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# Log Homes

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**DREAM**  
*Log Homes*



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**LOG HOME KITCHENS**

SEPTEMBER 2003

\$3.99US \$5.99CAN



DISPLAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2

A large, rustic log cabin interior. The room features a prominent stone fireplace with a fire burning inside. The walls and ceiling are made of wood, with large log beams. A canoe is suspended overhead between two log cross-beams. The room is furnished with a patterned sofa, a wooden coffee table, and a leather chair. Large windows on the right side of the room let in bright light. The overall atmosphere is warm and cozy.

# Everything...

A canoe made by Beth's brother is suspended overhead between two log cross-beams. Ample windows brighten the whole home.

# They



## A LOG VACATION HOME IS PERFECT IN WISCONSIN'S LAKE COUNTRY.

**W**HEN BETH AND TIM—WISCONSIN BORN AND bred—looked for vacation opportunities, they focused on their own state. For 15 years they had enjoyed a charming cottage in the north lake country. Hoping to expand it, they called Tomahawk Log & Country Homes in Tomahawk, Wisc. “We wanted somebody local,” Tim explains. “We were fortunate because we discovered a national log home company located in our backyard. They sell their own packages and have their own crews. That was important to us.”

After consulting with Tomahawk’s sales and design department representative Tom Seehafer, remodeling plans were drawn that expanded the existing kitchen and added bedrooms. Having a design background and the experience of building two other homes, Beth was able to work knowledgeably with Tomahawk’s design department.

Then Beth and Tim weighed their options, eventually deciding that it would be more cost effective to relocate than to remodel. They began looking for a new place to build, ultimately finding seven heavily wooded acres on a large lake with few residents. It was close to snowmobile and bike trails, and boating and fishing were available. “It’s an ideal location,” Tim says. “We feel blessed.”

# *Ever Wanted*

**BY PAT HYLAND  
PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE  
STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL**



**A fishnet valence dotted with lures accents the dining room windows.**

Site preparation was minimal. The property already had a blacktop drive, and no trees had to be cut. A previous structure was torn down, but the existing well and septic tank supported the new house. Natural gas for heating and electric and telephone services were also available.

After deepening the site of the foundation for the seven-bedroom home, basement walls were built of what is known generally as an insulated concrete foundation system (ICF). The forms, which are made of Styrofoam, are

filled with poured concrete to create an R-32 foundation wall; the Styrofoam is left in place. The custom design of the home, which also enjoys five-and-a-half baths and a three-car garage, is a mirror reversal of their previous house plus the desired additions. “We were able to stay with the plans drawn up for the remodeling,” Tom says, “but the reversal gave us better lake views.”

Conventionally framed, the walls were covered with 12-inch pine half-logs, which extend to full-log saddle-notch corners. This gives the house an overall appearance of a full

log structure. The logs were finished with Hallman Lindsay stain in cedar-tone gold. The caulking is a complimentary color. The roof's shingle color, "Burnt Sienna," provides an attractive contrast.

Tim and Beth visited the site every six weeks. "We didn't have to make any significant changes at all," she says. "Tomahawk's crew was fabulous." Tim praises them too. "Whenever there was a problem, there was a quick response," he says. "It's important to know your builder."

The home has more than 6,000 square feet of living space. Visitors entering the house stand in a 10-by-10-foot foyer. Three bedrooms are to the left. The kitchen, dining room, and an octagonal sunroom are to the right. The liv-

ing room, with its cathedral ceiling, is straight ahead. An attractive half-log staircase leads upstairs where there are three more bedrooms. A seventh sleeping area, the game room, family room, and an office are downstairs.

"I wanted an open floorplan with the kitchen in the center," Beth explains, "so I could be in the loop when we entertained." The kitchen itself evolved with an octagonal-shaped kitchen island. While working there, Beth can see the entire living area: the great room, the sunroom, and outside over the deck to the lake. "I never want to be isolated," she says. "I also like shapes and angles in addition to wanting lots of glass. These were my criteria."

Beth and Tim chose local suppliers for all their needs. The floor-to-ceiling fireplace with a log mantel in the great

**Decorator touches, including a wall-mounted bear skin and a metal cutout of the North Woods, draw one's eye to the beautiful log staircase.**







**ABOVE:** Waiting beside the front door, a carved black bear holding a fishing pole welcomes guests. **LEFT:** Rooms flow one to the other from the great room to the sun porch. The four stools, providing optimal seating at the kitchen bar, were made by Living Cedar.



