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# Country's Best **Log Home Design & Decorating Ideas** **Log Homes**

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### Exquisite Log Home **LAKE RETREATS**

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JANUARY 2002



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# WISCONSIN

# LAKE RETREAT

DESIGNED FROM MEMORIES OF THE  
PAST FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME.



A massive field stone fireplace dominates the living room and serves as a focal point for the comfortable furniture surrounding it.



BY MARGARET A. HAAPOJA  
PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE  
STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL



**ABOVE: Notched roofs on the gables of the Pritchard home add a distinctive touch and also protect the logs from rain. Floor-to-ceiling windows offer a panoramic view of the lake from most of the house. OPPOSITE: Young people often gather in the sun-splashed loft to play games or tell tall tales.**

**W**hen John and Beth Pritchard, along with their daughter Ashley, decided to build a vacation home, they went about choosing the location in democratic fashion. “We each selected our top three spots and numbered them one, two and three,” says John, who is a partner in a Columbus, Ohio law firm. “Both my daughter and I voted for northern Wisconsin as number one.” Although Beth was overruled, she wasn’t too disappointed. She and John grew up in Whitefish Bay, a Milwaukee suburb, and they lived in that city for the first 10 years of their married life. “We vacationed in northern Wisconsin a lot,” says Beth, president and CEO of the national Bath & Bodyworks chain of stores, “and our daughter went to Camp Clearwater in Minocqua, so there were all these ties to northern Wisconsin.”

John and Beth were familiar with log structures, having skied in Colorado, and once contemplated building a log home on property they owned near the resort community of Vail. Two years ago, when their daughter was a high school senior, they decided to build a second home. “We

wanted to make sure we had some place the family could gather, especially as Ashley went off to college,” says Beth. “We wanted a place she could come back to with friends and ultimately with her own family, a place where we would really have deep roots.”

That summer they took their daughter and three of her friends on vacation to a resort in northern Wisconsin where, at Ashley’s request, they stayed in a log cabin with a screen door that slammed. “I think it goes back to the days when she went to Camp Clearwater,” says Beth, “and whenever we’d go up north to vacation as a family, somehow the screen doors always slammed. So in her mind, that’s just a sound she associates with wonderful memories.” As it happened, the cabin they rented two years ago was built by nearby Tomahawk Log Homes. “We were impressed with the construction and the quality of its features,” says John, “so we called Tomahawk and went to meet with the people there. As soon as we found our building site, we proceeded to work with them on a plan. We never really talked to anyone else.”

It was on the same vacation that the Pritchards found

## “YOU CAN HAVE A FIRE GOING, LISTEN TO THE LOONS AND WATCH THE LAKE CALM DOWN IN THE EVENING. IT’S JUST A WONDERFUL, COZY PLACE.”

their 7-acre lot on Fence Lake, near Lac du Flambeau, Wisc. “We were familiar with the lake,” says John, “because we’d stayed on it in the past. We wanted a site that was right on the water without walking down multiple flights of stairs. The property winds down through the woods, but the site itself is quite level with a gentle grade right to the water. It’s filled with trees, and from our deck we have a filtered, panoramic view of the lake.”

Because John and Beth are such busy people, they handled the building process from a distance. In fact, John admits he visited the project only twice during construction, and much of the communication was carried on by fax, phone and e-mail. “Tomahawk would send me photos or e-mail me digital photos,” says John, “or they would call me with questions.” According to Tomahawk’s Troy Gullo, John was always prompt in faxing back every bit of information requested within a day or two.

John drew the original house plans on graph paper and gave them to the staff at Tomahawk Log Homes, who went out and measured the site to determine what size would fit on the lot. Then Tomahawk draftsmen worked with John’s plans on their CAD system and came up with their design.

