

Family Tradition

An heirloom, 1800s family cabin inspires a Wisconsin couple to build their dream log home right next door.



The allure of a cherished 1896 cabin and the surrounding land — not to mention years of summer vacation memories — were all it took for Dave and Nancy Anderson to leave behind their life in a Chicago suburb for the great outdoors of Northeast Wisconsin.

The homeowners have been collecting antiques throughout their long marriage and believe their acquisitions fit perfectly in their log cabin. Their passion for special adornments is evident throughout the home, including here where Briarcliff Manor chandeliers cast a rustic glow. "They're made to look like branches," Dave Anderson says.



From an expansive wrap-around, wood-treated deck ("we prefer authentic wood," they say), the Andersons look out to Mother Nature's stunning masterpiece, which often stars deer, heron, fox, otters, muskrats, wild turkey, loons, ducks and a favorite pair of eagles that the locals have named George and Martha.

The great room's centerpiece is the inviting fireplace. The homeowners were amazed at how much the fireplace surround looks like natural stone that's local to the area. Here, the couple and their family often can be found playing board games, reading, and, of course, taking in the outdoor views.

The couple is extremely happy with the kitchen (opposite). "The Silestone countertops are indestructible," says Nancy. The ash beadboard cabinetry features a light stain through which you can see the wood's patterns.



"I had been dreaming of owning a home up here for as long as I can remember," says Nancy, whose great-great grandfather built a cabin where Nancy and her family enjoyed dozens of lakeside vacations over the years.

As quaint and historic as the cabin is, the couple opted to build a new log home a few feet away from Grandpa's charming bungalow.

"The little cabin is still going strong, but we needed to accommodate our kids and their families," says Nancy, a retired teacher's assistant.

Enter the folks from Wisconsin Log Homes, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Hard Rock Construction, of Clintonville, Wisconsin. Together, they designed and built a "Custom Gable," one-and-a-half story, 35-by-35-foot beauty that overlooks spring-fed Thunder Lake.

"Our home has a small footprint — the space is all within the vertical design," says Nancy, who echoes Goldilocks' sentiments as she explains how the size is "just right" for her family's needs.

"A lot of log homes are mini-mansions," she observes, "but we wanted cozy and something easy to heat and air condi-

tion, plus have room for our kids and grandkids. With our 2,343-square foot log home, we've got all of that."

"Our homes are as unique as the people we are building them for," says Nate Janczak, general manager of Wisconsin Log Homes. "Before design begins, our team meets with the homeowners to get a feel for how their family lives. The Andersons' home is perfect for the way they live in every way."

First Things First

Having a lot of windows that look out to the lake was important to Nancy, who ordered dividers for the open-window designs. "Dividers provide a more traditional look, and," she adds with a chuckle, "they help prevent birds from flying into the glass."

She also wanted to be sure that their collection of antiques and traditional furniture would look right at home. With that goal, the Andersons did not go with a solid-log structure, but decided to showcase traditional pine logs on the exterior and use wallboard in some areas for the interior. "That way it's not too loggy inside," says Nancy.

The Andersons chose Wisconsin Log Homes' Thermal-Log™ Building System (half-log), which makes blending





The area above the great room was originally designed to be a loft space, but the Andersons opted to create a master suite in that area.



With an exterior beige-gray stain (called Silver Birch), the 2,343-square-foot, three-bedroom home blends nicely into the surrounding woodlands. A Sansin Alder Gray trim stain adds to the natural motif. The exterior logs are all 8-inch pine.

RESOURCES

- Square footage: 2,343
- Bedrooms: 3
- Bathrooms: 3
- Log species: pine
- Builder/general contractor; masonry: Hard Rock Construction (715-823-2595)
- Cabinetry: Aaron's Cabinets (715-854-7034)
- Countertops: Silestone (800-291-1311; silestoneusa.com)
- Designer; log supplier; mantels; railings; stairs: Wisconsin Log Homes (800-678-9107; wisconsinloghomes.com)
- Flooring: Armstrong (800-233-3823; armstrong.com)
- Interior doors: Taylor Building Products (800-248-3600; taylor-door.com)
- Front door: Timber Valley Millwork (800-273-8964; timbervalleymillwork.com)
- Landscape designer: Kempka Sand & Gravel Excavating (715-854-2245)
- Roofing: CertainTeed (800-782-8777; certainteed.com)
- Windows: Semco (800-933-2206; semcowindows.com)
- Sealants: Sashco (800-767-5656; sashco.com)

various materials in log homes possible for homeowners, explains Janczak. "The flexibility of our hybrid system permits a range of architectural styles," he says, "and the freedom to select and combine various building materials to achieve a specific look, inside and out."

