





AT HOME ON THE LAKE

"I spent your inheritance, but you can come visit it."

> BY JENNIFER POKORNY PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL

log home was always somewhere in the future, a retirement dream for Chuck and Jeanne Wiersum. As the big day grew closer, the couple scouted out possible home sites in Wisconsin, in an area where they used to take their five children camping.

The lot the couple settled on was a "double lake lot" in Lake Tomahawk. Placing the house on the lot proved to be a challenge. Chuck wanted to build a house by the lake, and although both the developer and the engineer agreed this could be done, the county did not. Finally in September 1998, after almost a year-long battle over setback regulations and conservation issues, Chuck gave up and moved the site of the house farther back, to a hillside on the property. However, the original house plans did not work well in the new location, so it was back to the drawing board.

With winter closing in, the Wiersums sat down with a stack of log home magazines and started poring over the designs to find one that might fit the new lot configuration. They found one, Chuck relates, when, "my sweetie [Jeanne] opened up a magazine and said, 'That's what a log cabin looks like.'" The house had a covered porch with a shed roof, and a more modern, open back to take advantage of the lake views. Laughing, Chuck recalls that the magazine was the September 1996 issue of Country's Best Log Homes.

he couple had already chosen Tomahawk Log & Country Homes as the company to work with because "of their excellent reputation in this area." Chuck and Jeanne then worked with Tomahawk's designers to match the house whose picture they liked to their own lot and budget.

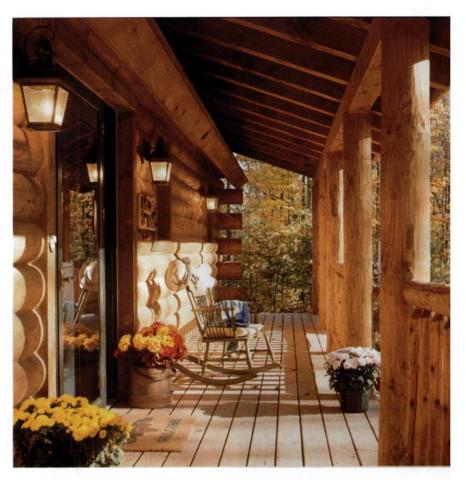
The house was a "turnkey" operation, with Tomahawk handling all phases of the building process, from permits and planning to the final landscaping. Chuck considered doing some of the finish and landscaping work himself to save money, but says, "I didn't want it to be a labor of love, working every weekend and never getting it done." He'd much rather be fishing.

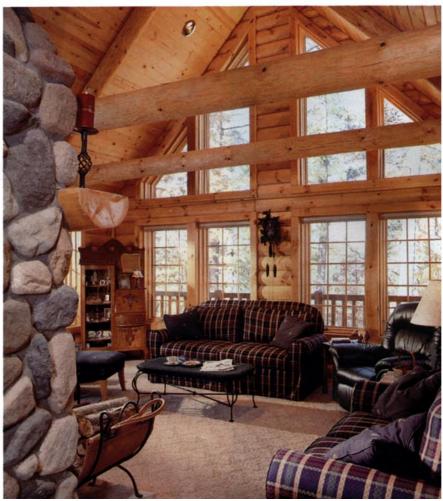
The house has a full, unfinished basement of 1,533 square feet. It houses the mechanical room and has the plumbing roughed in for a future bathroom, recreation room and a workshop for Chuck. In the meantime, it also provides plenty of storage room, and has a walkout to the lake path. An addition of patio furniture makes this transit to the lake a nice place for lunch.

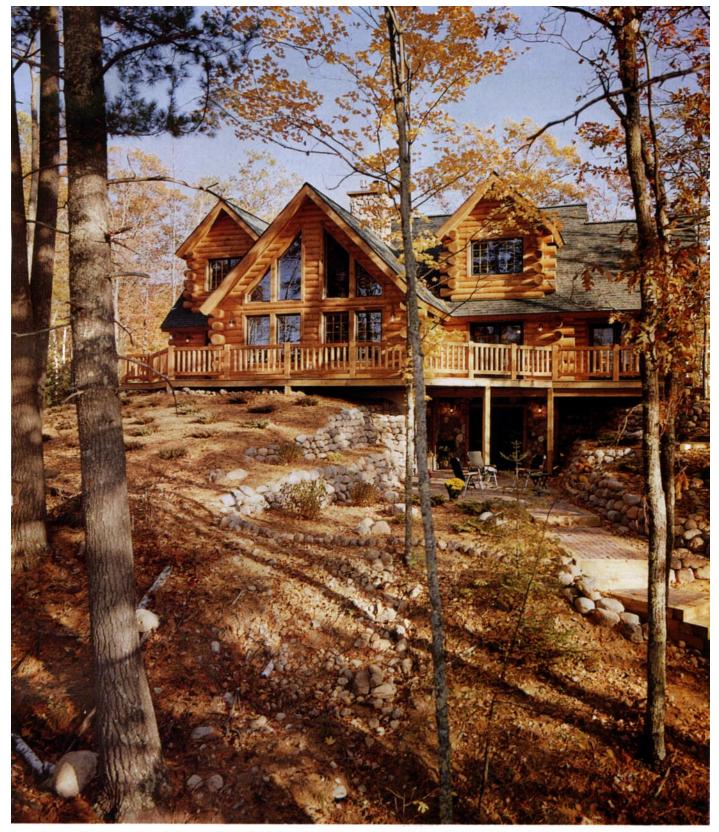
The two upper levels, comprising 2,407 square feet, compose the main living area of the house. The two upper levels were built with 12-inch-diameter logs, and finished with a light pine stain on the exterior. A three-car garage was also built of log and finished to match the house. Chuck keeps his "toys" there—his boat, snow blowers and snowmobile.

