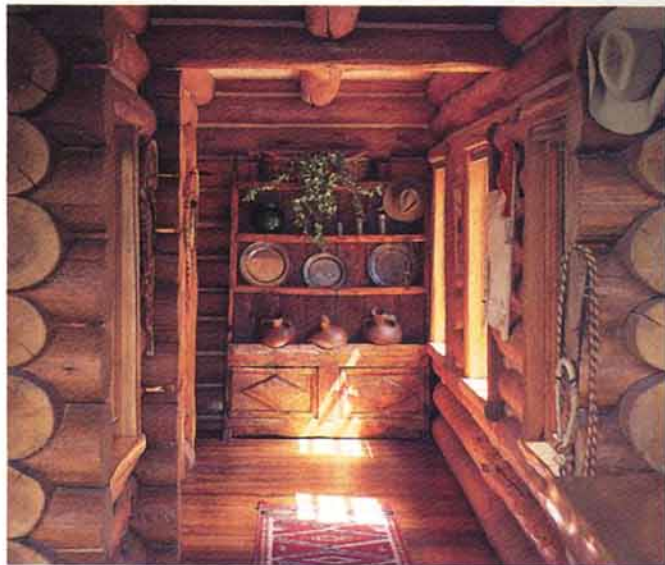
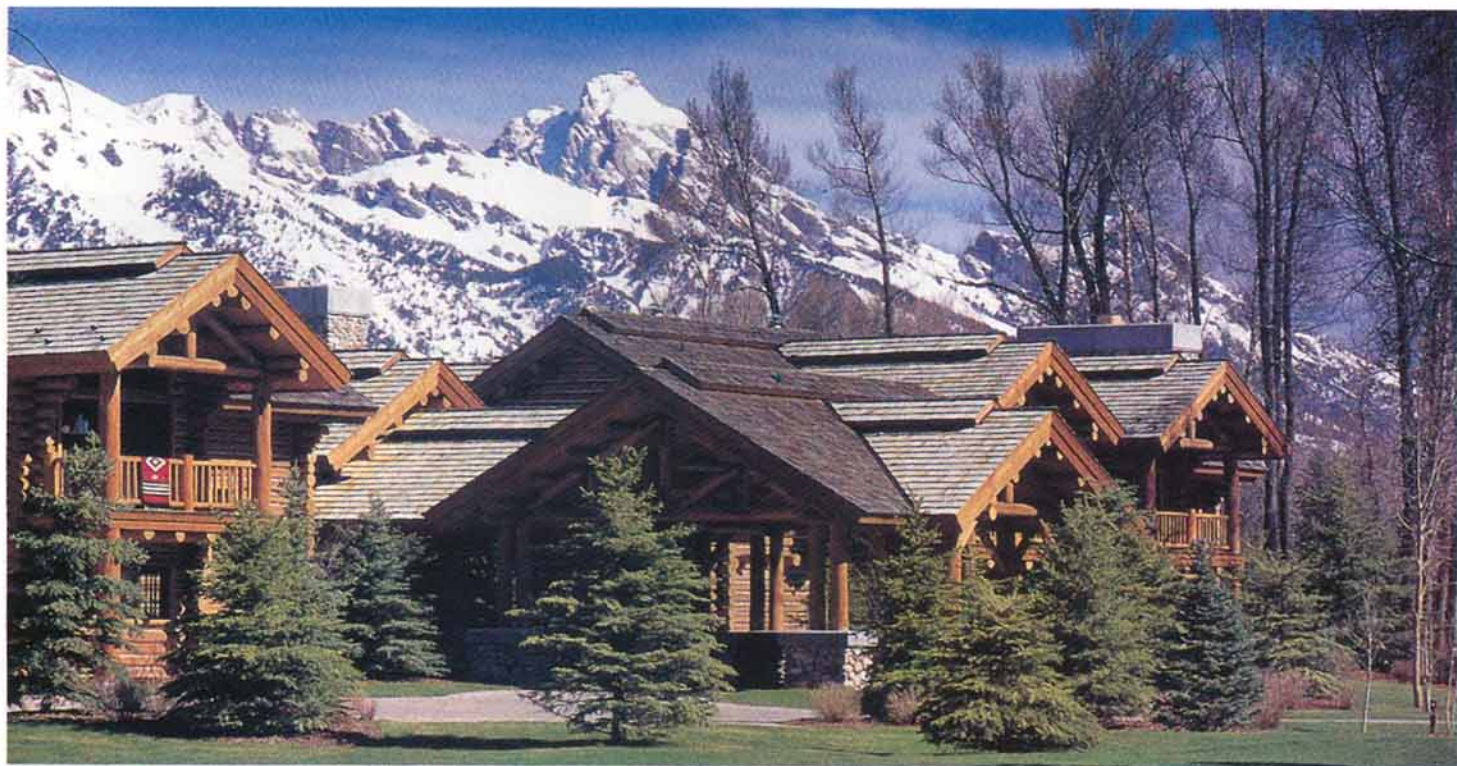


