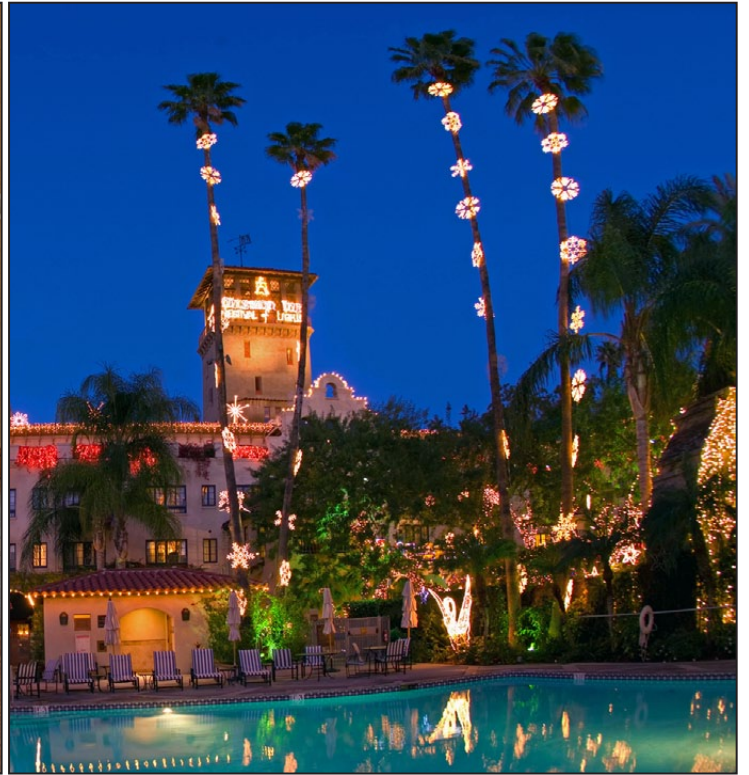


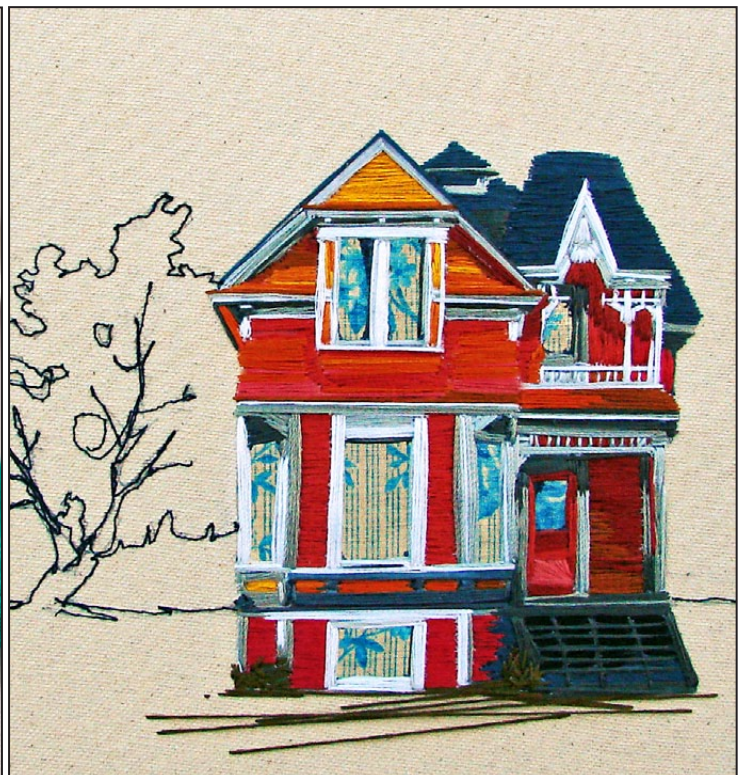
# AMERICAN LIFESTYLE

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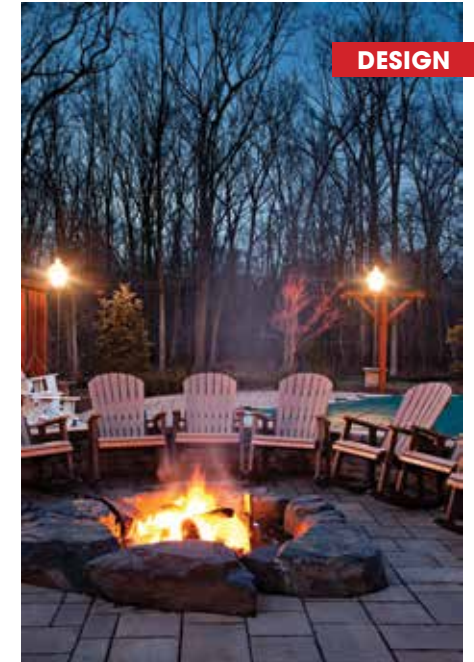
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# Building Memories

LOG CABIN FEVER IN NEW JERSEY

text: WISCONSIN LOG HOMES | photography: WISCONSIN LOG HOMES

*Steven and Diana bring cowboy western flavor to their hybrid log cabin in New Jersey with the help of Wisconsin Log Homes.*



DESIGN

**“A HOME IS A FINGERPRINT IN YOUR memory,”** says Nate Janczak, general manager of Wisconsin Log Homes. “Prospective homeowners want to create something that not only has lasting value, but appears to have always been a part of its surroundings. People who build a custom wood home—whether log, timber, or some hybrid combination—are in love with their property and have an overwhelming desire to be a part of it.”

