



Great Room

A soaring prow-shaped window juts toward the outdoors, giving the illusion of even greater space in this two-story great room. That focal point is matched on the room's opposite side by the rough stone fireplace that tapers toward the ceiling and features, of course, a planed log mantle over the gas log fire. "That fireplace is all I used for heat on the chillier days up there," the young mother noted.

The room is split into two seating areas with a two-sided leather sofa marking its center in a most novel way. The rich brown leather sofa faces the TV area to one side, while behind it, the other half allows a lake view as well as comfy seating, just like the two easy chairs in chocolate leather with gold and brown chenille pillows adding both color and texture to the natural color scheme.

'Rugged Elegance'

Log home lovers put down roots in Door County

By Sean Schultz

Do we have to leave already, Mom?" Plaintive appeals like that one from her little ones lets one new log home owner from De Pere know that she and her husband were right to make their dream of a rustic, rough-hewn log weekend retreat come to life on their Clark Lake property in Door County.

The family's first weekend in their new home was in late March, just six months after Wisconsin Log Homes (WLH) in Green Bay and its subcontractors broke ground and started work on the 3,200-square-foot showcase home situated on an acre across the road from Whitefish Dunes State Park where they'll also have access to the Lake Michigan beach.

WLH "was the first and only showroom we went to," says the

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Exterior

The handsome and rugged home that boaters see from Clark Lake in Jacksonport first took shape on a high tech computer screen at the offices of Wisconsin Log Homes in Green Bay. By quickly and easily manipulating the computer-aided designs, designer Brian Delwiche captured exactly what the new homeowners wanted. Outside, that meant two stories with sharply peaked roof lines, handsome log walls with enormous log pillars flanking the massive prow-style great room window. That window and the others in the house afford sweeping views of the lake and the wooded property around the house.

PHOTOS BY KCJ PHOTOGRAPHY



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lady of the house. "We were so impressed." It was one-stop shopping as they worked with builders David and Kathy Janczak and their staff to plan the house inside and out.

Design manager Brian Delwiche consulted on the dimensions, the home's style and the interior layout to give the family just what they wanted. Dennis Gaestel, the general contractor for WLH Builders, the in-house building division, "listened to us enough to keep us grounded. He let us dream and have our own ideas," the owner says.

The couple was pleased to take advantage of the services of resident interior designer Stephanie Gauthier, who was quickly in tune with what she heard her clients asking for. "I told her this is what I want to do and she pulled out furniture and fabric samples," the homeowner says. "She didn't take over and do everything; she worked with me."

They benefited from her experience with rustic home interiors and from the handsome and novel display of furnishings and accent pieces in WLH's retail showroom, items meant to carry that woody feel indoors.

While log homes range from deep woods cabin style to contemporary, city lot elegance, the De Pere family had something specific in mind—a home like those they'd seen while visiting relatives in

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Kitchen

Nobody minds kitchen chores in this spacious room with its center island that serves as workspace and storage center. A trio of Mission-style light fixtures, found throughout the home, illuminate the Corian topped island. The family of six and their guests are well-served by the GE Monogram series appliances including the oversized gas range, double-door freezer/refrigerator and dishwasher. The discerning eye can't miss the focal point in this room, the deep farmer sink made of hammered copper with its coordinated copper faucets, pot filler and spray. Windows over the sink make doing dishes a visual experience as the outside view is invited inside.

The family "roughs it" at mealtime when they sit down at the 10-foot table made of recycled teak railroad ties. They've got seating options – a long bench on one side of the table and six chairs on the other welcome the family and their guests, too. Meals are lit up by a pair of antlered chandeliers above the table; the lighting pieces were crafted by Green Bay artist Jim Johnson.

On the floor, the home is cool in summer with its natural slate flooring in the kitchen, foyer, half bath and master bath. The common areas are topped by wide-planked, hand-scraped maple that has that already "looks lived, which is good for the dog and the kids," the homeowner joked.