The house was carefully situated on the lot, and has a "low profile" from the front view, with maximum exposure to the lake views on the rear. The front of the house has a full-length covered porch with the "shed-style roof," and appears to be a small, old-fashioned log cabin from the front. The front door opens into a small foyer, with a closet and half-bath on the right and a utility room on the left. The floors of the house are a Colonial ash, and give the house a light, airy feeling.

Facing the foyer is the staircase, with stairs leading up to the second level, and down to the basement. It is set against a cultured stone fireplace in the center of the house and "is really one of the best visual features of the house," says Tom Seehafer, salesperson and design associate with Tomahawk. "It has

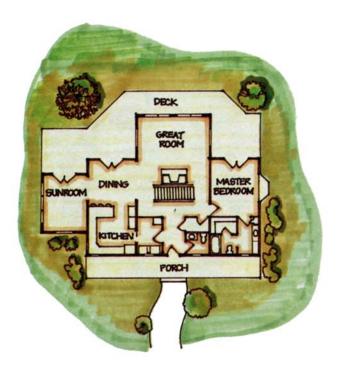


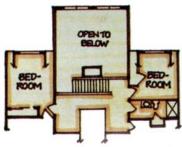


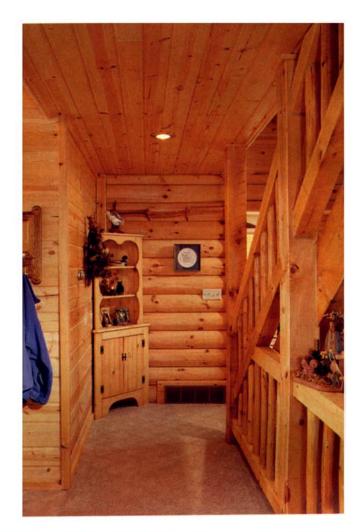


Maximum views of the lake, a walkout lower level and a low profile distinguish this Wisconsin home. OPPOSITE ABOVE: The long porch is a perfect place to relax. OPPOSITE BELOW: The soaring great room has an extensive view of the lake.

"I'M HAPPY AS A LARK AND HAVE A FIRE EVERY NIGHT I'M HERE."







TOP: A corner cupboard embellishes a hall near the stairwell.

BOTTOM: The kitchen is easy to work in and seats several for breakfast.

OPPOSITE: The sun room is on the side of the home and has its own doors to the deck.





4-by-12 stringers with half logs as treads. There's a space in between each one. It's just a phenomenal look."

A hallway leads to the master bedroom and large bathroom on the right. The walls of the bedroom are rounded logs with a natural finish, and the floor is carpeted. Rather unusual is the fact that the closet for the master bedroom is accessed from the master bathroom. Chuck says this was both a practical and a space-saving decision. The original house plan was larger, and more expensive than their budget allowed, so they made some changes to scale down the design, and this was one.

To the left, the hallway leads to the dining room and kitchen area. The flooring is Colonial ash as well, and the dining room and kitchen area are finished with drywall for a slightly different look. The breakfast bar area has proved very useful when the family gets together.

The sun room is open to the dining room, and the flat wood walls have a clear finish. Comfortable furniture, lots of windows and the light-finished log ceiling and walls create a light and airy feeling, and invite guests to linger, or curl up with a good book. The sun room, dining room and master bedroom all open onto the back deck of the house. A small portion of the deck off the sun room is covered, a place to shelter from the sun and rain.

The great room, the centerpiece of the lower level, is hidden from view when entering the house by the staircase and back of the fire-place. The floor-to-ceiling fireplace is made from cultured stone, which is two to three

inches of stone facing over the fireplace structure, mortared to resemble field stone. Chuck has his eye on the spot over the fireplace for a recent hunting trophy, but isn't sure Jeanne will agree. The great room is carpeted, and the floor-to-ceiling windows on the back wall provide a view of the lake.

Upstairs are two guest bedrooms, with gable dormers facing the lake. The landing is open to the great room below, and low storage space was built along the front of the house for storage of seasonal items. A second bathroom is located above the master bathroom.

The house is heated with forced air, but Chuck says it needs very little in the way of cooling. "When it's 100° outside, it's 77° in here," he reports. The couple finds that in the summertime just running the fan on the





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night I'm here," he says and, with a laugh, he

LOG HOME MANUFACTURER AND

BUILDER: Tomahawk Log & Country Homes, Inc., Tomahawk, Wisconsin.