

DESIGN TRENDS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Log & Timber

October 2003

www.logandtimberstyle.com

STYLE

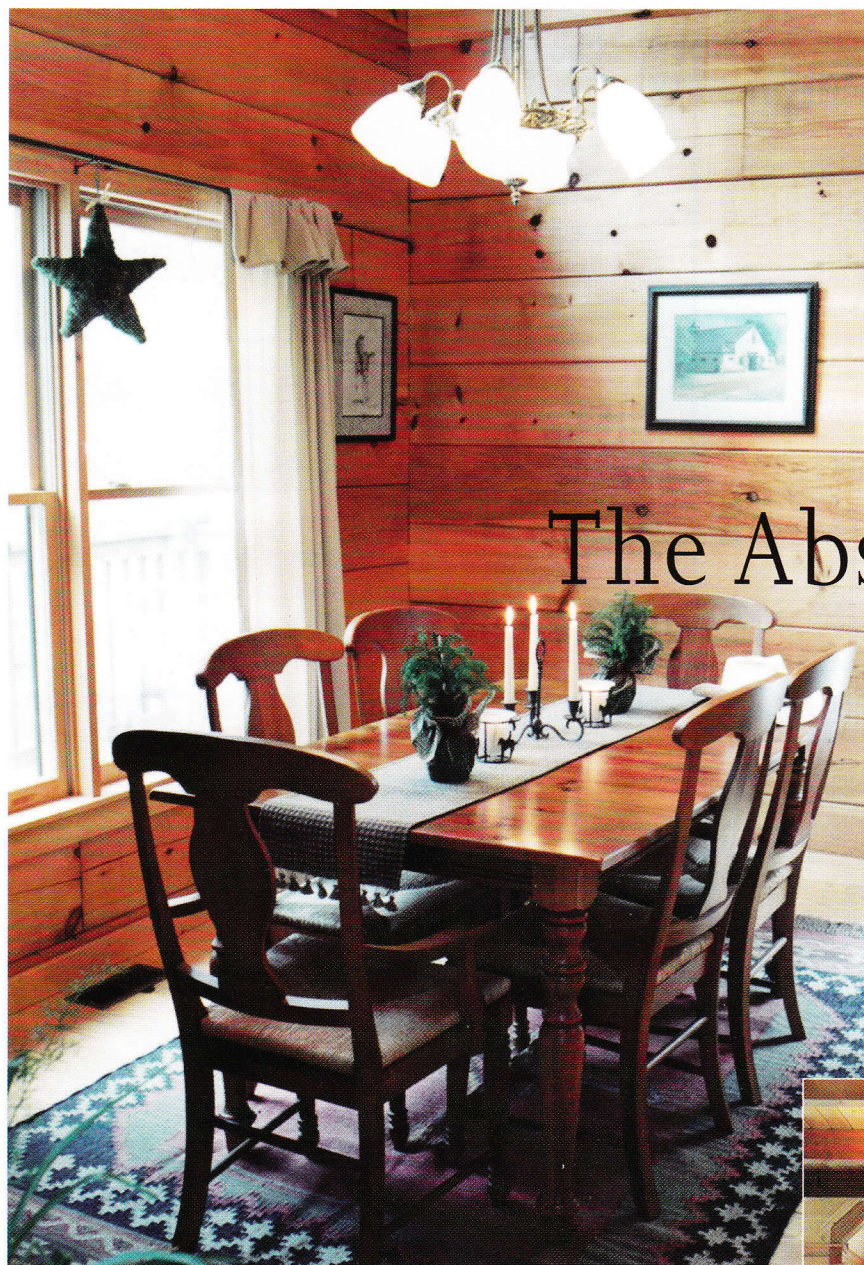
GREAT KITCHEN IDEAS

Space Solutions, Appliances, Cabinets,
Countertops, Tile and more



A Wiesner Publication \$3.95
Display until November 12

Add Fall Color to your Garden | Collecting Vintage Bookends
What you need to know about Log Sealants and Stains



The Absolute Retreat

WHEN THE VICE-PRESIDENT
OF LOG HOMES OF AMERICA BUILDS
HER DREAM HOME, SHE CHOOSES
CLASSIC APPALACHIAN LOGS WITH
A REAL HAND-HEWN FINISH

If you worked in the log home industry day in and day out, would you want to go home to yet another log home? Absolutely. I guess you could say we are a family of die-hard "loggies." What do we know that others don't? The true retreat offered by living the log home dream.