Master Bedroom

French doors let the lake in to this master suite with its plank flooring warmed by reversible Kilim rugs. The owners' king-sized bed, like all the others in the home, is made of natural logs "in keeping with the whole cabin feel," the owner notes. The bedding is kept warm but simple with a Navajo-inspired design on the bedspread.



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Tucson, Arizona. "We wanted a western, ranchy feel," the homeowner says. "It's what we always wanted, to have a retreat to takes the kids to."

They wanted "rugged elegance," explains Kathy Janczak, "a natural home with exposed logs inside and out." That was just one of the many choices open to log home fanciers. And that's just what they got in their two-story lake-side home after selecting every aspect of their new home, from cabinet pulls to window design to roofing materials and decking.

"By using the design/build approach, we work together from the start as a team with the homeowners," Janczak says.

If it was the parents' dream come true, it was beyond their four children's wildest dreams. The kids—ages 3, 4, 6 and 9—never want their weekend visits to their second home to end. "It has 'an outdoorsy-even-when-you're-inside' feeling," the children's mother says. "They've told me, 'It smells like outside in here.'"

Mom likes it that way, too. "What I like best about a log home is that everything is natural," she says. "Even where there's drywall, they did a rough texture so it doesn't look just like sheetrock with paint."

The family, originally from Pennsylvania, relocated to Green Bay three years ago. They live in a traditional, colonial-style home during the week, but on weekends they hit the road for the short trip to their home away from home in Door County.

"Their kids call it their 'Cabin with a capital C,'" Janczak says.

This summer, they got a pontoon boat to take advantage of their waterfront setting where their little ones will continue to thrive and bask in family togetherness for years to come.

"We've turned off the TV and we're actually outside doing things together," Mom says. "We're putting down some serious roots here."



Master Bath

Copious counter space in the master bathroom is interrupted by his and hers vessel-style copper sinks. Designer back-splash tiles coordinate with the large slate squares that make up the flooring and line the walk-in shower.



Half Bath

On the main floor, the half bath boasts antlered drop lighting that coordinates with a vanity mirror that has its own animal appeal. The vanity in this room was custom built by the owner's brother.

HOME SHOWCASE
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Boys' Bedroom

Horse tails and a cowboy theme accent the boys' rooms. Their rough walls, like much of the house, are painted a Navajo white tone that glows in the light of their teepee lamps. They have a rockin' good time in the Western-style room with its brightly painted wooden rocking horse as a focal point. Plaids and stripes are just masculine enough for these little guys in shades of brown with bright accents. Like their sisters, they're camped out in a corner room with views of their own "wild West."

