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An Estate of Eclectic Elegance

BY KRISTA PETERS

PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE

STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL





The panoramic view of the lake from the living area is created by "timberscribe," a method that Ron Volz explains as custom-cut massive half-log components that really frame the gable wall of glass that comprises the prow of the log home.

Ron Volz and Tomahawk worked closely with Jane on the kitchen layout. A custom commercial stove ordered from France and accented with quality hoodwork detail is one of the highlights of this comfortable kitchen area.

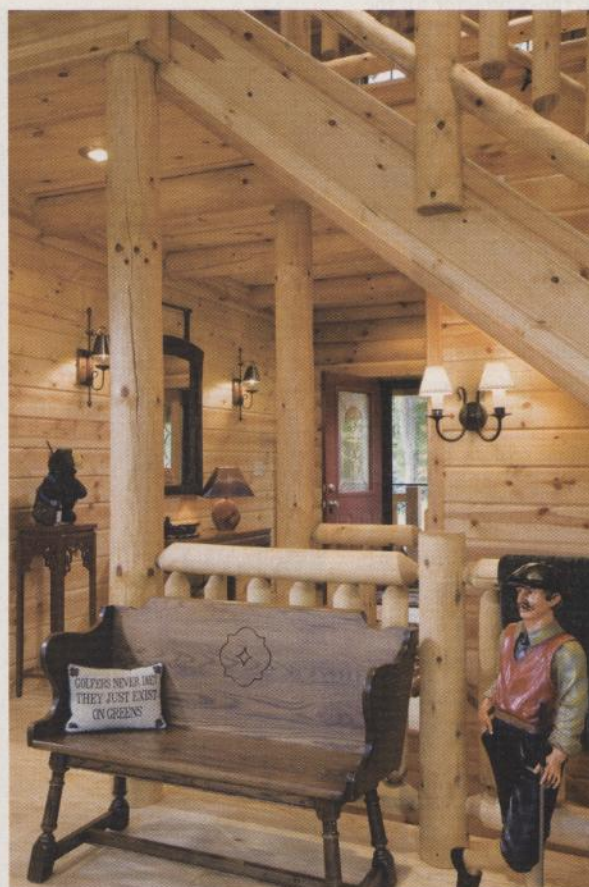
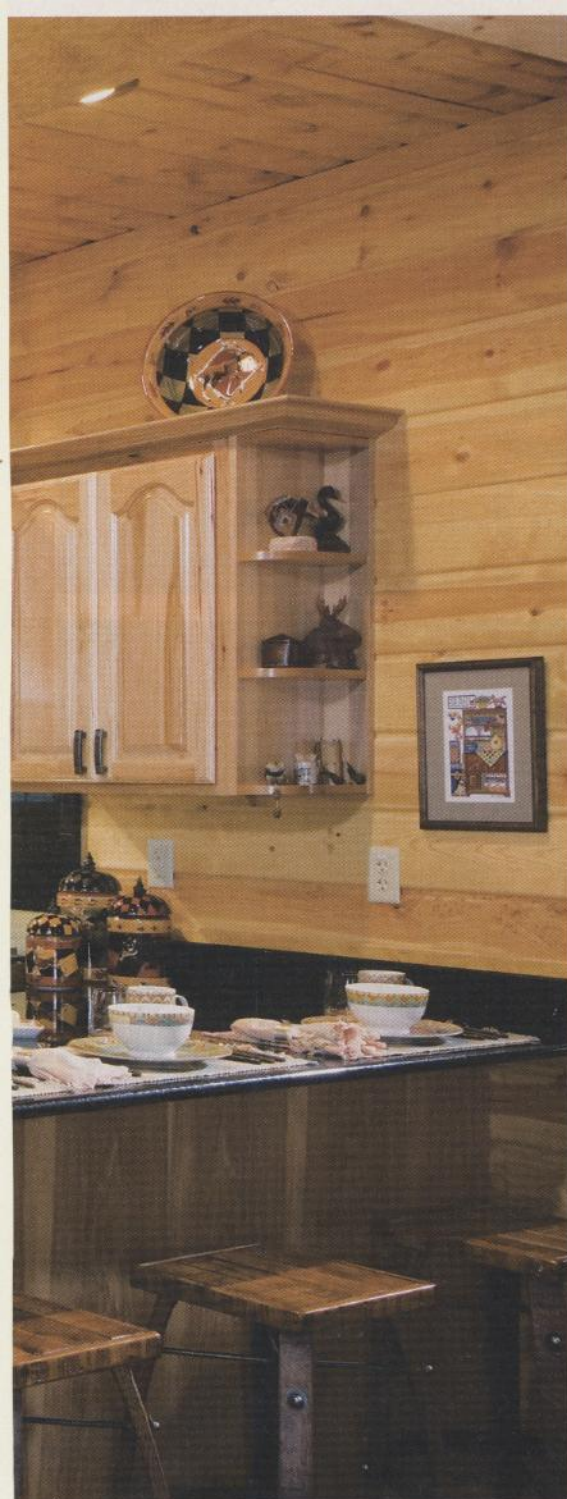


