

This Louisiana log home was built to stand the test of time and to provide immense enjoyment and pride of ownership.

# Southern



# Charm

BY BRIDGET MCCREA ✨ PHOTOGRAPHY BY KCJ PHOTOGRAPHY

A TYPICAL SUNDAY AFTERNOON at Larry and Sandi Lott's log home feels like something out of a classic movie that's set in the South. Sipping sweet tea and enjoying a beautiful, 360-degree view of Cyprus Black Bayou Lake, the Lotts, along with their friends and family, relax and unwind on a one-acre peninsula where the couple built their log cabin home in 2009.

The Lotts, who are both retired and the owners of several homes, built their three-bedroom Benton, Louisiana, log home with the intention of replicating the time they'd spent together at Big Cedar Lodge, a popular vacation spot located about 10 miles from Branson, Missouri.



A FIREPLACE FACED WITH STONE THAT WAS SHIPPED IN FROM PENNSYLVANIA BLENDS WELL WITH THE AREA'S NATURAL STONE AND SERVES AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE GREAT ROOM AND THE ADJACENT SPACES. OPPOSITE: THE STUNNING, 4,600-SQUARE-FOOT LOG HOME HAS A MULTITUDE OF WINDOWS THAT GIVE ITS OWNERS AND GUESTS 360-DEGREE PANORAMIC VIEWS OF CYPRUS BLACK BAYOU LAKE.





**ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT:** A MODERN KITCHEN INCLUDES CABINETS MADE BY A MASTER CABINETMAKER, WHO CAME OUT OF RETIREMENT TO DESIGN THE ROOM, WHICH INCLUDES CHESTNUT CABINETS, STUCCO CEILINGS, AND GRANITE COUNTERTOPS.

**RIGHT:** THE HOMEOWNERS SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A YEAR TO OUTFIT THEIR HOME WITH TRADITIONAL FURNITURE THAT INCLUDED NATURAL-PEELED LOGS IN HICKORY, ASPEN, PINE, AND SASSAFRAS.



"We were eating dinner at Devil's Pool restaurant and Sandi mentioned that she just loved this style of living," recalls Larry. "Being raised in Louisiana, and as an avid outdoorsman, I felt the same way. So we decided to pursue building a log home."

The Lotts didn't just jump into the project. Instead they took their time doing the proper research and reconnaissance before deciding on where and what to build. "We must have contacted over 15 different log home companies, and looked through dozens of log home magazines, before finding the right floorplan and design," says Larry, who eventually found the right fit in a magazine's home feature layout. "We fell in love with the home, and wanted it."

After talking to the log producer for that home, Wisconsin Log Homes, Inc., of Green Bay, the Lotts worked with the firm to "start breaking down the original design and revamping it to meet our needs," says Larry. Key elements the Lotts wanted to incorporate were an oversized great room with a lake view, an abundance of windows ("there's not one curtain in the house," he says), and a 25-foot-high stone fireplace in the great room to serve as a focal point for anyone who is in the home's dining room, kitchen, or sunroom.

The Lotts also wanted to maximize the home site, which is situated on a "finger of land sticking out into the lake," says Larry. "We wanted a home here that was compatible with the surrounding terrain, but that wasn't too ostentatious."

The home's construction was also important, says Larry, a retired engineer who took a hands-on approach to all of the planning, design, and building that started in 2008 and wrapped up in April 2009, when the Lotts moved into their new home. "I didn't want conventional, Lincoln Log construction," he explains. "I wanted a design that would endure our hot, southern summers and help ward off insect infestation."



#### GREEN TIP

FIFTY TO 70 PERCENT OF THE ENERGY USED IN THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HOME IS FOR HEATING AND COOLING. THE USE OF ENERGY-SAVING MATERIALS IS ESSENTIAL IF YOU WANT TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE ENERGY COSTS.



## Made to Order

The Lotts found a home they loved in a log home magazine, contacted the log home producer, and worked with the company's designers to fine-tune the floorplan for their own needs. The home fits perfectly on its lake-surrounded property and is designed to withstand Louisiana's steamy climate.



**Log Producer & Architectural/Design Firm:**  
Wisconsin Log Homes, Green Bay, Wisconsin  
**Log Home Builder:** Lipovsky Building Company, Harrison, Michigan  
Two-story home | Square Footage: 4,600 | Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 4 full, 2 half



AN EXPANSIVE GREAT ROOM NOT ONLY SERVES AS A FOCAL POINT FOR THE MAIN FLOOR, BUT ALSO AFFORDS EVERYONE IN THE HOME A 360-DEGREE, PANORAMIC VIEW OF CYPRUS BLACK BAYOU LAKE.

THE HOME'S MASTER BEDROOM IS SITUATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR, ENSURING THAT THE LOTTS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THEIR BEAUTIFUL ABODE WELL INTO THEIR GOLDEN YEARS.

A SUNROOM EXTENDS OFF OF THE HOME'S DINING AREA AND IS MADE COMPLETELY FROM LOGS. THERE IS A SPECTACULAR VIEW OF THE OUTDOORS FROM ANYWHERE IN THE ROOM.



FOR ACCESSIBILITY, THE HOME'S MASTER SUITE IS LOCATED ON THE BOTTOM FLOOR AND INCLUDES THE RIGHT BALANCE OF NATURAL LIGHT AND PRIVACY. BELOW: A LARGE WALK-IN CLOSET HIDES BEHIND THE WALL OF THE MASTER BATH.

Wisconsin Log Homes produced the logs for the house, which was constructed by Lipovsky Building Company of Harrison, Michigan. A third-generation contractor that had successfully built hundreds of log homes, the company came highly recommended and met the Lotts' high standards. "I wanted a master craftsman to build this house," says Larry, "and that's not easy to find."

Intent on incorporating as many green elements as possible into the home, Larry and Sandi insisted on addressing the environmental issue early in the game. They selected a DuPont Tyvek® weatherization system; R-39-factor insulation for the walls and ceilings; tankless water heaters; and a two-stage, variable speed air conditioning and heating system (the latter operates on 90 percent LP gas).

Those early decisions have resulted in a home that's "incredibly inexpensive to heat and cool," says Larry. In the home, all fixtures are water-efficient and all commodes are low-flow. One of the Lotts' biggest points of pride is the 102-year-old pine lumber that was salvaged from a demolished school building, and then used as flooring for the home's first floor. Hard as steel and impossible to replicate, this one-of-a-kind floor is one of the first things guests notice when they walk in the door.

"This is wood that would have normally gone into the demolition pile, or been burned," says Larry. "Instead, it stands as one of the most beautiful aspects of our log home."

Larry and Sandi expect that the care and time they put into designing their beautiful, green log home will ensure its existence for the next century, or longer. "We tell our kids all the time that they'll be getting a real heirloom when they inherit this home," says Larry. "This log home won't ever age or go out of style; it will be just as beautiful in 100 years." ❄️



### GREEN TIP

THE LESS SPACE YOU HAVE TO HEAT, THE BETTER. DETERMINE EXACTLY HOW MUCH SPACE YOUR FAMILY REQUIRES. THEN ARRANGE ROOMS IN RELATION TO THE SUN, LIGHT, AND HEAT WHERE YOU NEED THEM MOST: THE BREAKFAST NOOK IN EARLY MORNING, THE KITCHEN THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND THE FAMILY ROOM DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON.