



floor plan insight

Important factors to consider when designing your home.

Functionality, artistic architecture, unique design details, energy efficiency, and precious property views are at the forefront of each of our custom homes. The floor plan is the first and most important step to creating a home that lives as well as it looks. First, think about your day-to-day lifestyle: how will you, your family, and your guests use the home? “This is the first question we address during the design process as it’s the most important ‘piece to the puzzle’ when creating a layout that will truly work and be comfortable for its owners in all respects,” says Dave Janczak, founder/owner of Wisconsin Log Homes.

Will this be a primary residence or getaway home? How many floors do you need? How much space do you want in each area? Would you like your home to be open and airy? Is your property wide or narrow, on the water or in the mountains? How many bedrooms do you need? Do you entertain often? Do you have children and/or pets? All this (and much

more) should be taken into consideration right from the start.

“The actual floor plan and layout should be your main focus while looking through plans,” says Dave. “Some of our clients browse our floor plan portfolio (available on our website) and find pre-existing designs that come close to meeting their needs with some custom modifications; while others find elements of several different designs that interest them and do more mixing and matching.”

When you work with Wisconsin Log Homes, your architectural style options are limitless – do you prefer rustic or modern? Do you like log, timber frame, or a hybrid combination of materials? “It’s important to consider the durability of each material and the quality of the manufacturer. You want a home that will have structural integrity and materials that will last,” says Dave. “At Wisconsin Log Homes, the same

floor plan can be designed to be rustic with log, contemporary with timbers, or a mix of everything as a hybrid home. We can change roof lines and elevations, and use different materials to match whatever look a homeowner envisions.”

“...match whatever look a homeowner envisions”

Maximizing exposure and aesthetics, and creating a home that blends effortlessly into its surroundings is critical. “The topography, seasonal path of the sun, direction of prevailing winds and scenic views all affect the design and placement of your home



THE ROCKLIN - 2,738 TOTAL SQ. FT.
(first floor shown below)

and the rooms within your home. Homes that harmonize with their surroundings appear as though they belong, resulting in year-round comfort and reduced energy costs,” says Dave.

What do you feel comfortable investing into your home? Budget is probably the most important factor when designing your home. It’s important to be upfront with your design team so they can design a home that you can afford, and give you options that reflect your budget along the way. “Our goal is always the same – to keep our clients safe and to



THE LAKEFRONT - 2,868 TOTAL SQ. FT.
(first floor shown below)

THE GRANDVIEW - 4,004 TOTAL SQ. FT.
(first floor shown to the right)

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eliminate any unexpected surprises along the way. Knowing our clients' budget from the start allows us to do our job well and guide them in a direction that's right for them," explains Dave.

Keep in mind that not only are you designing your house for today, but in most cases, you're also designing it for years down the road. Take into consideration how you and your family live now, but also plan for how you'll live in the future. "We have clients from years ago, who had young kids during the planning and construction phases, but today those

kids have grown up and they bring their own kids to visit. It's so important that every square inch of your home gets designed so it's comfortable, functional and adaptable for years to come," says Dave.

Touring a model home can help during the planning and design phase. At Wisconsin Log Homes, we have two lived-in model homes (aside from our Showroom) available for clients who are ready to start the design process with our team. These homes are very different in size and style; they not only give our clients a wide range of unique design ideas, but they also help them

visualize space and room sizes. "Sometimes our clients have a hard time visualizing space, or the styles they like and don't like. Our models really help clients to determine what they want in their own home. Seeing a home in person verses seeing it on paper can make a big difference," says Dave. Wisconsin Log Homes also offers three-dimensional rendering services so our clients can virtually see exactly what their home will look like, inside and outside, during the design phase.

The thought of designing a home can sometimes seem like an overwhelming task. "I encourage people setting out on the design/build journey to work with an experienced team they can trust. Building a home is one of the largest and most important investments you'll make in your lifetime and it's so crucial that you do it right. Working with a team of professionals truly makes the process easy and even fun, but most importantly, it makes living in your home that much more enjoyable and comfortable for decades to come," says Dave. ■

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