On a mid-winter Saturday morning in the 1970s, the owner of a Swiss cow bell foundry who lived above his shop in the Jura Mountains of Switzerland was surprised at the knock on his door during off hours. Even more surprising, however, was meeting the young American couple that stood waiting with their small children to get his attention and to explain the purpose of their unexpected visit. Through much patience, sign language, and printing on paper, the couple was finally able to communicate their simple request to the man, which he gladly fulfilled. In no time he had created a custom Swiss cow bell for the family, engraved with all of their names and the year, as a precious token to remind them of the time they had spent

in the Swiss countryside.

Little did the shopkeeper realize his would be merely the second of countless artifacts in the family's collection of cultural keepsakes which would be compiled over 30 years — a collection which had always had a very deliberate destination: a stunning lakeside timber home.

Many couples fall in love with the ambience of a log home in pursuing a home that suits them. That was not the case for Jim and Jane Lindgren, whose dreams of constructing a log home originated more than 40 years ago while Jim worked his way through college as a carpenter's apprentice.



Massive pine beams and staircases are standards in Tomahawk plans. The logs and all interior walls and ceilings of Jim and Jane's home are 100% dipped pine logs and pine boards.

"I liked the outdoors and a log home seemed to provide both the feeling of being with nature and the casual calmness of the outdoors on a beautiful day," Jim says. "After I was married, my wife bought into the idea of a log home in our future, as she enjoyed the outdoors too. We had developed a preference for living environments that were more eloquently rustic than exquisitely formal."

It would be 40 years before they would experience the homestead they envisioned, but Jim and Jane used that time to begin planning every detail from the inside out.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Lindgrens transferred to the States where the entire family became involved in Jim and Jane's vision of

a future log home and contributed to the cause. Every birthday and holiday the pair received gifts that embodied "the northwoods" and "cabin" theme that foreshadowed the atmosphere the couple would create at their lake home. "We began collecting Native American art in country art stores and shops during our travels in the Southwest," says Jim.

As the collection of small commodities began to accumulate, larger and more complex hurdles involved in the process were addressed. It was during this time that the location of the home was decided upon. Both Jim and Jane agreed that their future home would reside on a lake. While Jane preferred close proximity to a large city, Jim felt that

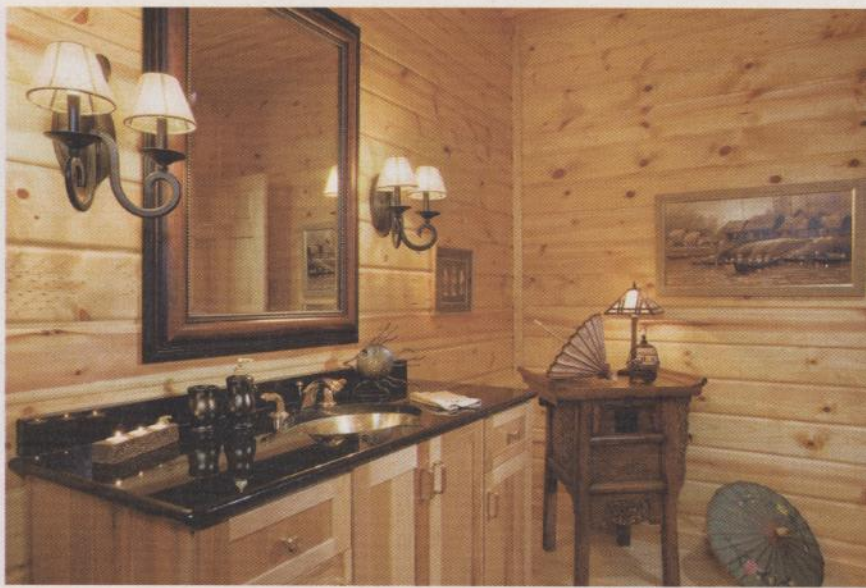
the natural characteristics of the home required a more remote setting. The two compromised on a 1.7 acre wooded lakefront lot merely 135 miles from a large urban area. With the land secured, the couple started their hunt for a builder. The search for a builder would last more than 20 years, but the Lindgrens' acquisition of artifacts was only beginning to accumulate.

