

25 FLOOR PLANS FOR REAL LIFE

LOG HOME LIVING®

OUR GIFT TO YOU

**FESTIVE
HOLIDAY
HOMES**

**Make your
stain last
20 years**
(no touchups required)

**GAME
ROOMS**
MAXIMIZE
THE FUN

+ BATHROOM DESIGN SECRETS

At Home in the Great Outdoors



Mike and Melanie

Mike and Melanie can't wait to move into their dream home on 20 acres of rolling land in Oconto County, Wisconsin. With cross-country ski trails to cut, plenty of room for hunting and waterways nearby, the location will suit this outdoors-loving couple for years to come.

Why a log home: "It's hard to explain," Mike says. "It's just a

feeling you get when you walk in; a sense of relaxation." The couple plans to mix logs with other rustic materials in their home.

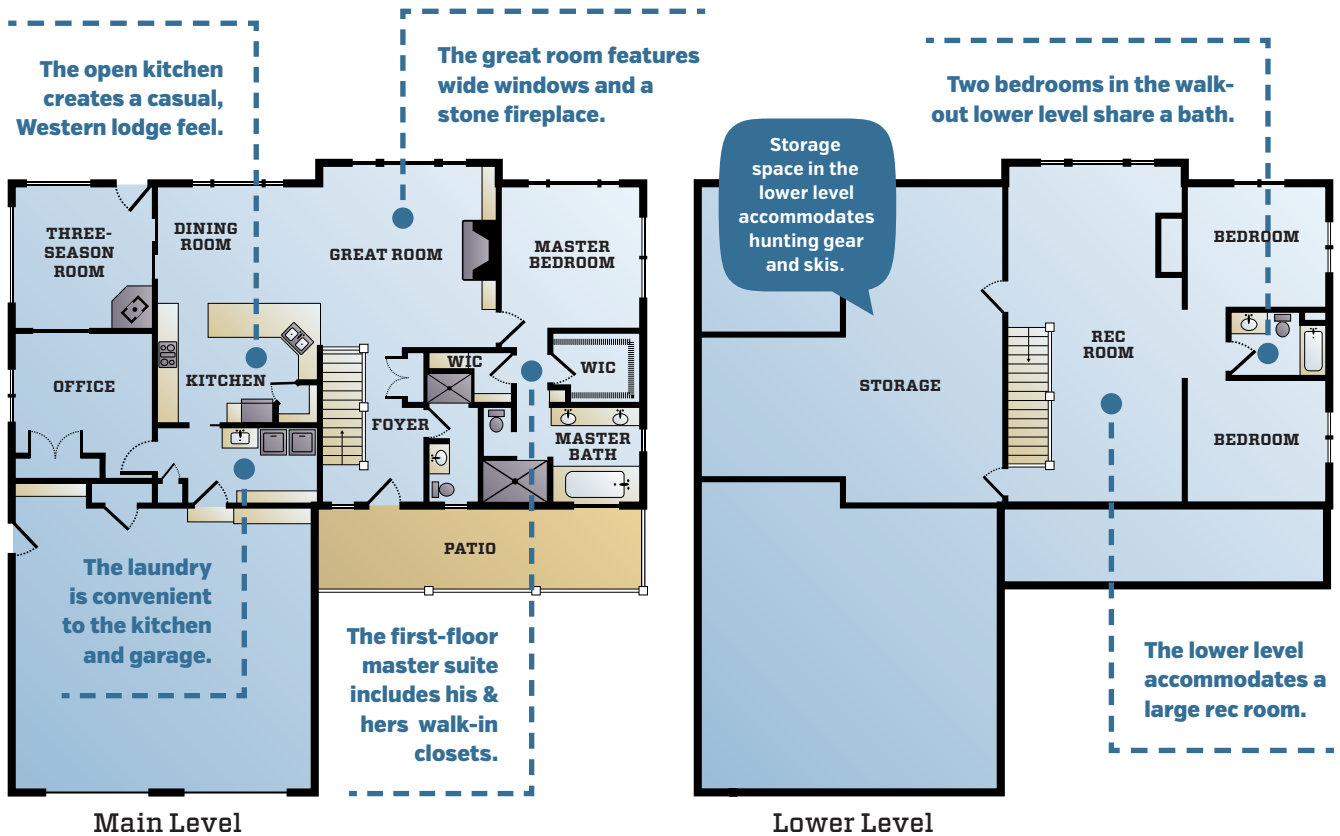
Most important features: Because they hope to retire in the home, Mike and Melanie want a first-floor master bedroom. Mike's travels have inspired his dream of a home that "feels like it's out West." The home should fit with their active lifestyle.

The Lowdown

The staff at Green Bay-based Wisconsin Log Homes helped the couple design a home with plenty of beams and distressed wood to give it that Western vibe. A wide open floor plan also contributes to the casual lodge style of living. Two fireplaces — one in the living room and one in the three-season room — will be faced with split stones from Montana.

PLAN SPECS

Square Footage: 3,400
Bedrooms: 3 **Baths:** 3



The Inside Scoop

Mike and Melanie call themselves “sunrise people,” and wanted a home with beautiful morning views. Custom homes can be designed to accommodate early birds or night owls, just consider:

- **NATURAL LIGHT.** If, like Mike and Melanie, you are up with the sun, your bedroom can face east and welcome morning light with wide windows or skylights. If you prefer to sleep later, plan for other spaces in your home to catch morning light, like a breakfast nook or the kitchen.
- **SOUND.** If your family members come and go at all hours of the day, consider placing the kitchen and TV-watching areas away from bedrooms, so early-morning or late-night noise won't keep others awake.

- **SCHEDULES.** As you design your home, think about when people will spend the most time together. Now try to imagine the type of space where you'd like to gather: A lake-view deck? A cozy seating area by the hearth? An oversized farm table in a screened porch? Talk over these ideas with your designer to ensure the space will fit your lifestyle.

