understood the positive aspects," recalls Brian. Art agrees, saying, "Brian and I talked shorthand. I really enjoyed working with him."

Since energy-efficiency was of paramount importance to Art, Brian made it a priority in the design. "Combining energy-efficient windows and doors with our thermal log-wall system provides a highly efficient home," explains Brian. "With the reflec-

tive-foil insulation, Art's home requires half of the supplemental heating and cooling that an average home in the same area needs."

To enclose the exterior, Art selected 10-inch half-log pine siding, while the interior features an 8-inch pine-plank log style called "Timberlock." The clear stain lets the grain and knots of the pine show through, boosting the home's character.

In his quest for an environmentally sound home, Art also thought it important to use chemical-free building components. "A majority of the framed structure is comprised of toxin-free materials," Brian says, "and the interior log and trim are non-toxic as well."

Brian and Art worked together on the unique floorplan, which includes a

master bedroom with a spiral staircase to a loft above, a narrow-yet-open kitchen and a canopied porch adjacent to the great room.

The exterior elevations were designed to embrace the home's surroundings. Brian utilized stone bases for the log posts at the front and rear porches and added decorative gable braces to draw attention to the front of the house.

For Brian, watching the design evolve was his favorite experience during the process. "The most memorable part was updating the photos as construction progressed," he says. Indeed, it's a powerful thing to play a key role in helping someone's dream home take shape. But it's a role that Brian and the folks at Wisconsin were born to play.

SLEEP TIGHT. The master bedroom, adjacent to the great room, features an aspen log bed, bench and tables handmade by John Becking. The zebra-striped bedding, decorative buffalo-print pillows and colorful artwork are bold, graphic accents. The spiral staircase (opposite left) leads up to a loft where Art's office is located.



AU NATUREL (above right). The bathroom highlights a number of rustic touches. The vanity and shower feature tumbled Noche Rock tile from Mexico. The hickory cabinets were cus-

tom made by Maple Craft USA, and designer Daniel Quinn created the mirror from reclaimed twigs. Brushed-nickel faucets give the muted-toned space some sparkle.



Main Level



Upper Level

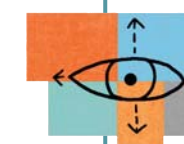
HOMESPECS

Square footage: 2,827

Log provider/designer: Wisconsin Log Homes

For more information, see Sourcebook on page 78.

EYE ON DESIGN



With the main stairs tucked to the side and a spiral staircase in the master bedroom, the home is able to play up its small square footage to the max.