A LOOK AT TODAY'S LOG HOMES

Knotty By Nature

In Wyoming, a soaring new log structure matches the scale of the surrounding Teton mountain range; the home's furnishings are more earthbound and cozy



Love often comes when it's least expected. The enduring truth of that maxim was proven yet again in this story of a log home in Wyoming's Teton Mountains. The owners, a couple from the West Coast, had never been to Wyoming before a friend invited them to visit a few years ago. Once there, the rugged charm of the mountains and vistas surprised, then enchanted them. By the time they returned home several days later, they held the deed to 175 acres of former grazing land bordering the Snake River.

As the new owners found out, it's one thing to own a spectacular property, but to develop it is something quite different. They started out by installing basic amenities: They built a mile of road leading to their intended homesite, dug a well, and brought in power lines. Meanwhile, they thought about the kind of home they wanted. The couple settled on a plan inspired by early 20th-century Rocky Mountain lodges. It would be made of logs, have soaring interior spaces, yet be comfortable and casual.

The construction of the home was realized in three stages. First, McLaughlin Architects in Sun Valley, Idaho, translated the couple's ideas into a building plan. Next, the couple turned to Alpine Log Homes in Victor, Montana, for the pre-assembly of

OPPOSITE: Pillars of stone divide the 30-foot-tall great room into a living/dining area, kitchen, and children's area. Glass-paned doors lead to the cold room and house entry.

TOP: The snow-frosted slopes of the Teton form a dramatic backdrop to the house.

ABOVE RIGHT: Local stone and lodgepole pine make the house blend perfectly with its site, as seen in this exterior of the great room.

ABOVE LEFT: At the end of a hallway connecting the master bedroom and great room is a 16th-century kitchen cupboard from the Pyrénées. It displays antique pottery jugs. American Indian artifacts adorn the walls.

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the log stack. Using logs of lodgepole pine, Alpine engineers put together the basic structure and made certain there were no conflicts between the requirements of log construction and the plan. The logs were numbered, disassembled, then shipped to the building site. Once there, the structure was reassembled. The final steps included the cutting-in of all windows and doors, and the “chinking,” or filling of cracks and gaps with an industrial compound that expands and contracts depending on weather conditions.

The resulting house divides public from private spaces and children from parents. The principal space on the ground floor is the great room, which consists of a living/dining area separated from a children’s recreation area by the kitchen. Coming off this are wings that include a series of suites for family members, along with rooms for guests.

The owners asked California-based designer Cassandra Walker to transform the rambling house into a harmonious whole. Her first and biggest challenge was finding a way to make the large-scale house feel warm and cozy. With 30-foot ceilings and 13-inch-thick walls, the house demanded furnishings of a scale bold enough to handle the soaring architecture. Cassandra settled on a blend of large-scale European antiques and locally built rustic furniture. She created a sense of lightness to the darkish wood interiors by coating one wall in each room with white plaster to reflect the light. She lightly stained the walls for an antiqued look.

With Cassandra consulting on colors and surfaces, distinctly different looks emerged in each of the three children’s second-floor suites, as well as in the master suite. One son chose Mexican tile floors and a wooden fireplace, while the other chose antique wood floors with a Southwestern-style stucco fireplace. The daughter preferred a country look with a

OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: This view looks from the children’s play room across the kitchen to the living/dining area. **OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT:** The kitchen’s center island provides space for food preparation and informal dining. Natural materials make for an inviting work space; a custom brass range hood looms over solid granite countertops. The tiles, reproductions of ones from Hearst Castle, are distributed by Ann Sacks Tiles. **OPPOSITE BELOW:** Tall stone pillars surrounding the dining area allude to the mountains just outside. The five-inch-thick table is made of lodgepole pine, while the chairs are late 17th-century-style William and Mary pieces. **ABOVE LEFT:** An upstairs passageway reveals details of the home’s construction, including notching and chinking. **ABOVE:** A custom-made bed of lodgepole pine logs is the perfect match for the walls of the master suite. Antique linens offer a note of luxury.

pale apricot color theme. The master suite is all drama: A massive bed crafted from sawn lodgepole pine logs clamors for attention as much as the views of mountains and forest through the windows. Visible throughout the house are American Indian and Western artifacts, as well as a number of quilts crafted by ancestors.

The result turned out so well that the family spends a significant part of each year here. In the winter, children and guests tromp through with ski boots and poles on

their way to nearby slopes. But summer reminds the owners most of why they love to return so often. A walk outside brings them into contact with the natural world. Elk, moose, deer, and ospreys are just a few of the wild animals that make themselves at home on the property. All this in an atmosphere of peaceful seclusion. As the owner says, “We don’t have any television hooked up as of yet. I guess with all this going on outside, we just never felt like we needed it.”