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NOVEMBER 2007



Modern lodge

Log accents and a sleek open interior blend with the rustic setting to give this Wisconsin home an eclectic lodge look

Laird and Natalie

knew someday they would build a getaway home in the woods. When that day arrived and plans were being put on paper, they realized each had their own vision of what the home should look like. For Laird, a log home was always his dream, something strong and solid safe haven. For Natalie, she wanted open, contemporary and clean lines in the home, made of modern materials.

Like with any marriage, compromise is essential. So to help them find the middle ground, Wisconsin Log Homes helped them engineer a plan with materials that would suit them both: a system that could accommodate the open floor plan while utilizing some log, some plaster, and lots of glass.

“This home pulls away from the notion of what a log home should be,” says Bob Patschke, designer for Wisconsin Log Homes. “Logs become the accent rather than the dominant material. You don’t have to live like a lumberjack in today’s log home.”



ABOVE: The expansive great room is a combination of glass, stone, and wood. Carpeting with a geometric pattern creates a modern and casual attitude. Two types of stone in the fireplace add texture and drama.

LEFT: The hipped roof and two-story porte cochere gives the front of this home a distinguished vertical look.

OPPOSITE: Glass railings keep the stairways open and sleek.





The final design features a stacked rock foundation, a log exterior, and a modern interior. “The use of glass that surrounds most of the log elements gives the home its contemporary look,” says Bob. The home has 12-inch western red cedar Thermal-logs; a half-log exterior with a six-inch insulated core wall which provides the floor plan flexibility and allows a variety of interior wall choices.

Located on a wooded lake in Wisconsin, the home resembles a historic grand lodge, with a stone-columned porte cochere and eight-foot mahogany front door surrounded by glass walls.

“We built the home so that our extended family and friends could also use it as their getaway,” says Laird. “There is usually someone here every weekend of the summer and much of the winter. At this stage of our lives, having the family come together is important and this becomes everyone’s destination.”

Guests entering the home encounter a towering stone waterfall that resembles a sheer limestone cliff. The quiet flow of the water that spills into a small pool creates a certain calm. “The waterfall was a feature both Natalie and I wanted to integrate into whatever home we designed,” says Laird. “Water adds another element to the room that blends with both natural and contemporary styles.”

You then turn to the large expanse of glass in the great room where the trees of the forest just outside the windows fill the room with the colors of the season. Reaching heights of 20 feet, the window wall is a luxurious design element, but can be a vulnerable building material in an environment with fluctuating temperatures. “We had the windows custom made by Marvin Windows for this application,” says Laird. “We wanted to guarantee the perfect look and a precision fit for the vertical shape of this room. We have been very satisfied with the outcome and have not had a problem.”

Further inside, the cathedral-like great room sports an equally towering fireplace, fashioned with two types of stone.

STONE IN LOVE

The liberal use of natural stone has become a renaissance among today’s log homeowners.

“Because stone is a natural, not manufactured product, no two pieces are exactly alike,” says Jack Seiders, president of the Marble Institute of America. “That means each finished countertop, wall, floor, mantle, or sill in your home is distinctive and matchless. And, unlike synthetic imitations, natural stone can be three-dimensional. When used in exterior applications, natural stone has also proven superior to manufactured or engineered stones in withstanding the effects of nature.”

Seiders says the desire for low-maintenance/no-maintenance materials and the use of natural materials inside and outside the home have made stone one of the top 10 design elements for today’s buyers.

According to a recent cost vs. value report, homeowners who remodel using stone recover the following percentages of their remodeling costs at resale:

- Bathroom remodel-upscale: 92.6%
- Bathroom addition-upscale: 84.3%
- Kitchen remodel-upscale: 79.6%

— Ronda Mollica



ABOVE: Stone posts both outside and in offset the open glass foyer and mahogany front door embedded with a bronze carving of lake loons. **OPPOSITE:** More natural stone posts and a stone “bed” for a 17-foot waterfall give visitors a distinctively modern lodge impression as they enter the home.



LEFT: A private study located off the foyer serves as the perfect reading room. Décor includes built-in cherry bookcases and space for a chaise lounge.

BELOW: The kitchen has an English pub feel, thanks to a solid cherry tongue-and-groove ceiling, stone-built island, cherry cabinets, and restaurant-style equipment (including a large wine refrigerator).

OPPOSITE: Built-in seating with a Nepal blue granite table creates a “conversation kitchen.”



The lower half is made of stacked gray cultured limestone and topped with New York blue slate that matches the stone found in much of the home. The two stones are divided by a clean-cut limestone mantel that provides little ornamentation, but is a strong line in the room to hold the eye at a human level.

Lighting in a contemporary home is more of a mood enhancer than a decorative object. The uncluttered look of this home is retained by the use of recessed lighting, rather than chandeliers and ceiling fixtures. “Outside the few pendant lights we have in the kitchen, we have installed over 100 recessed lights throughout the home,” says Natalie. “We strove to keep the décor simple, yet elegant.”

The simple and clean look continues into the hall and stairways where a glass railing system was installed, and becomes invisible. The wood trim and stone columns command the attention. “The tem-



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www.loghomenetwork.com.lodgehome



LEFT: The six-person spa, tucked next to two glass walls, gives the feeling of relaxing outdoors.
OPPOSITE: The four-season gazebo room, located off the kitchen, serves as a game and reading room.

RESOURCES

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 5,900
BEDROOMS: 4
BATHS: 3.5
LOG PRODUCER: Wisconsin Log Homes, Green Bay, WI (www.wisconsinloghomes.com)
INITIAL ARCHITECT: Goehring Architects LLC, Minneapolis, MN
WATERFALL: Crystal Blue Creations, Burlington, Ontario

pered glass creates a fluid openness and does not confine the halls,” says Laird. “Even our outdoor railings are a thin metal rather than wood for an unobtrusive look.”

The open kitchen is located to the right of the great room

where the décor shifts from stone and glass to cherry wood and stainless steel. “I love the rich look of cherry,” says Natalie. “I wanted to recreate the look of a warm English pub with tongue and groove ceilings, a built-in booth and a bar for extra seating.” The goal was to create a “conversation kitchen” where people will easily congregate and enjoy the company.

The high-end stainless appliances complete the pub look and include two side by side Kitchen Aid ovens, placed at eye level, a large Sub Zero refrigerator and a built-in wine refrigerator with ancillary refrigerated drawers, large enough to hold 78 bottles.

Just off the kitchen is a gazebo-like four seasons room perched above the forest floor like a treehouse. “We wanted a screen-in porch as a alternative to the outdoors, but wanted something we could use year-round. The shape of this room gives us a sense of being outdoors, can enjoy the beautiful winter scenes while staying quite comfortable,” says Laird.

While entertaining is a big part of this Northwoods retreat, Laird and Natalie made sure they included a private wing in the plan so they would have their own getaway. “As you enter the owner suite, you will notice the walls are scaled down, which creates an intimate feel to the rooms,” says Laird.

All the creature comforts are within reach in this wing that includes a private stone patio, fireplace, built-in entertainment center, spacious walk-in closet, and an equally sizable master bath. The modern glass-block steam shower is paired with a six-person spa tub with modern gray and silver tiles.

Just down the hall, you enter a peaceful library through double doors that opens to a quiet sanctuary with built-in bookcases and space for large lounging chairs. A single French door leads to a secluded side deck, perfect for enjoying wine at sunset.

“The overall look of this home turned out better than we ever imagined,” says Natalie. “Not only does it meet our design expectations, it gives our family the much needed place to unwind, and much of this comes from the soothing space that we all carefully created.”