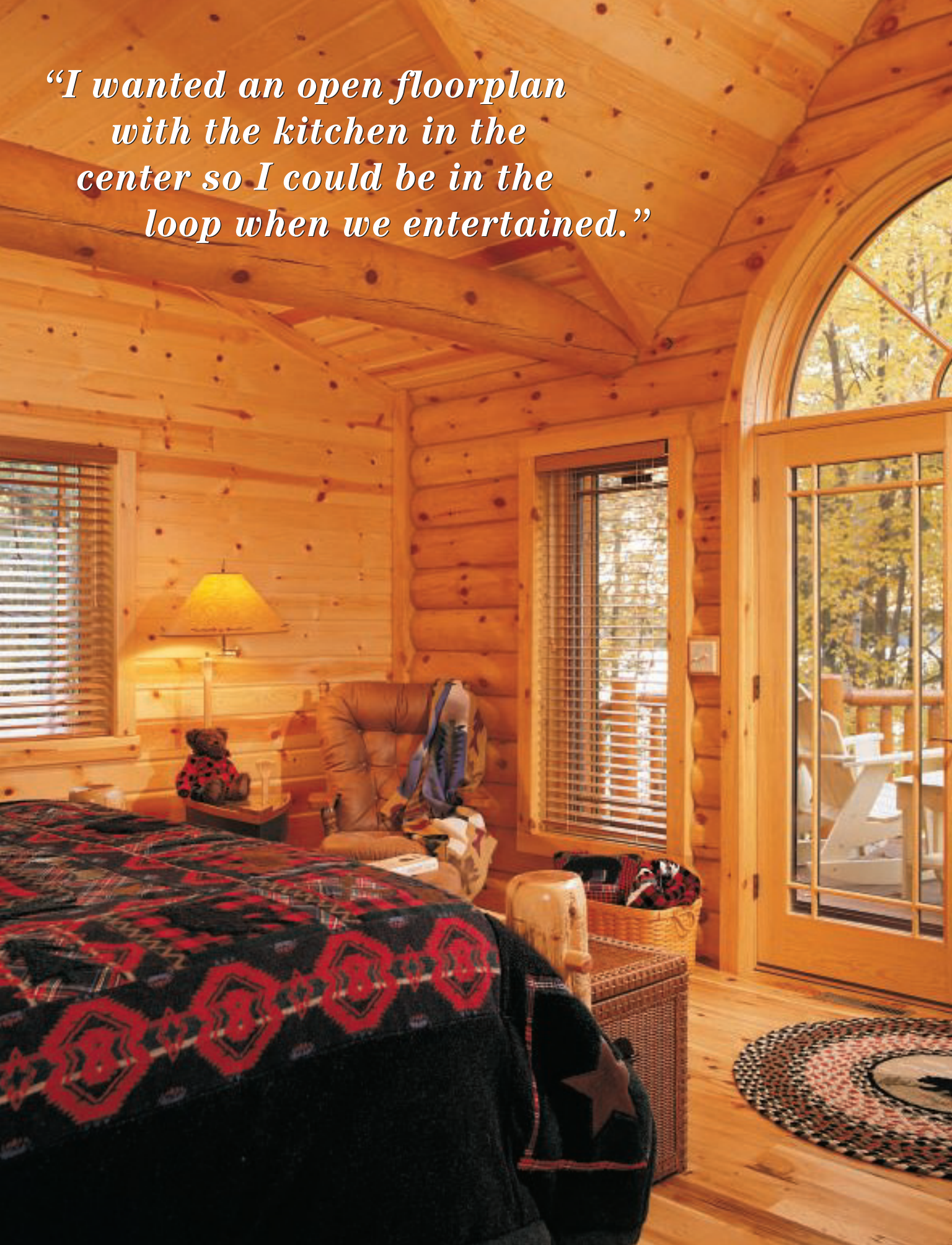
room and a second fireplace downstairs are fashioned from Wisconsin field stone, which was also used outside on the foundation. Vertical posts, some structural and others decorative, give the rooms on the main floor a massive yet warm look.

**T**he ceilings are made of knotty pine boards. The wood floors are rustic hickory. Interior V-groove doors, made by Timber Valley Hardware, enhance the log look. Recessed lighting is installed throughout the house. Natural light streams in through Pella windows, and wood blinds provide privacy where needed. All bedrooms, with the exception of the master suite, are covered with frieze-style—heavy, thick-pile—carpeting, many colors over an earth-tone base. All bathroom floors, with the exception of the master bath, are tiled.

Beth chose stock cabinets for the kitchen, but asked for the inclusion of as many drawers as possible. “I prefer drawers to shelves,” she explains. “It worked out great.” A full-size pantry was included in the overall design to make the kitchen even more functional. All appliances are white. The laminated countertops are multicolored earth tones that pull the entire color scheme together.

Following the sale of their first vacation home, Beth and Tim placed their furniture in storage, planning to reuse it in their new home. When they called the warehouse to arrange a time for delivery, they were asked, “Haven’t you

*“I wanted an open floorplan  
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heard?” The warehouse had been hit by lightning and burned to the ground. Fortunately their belongings were insured, but they had to scramble to find new things. “It was an adventure,” Tim says.

**S**tarting from scratch, Beth chose bulky, yet attractive and durable lodge-type furniture. For example, there is a black leather sofa in the living room area accented by an Adirondack-style twig table. Adding to the warm and comfortable environment, area rugs and throw blankets are crafted from rustic fabrics in vibrant colors. This is the setting for a unique collection of rough wood sculptures. In addition to a large black bear sitting on the front porch, Beth and Tim have a four-foot-high lumberjack and an

American Indian, all made by a local chainsaw carver. The porch adds eye appeal, a sheltered entryway, and outdoor living space. A deck with Adirondack-style furniture wraps around the two sides of the house that face the lake. Both the porch and the deck overlook easy-to-care-for landscaping: minimal grass and a large expanse of wild flowers. A retaining wall is laced with native rocks at varied intervals. “We tried to stay with the environment of the North Woods,” Tim explains.

Today Tim and Beth enjoy the log vacation home they always wanted, year-round. 🍂

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**LOG HOME MANUFACTURER AND BUILDER:  
Tomahawk Log & Country Homes, Inc.,  
Tomahawk, Wisconsin.**



**ABOVE:** The master bath has a “bump out” for the tub. **LEFT:** The master bedroom enjoys plenty of natural light, much of it coming through glass doors and a semicircular window overhead.