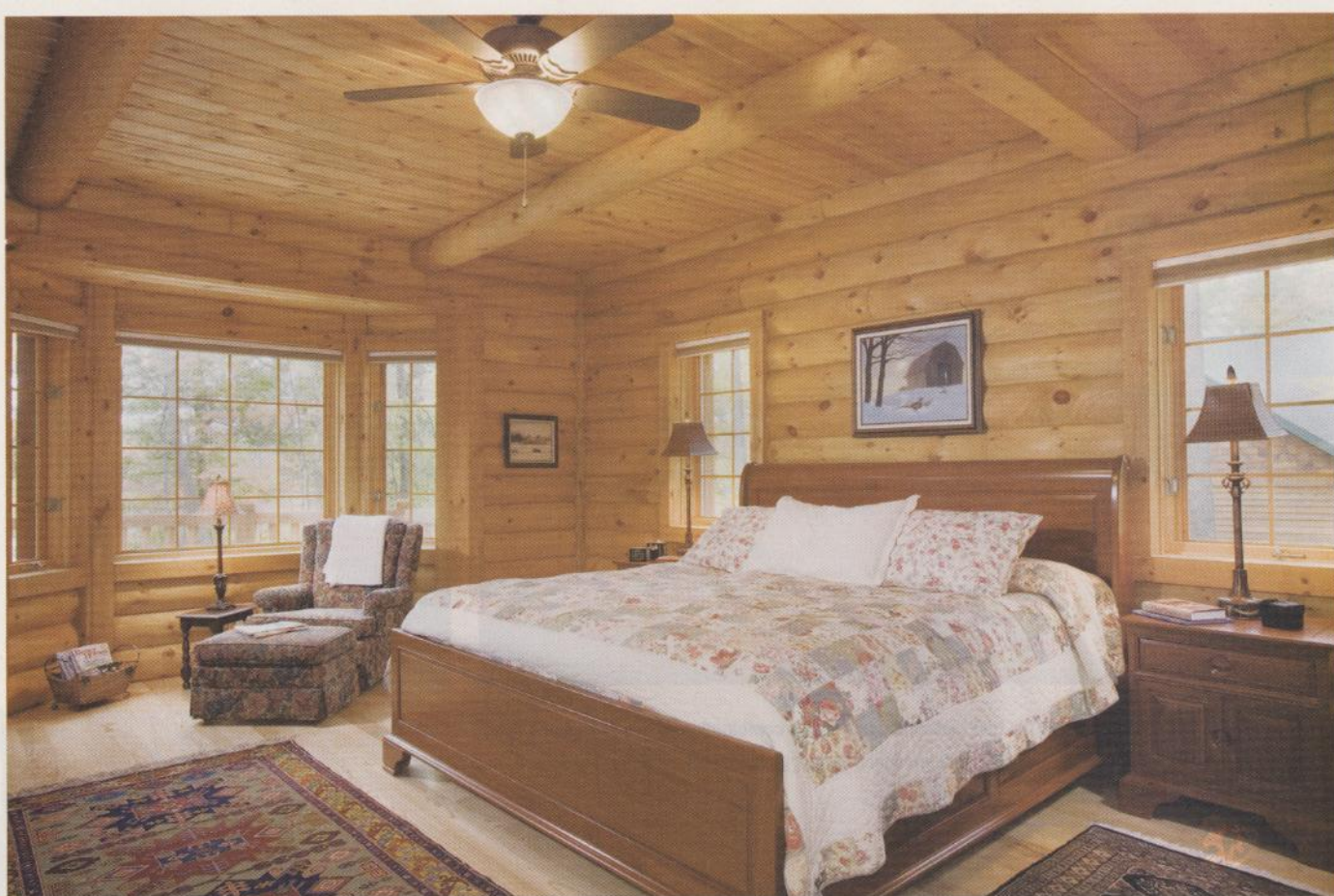
"Every time I came across an advertisement for a log home that caught my eye I saved it," Jim explains. "My wife and I also attended country and lake log home shows as well, and by the early 1990s I had a list of 25 builders. When we became more serious about building, I researched and eliminated until I had five, and by 1999 I was down to two." After visiting a few sample homes and shows, the couple finally chose Tomahawk Log & Country Homes as the contractor for the entire project from the floor plans to the landscaping. The couple's thoroughness may seem extreme, but one glaring detail clarifies their discerning dispositions; the entire process would have to be completed while the couple was residing in the next destination on their myriad travels — thousands of miles away in Asia.