When Steven and Diana began their journey, they knew exactly what style they were looking for in their 6,500-square-foot home. “We love to ski in Colorado, and they have some magnificent log homes on the ski slopes,” says Steven.

The couple found six acres of wooded property in New Jersey and instantly knew it would be the perfect setting for their dream home. Living here would mean their family’s passion for the outdoors and an appreciation for luxury would be melded into their everyday lifestyle.

Known for its one-of-a-kind homes and national design and build services, Green Bay-based Wisconsin Log Homes was chosen by the couple to turn their visions into a reality.

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“Designing a home that balances innovation and functionality is the goal of everyone involved in building each dream home,” notes Janczak. Wisconsin Log Homes’ design process typically begins with a series of questions that will help evaluate the wants and needs of the homeowner, and if necessary for more complex sites, the design team will also walk the property with them. Most clients choose to visit the company’s headquarters to tour model homes and personally meet the people they will be working with—including their home consultant, design team, in-house general contractor, and in-house interior designer. “To simplify the process for our clients, we offer personalized services every step of the way, including architectural planning and design, turnkey construction, and full-service interior design and decor,” says Janczak. “We become the single point of contact throughout design and construction, and make the experience easy and enjoyable for our homeowners.”

During the preliminary design process, the basic layout of the home is created, forwarding plans back and forth until clients are satisfied with the overall rough design. Equipped with three-dimensional rendering technology, clients can view their home design right on their actual property. “Our rendering services provide an almost identical image of their future home, so any questions or hesitations are addressed before construction starts,” says Brian Delwiche, conceptual design manager at Wisconsin Log Homes.

Wisconsin Log Homes’ innovative building system has enabled them to create the industry’s most artistic and functional designs. “Increasingly, we are working with clients who want a natural home that welcomes the unique application and combination of all the natural materials they are attracted to,”





says Ehren Graf, home consultant at Wisconsin Log Homes. Each hybrid home the company builds is unique to its owner and its site. For instance, Graf adds, “We are currently working on a very modern design that combines timbers, stucco, stone, and metal, and was created to blend with its suburban neighborhood. Another plan we are finalizing will be a rustic retreat decked out in logs on a secluded piece of property in the mountains.” The company’s hybrids are also popular worldwide, being built in other continents like Asia and Europe.

Steven and Diana had very specific ideas for their home. Utilizing the company’s hybrid system, the couple opted for a mix of logs and drywall. The system gives you the freedom to use wood, stone, metal, or any other material you prefer as accents in a way that is effective and dramatic, without being overwhelming. “A lot of people have determined that there is such a thing as too much wood in a home,” says Graf, “Do you really need beams on the laundry room ceiling? Our system allows you to mix and match whatever materials you like, wherever you like.”

As for Steven and Diana’s home, hand-scribed saddle-notch logs and heavy window trim set a refined rustic tone on the exterior, echoing the surrounding forest. Handcrafted round log posts flank the canopy entry with double doors that welcome guests into an angled foyer with views of the impressive wood and metal staircase and soaring great room.

Inside, handcrafted log trusses support the twenty-five-foot-tall great room ceiling, while heavy wood trim outlines the wall of windows, creating a sense of awe and spaciousness.

Inside, handcrafted log trusses support the twenty-five-foot-tall great room ceiling, while heavy wood trim outlines the wall of windows, creating a sense of awe and spaciousness.

For the decor, the couple wanted a cowboy western look to remind them of their favorite vacations out West. “We brought the West to us,” says Steven. “Now every time I pull into my driveway, I feel like I’m on vacation. It’s so different from living in a regular house.”

A kitchen where everyone could congregate and enjoy spending time together was a must. An expert cook, Diana designed the kitchen to her specific needs, with plenty of work-space and wonderful appliances just steps away from a huge walk-in pantry. Beyond the large center island is a serene breakfast room with a fireplace that also opens to the terrace. A popular place for entertaining, the Wild West-themed saloon is located directly off the kitchen and makes for a fun place to enjoy with friends and family.

Upstairs, a spacious loft area with one of the four fireplaces in the home separates the three children’s bedrooms from the master suite, which has access to a private balcony with an outdoor shower. A whirlpool tub is located in the center of the master bathroom. The finished lower level is complete with a music room, game room, gym, and guest suite.

What do you do when your view begs for countless hours of attention? Build a huge fire pit and patio, of course. “You totally get lost in the serenity of it all,” says Diana. The spacious patio allows the family to spend quality time together relaxing by the pool, grilling, or dining alfresco.

In the end, the wooded view may have been what led the couple to their site, but a simple step inside the home will ensure that anyone who visits will leave with far more memories. “How many people can say they live in their dream home?” Diana points out, “Steven and I are lucky enough to live in ours.”

**AL :: [www.wisconsinloghomes.com](http://www.wisconsinloghomes.com)**



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