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Building a Log Home to Last for Generations

Interview with:
Ehren Graf

National Home Consultant at Wisconsin Log Homes



1.) WHAT SHOULD A BUYER FIRST CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING TO BUILD A LOG HOME THAT WILL LAST FOR GENERATIONS?

First and foremost, the log home buyer should look for a reliable company who's been around for several generations and has proven that they are capable of designing and building quality homes that are sure to last. Most homes can probably "last" or exist for generations, but it's important to consider how much maintenance you want to do on the home throughout the years to keep it livable and comfortable. If maintenance is not appealing to you, we would strongly recommend a hybrid system like our Thermal-Log™ building system which overcomes the natural inadequacies of solid log construction. In a Wisconsin Log Home, there is no log-wall settling, air infiltration or insulation problems. These energy efficient homes have proven longevity and are easy and comfortable to live in for generations. Also, it's important to choose a log home company that knows the ins and outs of smart designs that will limit maintenance and maximize your home's longevity.

Other important things to consider:

- Build in a location that will work for you now, and for generations to come in the future.
- Design your home to be versatile. Make certain rooms transformable to be more practical for you and future inhabitants.
- Choose maintenance-friendly design options like large overhangs and stone lined foundations to limit future maintenance.

- Choose durable and quality building materials. Some items are easily upgradable, while others should be installed right away. Talk with your log home provider about your options. And always remember, quality materials may cost more upfront, but they will last and save you money in the future.
- Ask your home provider for their most popular floor plans. Chances are, these plans are very versatile and adaptable to all different types of lifestyles versus a more unique plan that's specific to someone's needs.

2. WHAT MAINTENANCE ISSUES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN LOOKING TO BUILD A HOME THAT WILL BE AROUND FOR GENERATIONS?

Our log homes are designed to be as easily maintained as possible. We have yet to come across anyone who enjoys maintaining their home, which is why we developed our Thermal-Log™ building system that requires little to no maintenance. There are so many different building methods out there, each with their own pros and cons. Typically a hybrid system is going to be less maintenance, but not always depending on how the company designs and builds their homes. Determine what's important to you and choose a company that meets your needs.

3. HOW DO YOU MAKE THIS TYPE OF HOME ADAPTABLE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME WHEN YOU KNOW STYLES AND TASTES WILL ALWAYS BE CHANGING?

When designing a log home for yourself, as well as future generations, stick to classic designs that allow for future flexibility. To accommodate all guests regardless of ability, one or two bedrooms on the first floor offers a place to sleep without stairs. Bedrooms that can be transformed into offices, nurseries, exercise rooms, etc also help provide for future needs. Keep design elements in kitchens and baths transitional so the look can be easily changed and look effortless. Keep cabinetry and flooring neutral and select durable materials. Color trends change quickly, so changing a paint color or swapping out light fixtures are easy ways to change with the times and personal tastes. Chances are, an heirloom-style home will become more eclectic over time, with bits and pieces of memories, photos and art outlining the "story" the home shares with its occupants which makes it all the more appealing and 'homey.' A professional interior designer, like myself who is available to all Wisconsin Log Homes' clients, can provide guidance and direction while planning a home that will be "in style" for a lifetime.



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1-800-678-9107

INFO@WISCONSINLOGHOMES.COM

WWW.WISCONSINLOGHOMES.COM