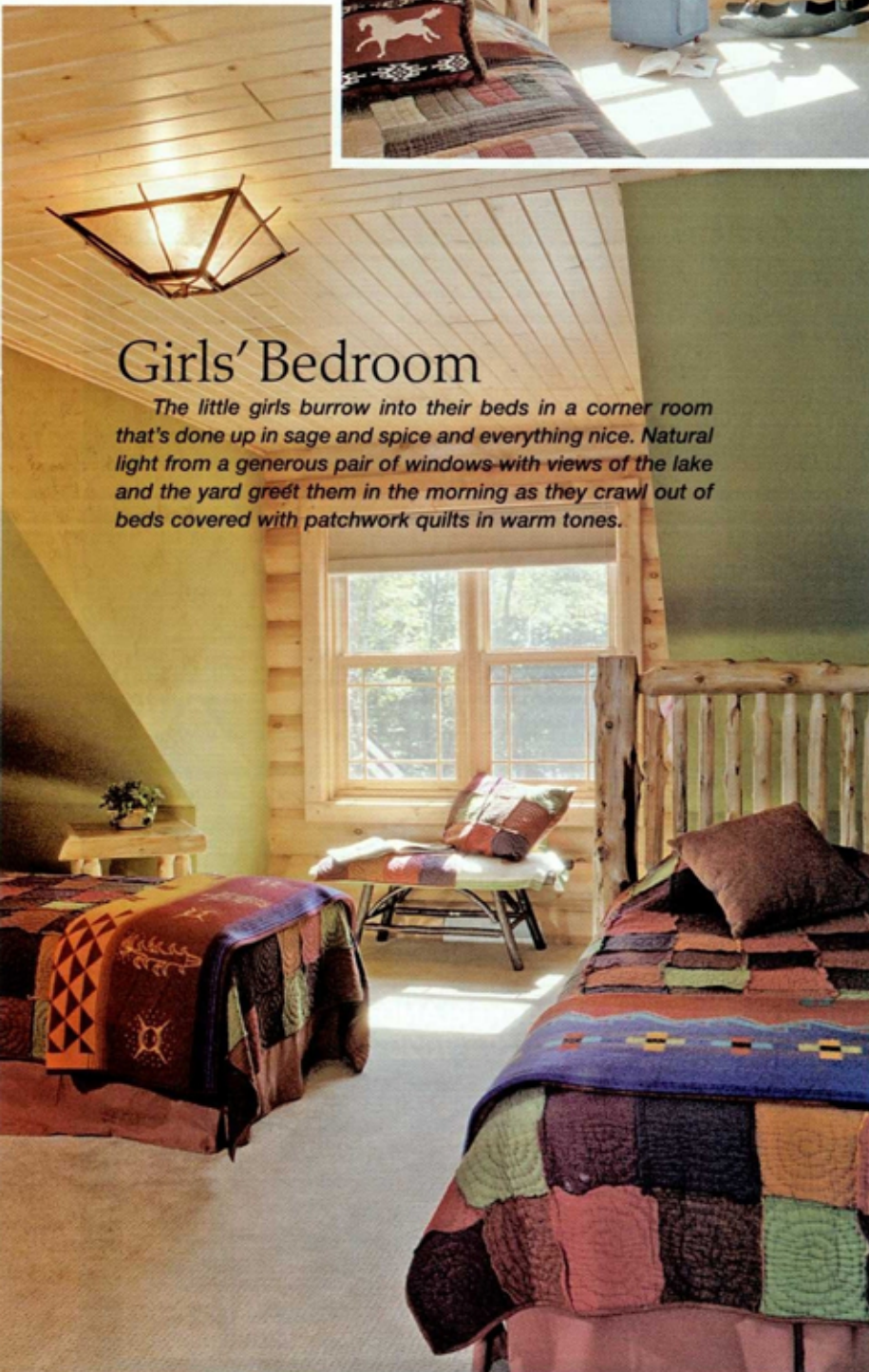


Bonus Room

The three-stall garage has a surprise above it - a pair of bonus rooms that includes a playroom for the children and, behind it, a guest bedroom when Philadelphia relatives and Green Bay friends come to stay.

Girls' Bedroom

The little girls burrow into their beds in a corner room that's done up in sage and spice and everything nice. Natural light from a generous pair of windows with views of the lake and the yard greet them in the morning as they crawl out of beds covered with patchwork quilts in warm tones.



Foyer

The turned staircase greets visitors in the entrance to this unique home. Visitors get the drift right away from the gunslinger's belt hanging over the log post at the foot of the turned log staircase - this is a house meant for family and fun with an emphasis on the great outdoors - and a great indoors.

Family Room/Loft

The design team took the traditional main floor family room up a floor and up a notch. With its second story view of the great room and kitchen below, the loft area is set up for playtime from the regulation-size pool table at its center to the requisite TV/media center. There's a built-in wet bar with mini frig and storage galore. The walls up here are logs, of course, with a double window inset that lets the natural light in. The polished wood plank floor is rich and warm below, and the tongue-in-groove ceiling does the same job on top.