Being raised in the log home industry, I may have had a bit more design and construction experience than

Nicole and Joel Robinson's home in North Carolina's high country is a mix of classic hand-hewn logs and modern wallboard.





most. My father, Charlie Maney, founder and CEO of our log home manufacturing company, was always in the process of building a log home to show and sell—sometimes even with the furniture included. I was just a little kid working in the model homes with clients and learning hands-on construction techniques. I often doodled my future log home plans on scratch paper and tucked them away for “someday dreams.” Little did I know that 24 years later, those log home dreams would become a reality.

After a year and a half of looking for the perfect piece of property, my husband, Joel, and I lucked into 13 gorgeous acres with a view, pasture, stream and beautiful wooded areas. We chose a spot for our home tucked around the bend, away from the prevailing winds and the nearest neighbors. The plan developed from a series of compromises between husband and wife. For example, I love the contemporary style with lots of glass and light. Joel is the mountain man in search of the perfect cabin: Big beefy beams and big

“What do we know that others don’t?

The true retreat offered by living the log home dream.”

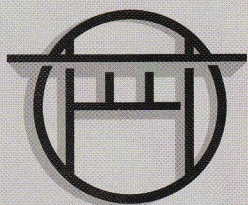
classic Appalachian logs with real hand-hewn finish. The resulting plan allowed us both to “win.”

We made a list of must-haves for the interior. A roomy, functional kitchen with cabinets styled after my great-grandmother’s was high on my list. My other requirement was the antique clawfoot tub. Joel wanted a large fireplace and a large master bedroom suite. We did agree

to a mix of wood and wallboard accents on the interior framed walls. The wallboard allows me to change my mind and experiment with something I might read in a magazine article. We also added features for taller folks since my husband is 6’4”. I asked Mitch Dyer of Parkway Cabinets how much more taller cabinets would be. He told me it wouldn’t cost more; he just wouldn’t have any wasted material. Go figure.

People seem to believe that if you are in the construction field, your personal house project will flow smoothly and without a hitch, but we certainly had our share of challenges! While excavating our home site, we scratched

The home is a classic Log Homes of America plan with some personal modifications. It sits on 13 mountainous acres tucked around a bend away from the prevailing winds and the nearest neighbors.