When Jim and Jane decided to begin construction on the log home they spent decades contemplating, they had been living in Singapore; the planning of their dream home, however, never lost momentum. The couple explored the Asian countryside and surrounding regions discovering furniture, rugs, artwork and unimaginable accents to enhance their future lake home. In Malacca, Malaysia, owners of a local furniture factory crafted a custom rosewood furniture set from Jim and Jane's own design which included an entertainment cabinet with combination bookshelf. A wall in the den of their lodge was designed for the specific purpose of accommodating this unique piece.

Jane's travels throughout Asia took her to India and Pakistan as well, where she acquired numerous hand woven rugs at auction. She chose those with earthy green tones and tribal patterns; she was unsure of their eventual placement in their future log home, but certain of their fit in the home collection.

While the Lindgrens were gathering an estate of rare treasures, someone thousands of miles away was busy planning the sanctuary for these priceless furnishings. Decisions from refining the floor plans to finishing off the kitchen cabinetry would be handled through emails and fax between the couple and Ron Volz of Tomahawk Log & Country.



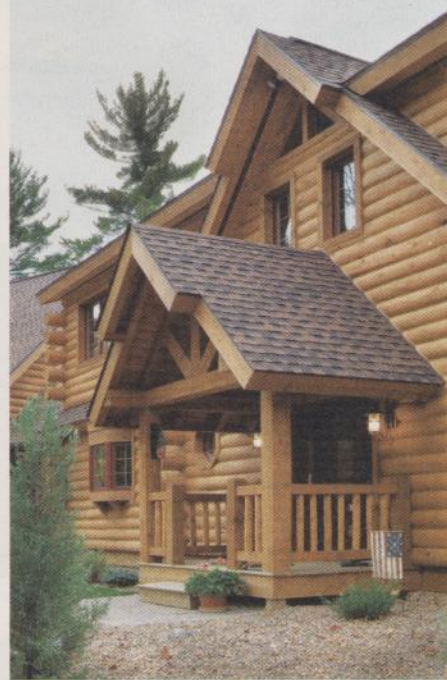


ABOVE: The master bedroom is located on the main floor and is one of many rooms in the home featuring a few of the many tribal hand-woven rugs of Asian, Persian, and Indian origin that grace the Ash hardwood floors throughout the home. **LEFT:** One wall in the den was specifically designed to accommodate a combined bookshelf and entertainment center made of rosewood that Jim and Jane had hand-crafted for them in Singapore. **OPPOSITE:** The guest bathroom in the entryway of the lodge is now home to several rare pieces of artwork with seaside, waterfall, and boat scenes collected from sight seeing trips to Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam. An eggshell painting and an ancient Chinese Scroll table provide the finishing touch to what Jane has adopted as her favorite room in the home.

After viewing a few standard models on a visit to the Midwest, Jim and Jane made some alterations to the plans to create their custom home. Specifically, they combined two plans that featured a gorgeous prow in the den; an open living, dining and kitchen area; and massive log stairs and beams that are standards in Tomahawk plans. In addition, they decided to add a walk-out basement to the lakeside and a sitting room above the garage. The Lindgrens also altered the layouts of the kitchen and master bath. The plans were finalized and Volz broke ground two months after the couple had returned to Asia.

"Being in the part of the country we are in, we are always concerned with getting foundations laid and structures weather tight before the cold weather comes," explains Ron. "That year the cold temperatures came in fairly early. Despite the distance between Jim and Jane, and our foreman, we really had some great communication. If there was a question on something, like where to run a line, we had virtually immediate answers and it didn't delay construction at all."

The cold weather, while it proved a complication in the building process, was anticipated and even considered in the plan and design of



ABOVE: The home itself is now called the Red Cedar plan and was a combination of two of Tomahwak Log & Country's standard plans. It features 4,850 square foot of living space (6,000, including the walk out basement), and an added bonus room over a three-car garage.

the home. The utilization of hydronic heat through the installation of a product called Warmboard was a novelty for Volz as well as for the owners. Warmboard is a subfloor system that provides radiant heat and is popular in wood frame construction. Introduced in 1998, it is an increasingly favorable option of heat in custom homes, and was perfect for Jim and Jane who report that the system is extremely efficient and works well with the ash hardwood floors that flow throughout their home.