This dramatic one-of-a-kind home designed by Wisconsin Log Homes was chosen as one of the Top Ten Floorplans of 2006 by nationally renowned architects—including Jack B. Davis III, Mark Gawey and Robert E. Pernel. Because of its distinctly different design and beauty, it was also awarded the cover of the 2006 Log Home Living calendar. The home rests on 20 acres of wooded land minutes from Green Bay.

Photo by KCJ Photography.

LOG HEAVEN: Expert tips if you're thinking about taking the log home route

By Sean Schultz

Putting up a log home on your property requires someone who has forsaken "same old same old" and turned to their own "brave new world."

Of course log homes aren't new—Honest Abe grew up in one, after all. But today's log home can be that simple cabin if you choose, or you may decide that a sumptuous 4,000-square-footer with all the trimmings is your idea of roughing it.

The owner of Wisconsin Log Homes in Green Bay knows the questions people have when they're deciding on log-built versus traditional home. Kathy Janczak, who started the business with her husband, David, learned from her own first log home experience 30 years ago and from the feedback of hundreds of log home clients since then.

FIRST STEP

A first step, Janczak recommends, is making a wish list of all that you want in your new home. Then, turn that list into reality. The client whose handsome new log home is featured in this issue of Luxury Living also has tips for those who are leaning toward logs.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

The new client and her husband studied log homes before they made their move. "We got subscriptions to Log Home Designs and Log Home Living, she says. "We read the articles and saw what others did. Research, research, research is the key to a good log home."

ONE-STOP SHOPPING PAYS OFF

They didn't look at other log home builders after visiting the showroom and Wisconsin Log Homes. "They had everything we wanted right there," she says. They made use of the building designers, the general contractor, the interior designer and the company's retail showroom to make their 3,200-square-foot log retreat all they wanted for their young family.

Kathy Janczak suggests customers will get a better job and one that fits their budget if they work with a log home builder who has all the components in-house. That way, "Everybody is on the same page," she notes.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

"Educate yourself about the differences between full log

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and half log types of construction," she suggested. "Look most seriously at manufacturers and builders with a lot of experience in this type of home construction. Work with someone you feel understands your needs and wants and can give you opinions based on experience and knowledge."

The potential log home owner should seek out a log-building system that's easy to maintain, energy efficient, and can accommodate all of the comforts and technology they have in mind.

"Work with a team that offers everything you need, from custom design services to construction, from product and color selection to home furnishings," Janczak suggests. Do some research, and find out what is important to you and make a wish list of what you want in a new home.

SAVE YOUR ENERGY

Every log and timber home Wisconsin Log Homes puts up, whether it's built with cedar, pine or spruce logs, is also energy efficient, above national standards for insulation—thanks to the company's Thermal-Log Building System and the use of insulation materials. The exterior logs are treated with a log oil to keep moisture out and preserve the natural beauty of the logs.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

Maintaining a log home is not a time-consuming process. That's because all the logs, whether air dried or kiln dried, are

soaked at the company's mill in treatment tanks filled with an Environmental Protection Agency-approved solution that protects them from the elements during construction.

Janczak pointed out that wood "is not a maintenance-free material and requires periodic restaining with a good preservative." When properly designed, it doesn't take much to keep a log home looking good, she added. "It can easily be restored to its original condition if you want a new look, an important benefit that composites and other man-made materials can't duplicate.

She advises that log homeowners get in the habit of periodically inspecting the caulk. "Touch up any bubbles or pinholes in the caulk. Occasionally spray a little water on the logs," she says. "If the water soaks in rather than beads up and runs off, it's time to re-treat."

MONEY MATTERS

Pricing is a natural concern of the potential log home owner. But the price is determined by the complexity of the floor plan the owner chooses, the square footage they need and the design features they select.

Janczak cites these factors that influence the price per square foot—the corners and angles involved in the footprint of the home; the number of the dormers and roof pitches; the shape, size and number of windows and the interior finishes.

Ultimately, an energy-saving log home is an investment in economy, style and size. And what price do we put on fulfilling a dream?

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