Nancy prefers pine because of its natural, dull finish. Her husband likes that the logs don't require much maintenance. "They don't need to be polished," says Dave, a retired quality auditor and human resources director. In his spare time, he enjoys his photography hobby as well as playing the clarinet and saxophone.

Designs On Living

The Anderson home exudes special, customized warmth, thanks to everything from a spicy kitchen wall color to two hand-forged light fixtures to the intimate master-suite balcony.

The kitchen, awash in a toasty cinnamon-nutmeg hue, features Silestone countertops, which Nancy insists are "indestructible." Here, the homeowners' personalities are especially illuminated in the kitchen chandeliers. "They're made to look like branches," Dave says. "And we love the tortoise shell globes," adds Nancy.

A river-rock-style, wood-burning fireplace stars in the first-

level great room, and the space above the great room was originally designed to be a loft, but the Andersons opted to add a wall and door and turn it into a bedroom. They also added an outdoor balcony.

From an expansive wrap-around, wood deck ("we prefer authentic wood," they say), the Andersons look out to Mother Nature's magnificent masterpiece. Side stairs lead down to the property's original cabin and its nearby dock.

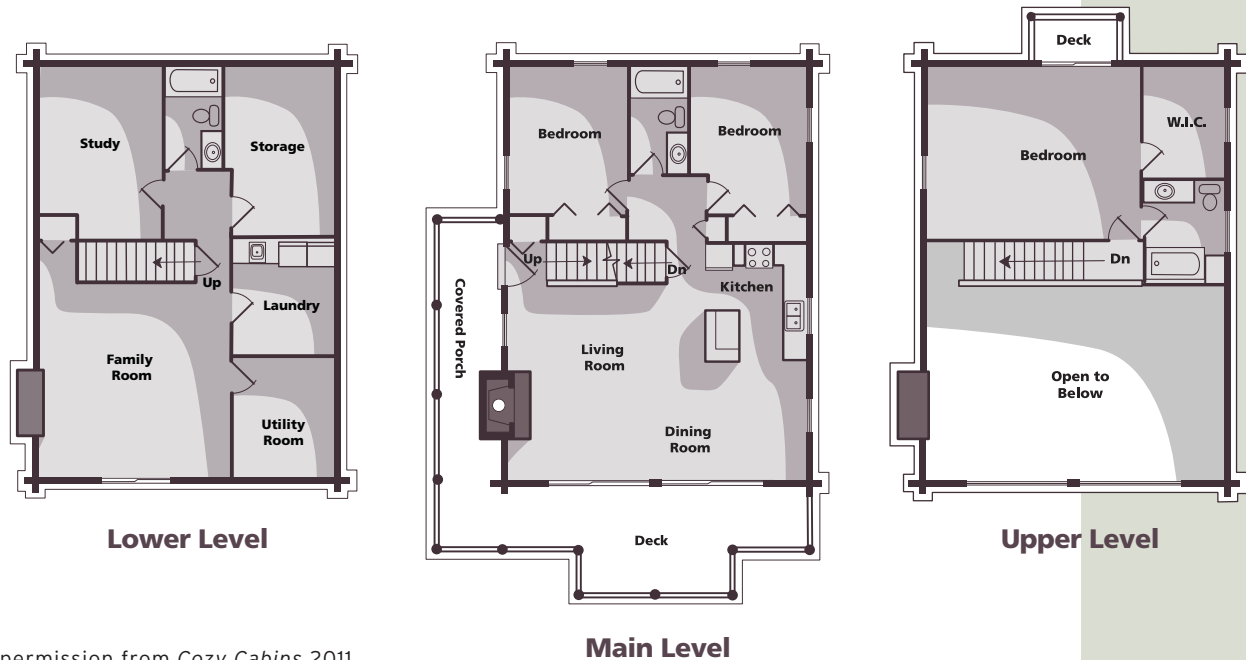
Special touches, custom selections and a stunning location give their imaginative but simple home a unique spirit, which Dave says would not have been possible without the accommodating companies that helped to build their dream.

"Wisconsin Log Homes was easy to work with," says Dave. "They made adjustments rapidly and did whatever we needed them to do. They also stayed in touch regularly."

As for Hard Rock Construction, Dave gives the company a big thumbs-up. "It's a small operation," he explains, "with the owner, his son and a friend. They offer solid quality."

While preparing for a hike in the woods with their dog, Henry, the couple reflects on their lifestyle transformation.

"Leaving the city after some three decades and moving into a log-style home in the country was a life change," Nancy says, "but we can't say we miss a thing."



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