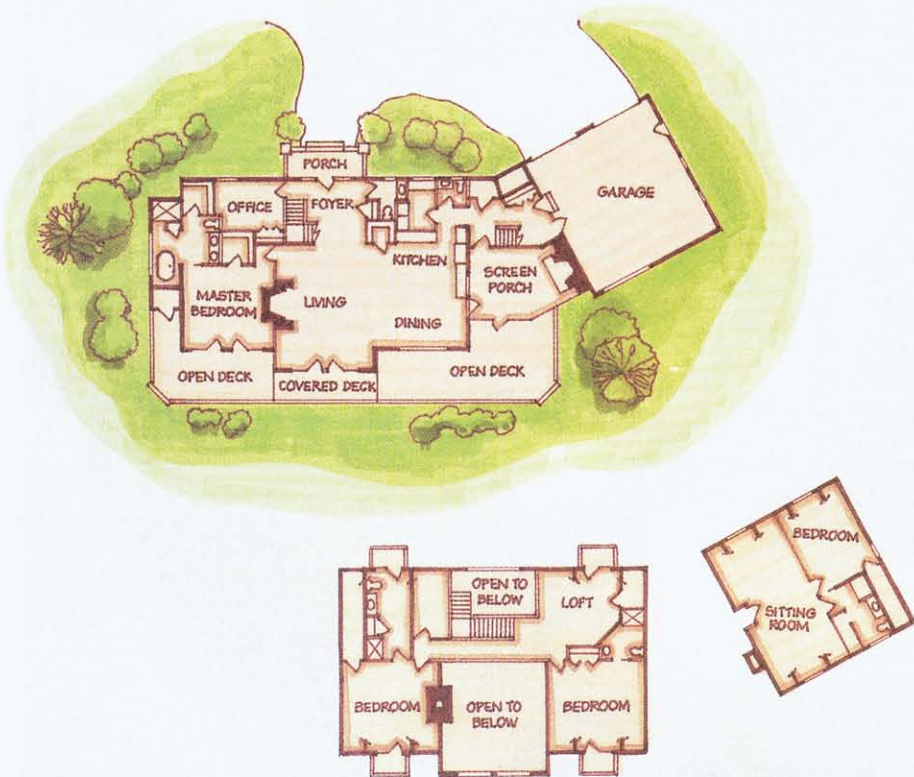
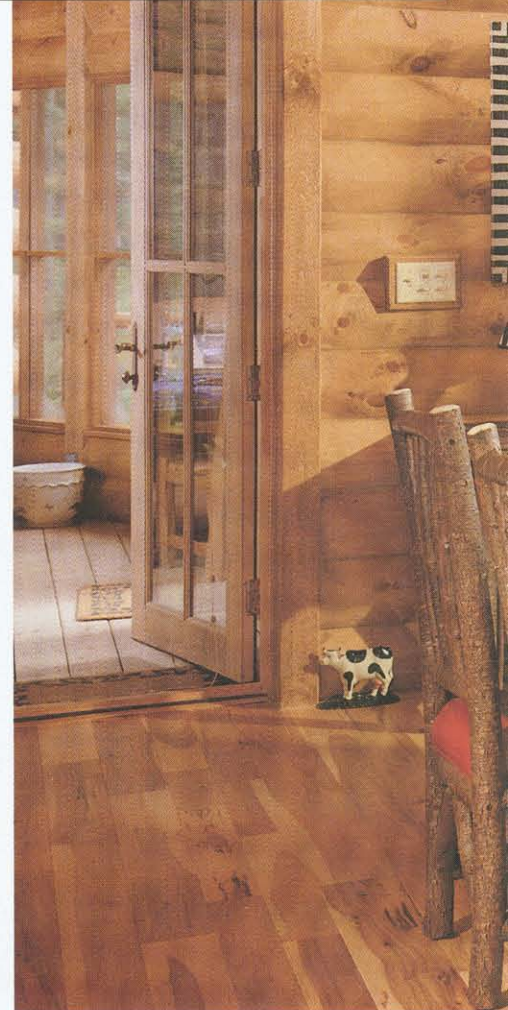
At that point, John consulted Kevin Knight & Company in Columbus, the same architectural firm that designed their Ohio residence. “They came up with quite a few great ideas,” says John. Gullo points to the home’s 10-foot walls and the clerestory shed dormer that opens up the loft and brings more light into the catwalk and balcony area. “It’s nice to have more than one head into a plan,” says Gullo. “It’s fun to go into a project and have a few more doors opened in terms of what’s feasible to do.”

Gullo especially admires the stepped gable ends that are notched to extend to 4 feet. “That feature adds a lot of character,” he says, “and I’ve since used it on my own home.” John appreciates the architects’ idea of facing the base of the front of the house with field stone to break up the log look and to tie the house and garage together. He likes the Marvin simulated, divided-light windows the architects suggested, and the outdoor shower. “That’s very handy when the kids or the dogs come in—to be able to rinse all the sand off,” says John. The shower is one of Beth’s favorite amenities, too. “It’s charming,” she says. “You can shower among the woods in complete privacy while you watch the water skiers on the lake.”





**ABOVE:** The efficient and spacious kitchen-dining area affords ample room for entertaining friends and family. Cow barstools, crafted by an artist friend, are Beth's nod to the family's Wisconsin roots. **RIGHT:** Guests at the rustic dining room table by LaLune of Milwaukee draw straws to see who sits facing the lake.



Because of the way the driveway is situated, Tomahawk's building crew suggested angling the garage to better fit the building site. "The property had a somewhat limited usable area," says Gullo. "Any time there's water involved or any time a driveway is cut in, there are some constraints to consider. The Pritchards definitely did maximize the buildable area on that property. I don't think that home could grow much in size from what it is right now."

Constructed of Norway and northern white pine, the home uses Tomahawk's construction system of fully insulated, conventionally framed 2-by-6 stud walls; 1-inch foil-faced rigid insulation; and 12-inch facing logs, which are 12-inch-diameter logs milled and cut in half except near the corners, where they are milled but left whole. "You get the appearance and beauty of a full-log home," claims Gullo, "but you have the areas of the 2-by-6 wall through which to run electrical wiring and the like."

Inside the Pritchards chose wood walls in both  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch tongue-and-

groove knotty pine and Tomahawk's "Chalet Log," which is a thinner version of the exterior log siding. "Rather than having a 6-inch thickness to that log, you end up with 2 to 3 inches of thickness," says Gullo. "Therefore you don't have quite as much cost or quite as much space taken up on the interior of the home, and yet you still have the same surface appearance."

The Pritchards' open floorplan is very efficient, and it encompasses approximately 4,457 square feet, including the finished apartment above the garage. "It's important to have efficiency in a floorplan because amenities add up very quickly," says Gullo. "That way people aren't paying for size they don't need, and they're able to apply their money toward some of the bells and whistles, the character-adders." One of those extra features is the full masonry fireplace in the screened-in porch, Beth's favorite room and a replica of the Pritchards' screened-in porch in Ohio. "You can have a fire going, listen to the loons and watch the lake calm down in the evening," she says. "It's just a wonderful, cozy place."



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“I LOVE IT BECAUSE IT’S A PLACE WHERE  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS GET TOGETHER, AND  
IT’S CREATING GREAT MEMORIES.”