While hydronic heat may have been a first for Volz, the structure of the house itself incorporated processes he was well acquainted with.


"The house is stick-built and fully insulated with con-insulation. We then apply massive hand-hewn half logs to the exterior of the home," he says. "The Lindgrens used a 12-inch saddle log that creates one of the most massive full round corners in the half-log industry. On the inside, they did half-logs on the sub-wall, which makes the home super energy-efficient and will ensure that it stands the test of time for future generations."

Future generations are precisely Jim and Jane's priority. In the last four months of construction, the couple finally moved back to the United States and put the finishing touches on their 6,000-square-foot dream home. The vaulted ceilings and trusses now shelter a cornucopia of treasures from various cultures that Jim and Jane had patiently been storing

for 40 years.

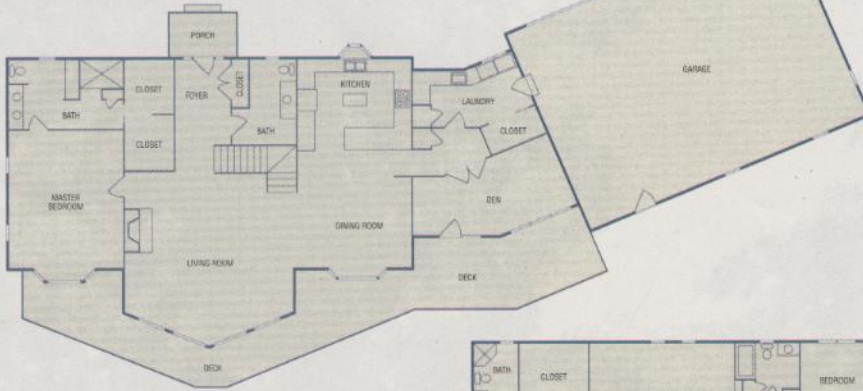
Beneath the rosewood table in the entryway sit five hand-carved elephants purchased in Thailand and Cambodia; the animals are revered in these cultures for their early days of logging and clearing jungle. A world globe shimmers atop the couple's rosewood bookshelf in the den; each country is represented by its own semi-precious stone in correct dimension and geographical location. "It reminds us of how fortunate we were to have met many peoples of the world and have experienced so many different cultures," Jane says. And in the den, on a shelf sits a small cow bell, engraved with the family name — a symbol of the various cultures and peoples that have contributed along the way.

Though their travels took them all over the world, and their furnishings, paintings, and rugs constantly remind them of their experiences, the couple's favorite aspect of their lake lodge should come as no surprise.

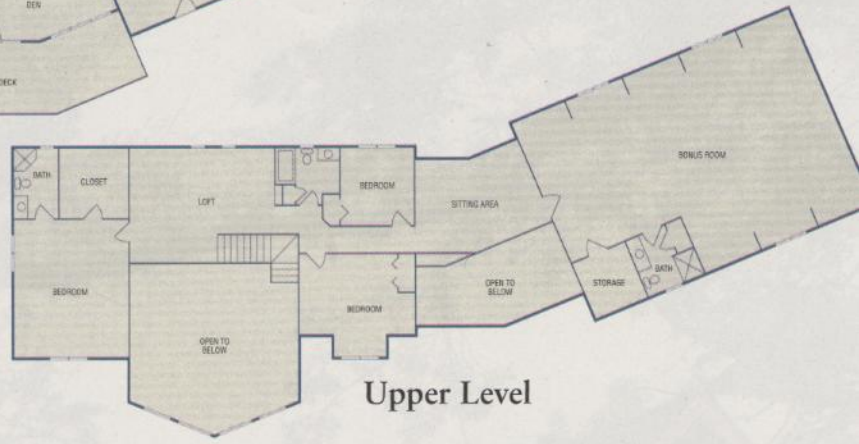
"We constantly enjoy the natural beauty of wood and how casually-comfortable it always seems," Jim says. "Our favorite time is sharing our log home with friends and family." The vision of owning a log home was born long before the Lindgrens could have imagined where the path to owning that home would take them. After such a long road, the beauty of the wood and the rustic natural setting could not belong to a more appreciative and grateful couple. 



Main Level



Tomahawk Log & Country's landscape division incorporated massive fieldstones into the landscape to create a retaining wall that blends in with the surroundings. "The most important highlight of the landscaping is that it is warm and inviting yet requires very little maintenance," explains Ron Volz.



Upper Level