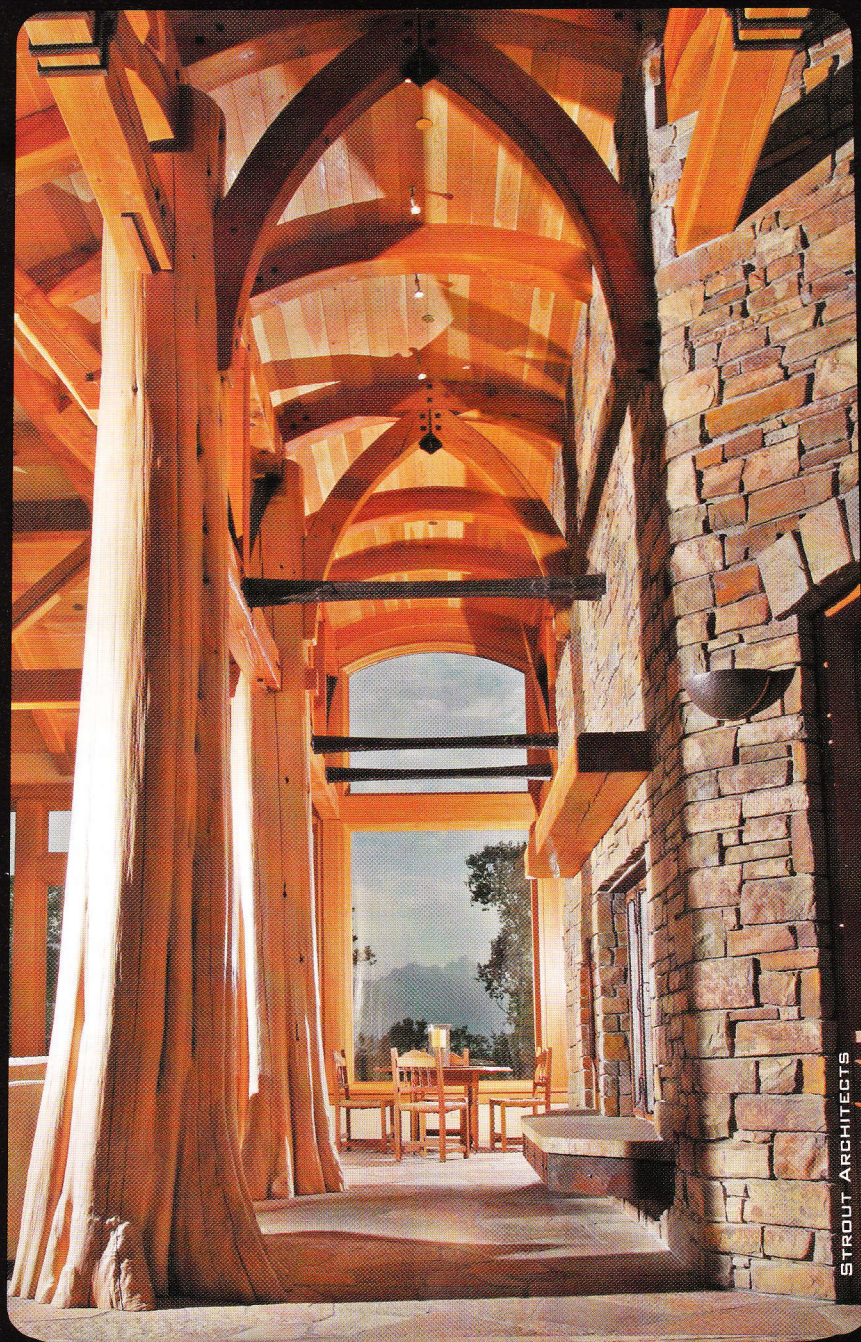


SPEARHEAD TIMBERWORKS

CUSTOM TIMBERFRAME HOMES AND MILLWORK

PH: 250-825-4300

SPEARHEADTIMBERWORKS.COM



out the mother of all rocks. Gently negotiating this monster with dynamite was unsuccessful and we were forced to make a big decision. We would not be able to orientate the house so that you drove up to the front and main entry. I had already purchased an awesome mahogany door with leaded glass that visitors would never see. The staircase doubled back to make a separate foyer area that would no longer be needed. It actually turned out to be a good thing, as we gained four more feet in the great room area and Joel got a bigger fireplace. I also ended up with a driveway to the kitchen entry, where I only have four steps to unload the groceries.

Did I mention that Joel and I decided to be our own general contractor? After building our own home, I certainly have a whole new empathy for do-it-yourselfers. We quickly learned that if something could have gone wrong, it probably did. For example, the man clearing the trees got his chainsaw stuck and tied a chain to the tree and his pickup. He got out and pushed the tree—and it fell right on his truck. In a single day I had to have three of my subcontractors towed out of a ditch. By the third call to the towing company, I said, “This is Nicole,” and I heard “Oh, no!”

The night before we were scheduled to close on our mortgage we got 28 inches of snow. We had no power for six days and were in a desolate area of the county. The bank would not extend the closing and we had to shop for a mortgage at the last minute. We found one—and ended up getting a better rate.

How did we handle it? First, everyday Joel and I would tell each other “I love you,” because later in the day we would doubt it. We asked advice from others, weighed our options, and moved forward.

A year and a half later, the reward is our beautiful dream log home, where we find peace and relaxation at the end of every day. And we laugh now about the craziness of it all. ■

STRUT ARCHITECTS