

“The Views Are Our Artwork”

A stunning natural stone and timber home is designed to take full advantage of everything that Mother Nature has to offer.

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Located in Mountain Village, just outside of Telluride, Colorado, the Tanner home was carefully placed on its lot to take advantage of every one of the outstanding views.

A lot of people talk about building their dream homes. Jim and Cindy Tanner did it, and it was a dream a long time being fulfilled. Jim first visited Telluride, Colorado, in 1972 (Cindy the year after that) and has wanted to own a home in the area ever since. And it had to be a wood home: "I think there is a certain warm feeling that comes from wood," says Jim, "and to me, if you are in the mountains, anything other than natural materials would just look strange." The details of their dreams are visible in this outstanding natural stone and timber home, positioned to take advantage of every inch of view that Mother Nature has to offer.

And the views are what this house is all about. Stephen Biggs, president of Town & Country Cedar Homes, which was the Tanners' first choice to develop the home, says, "The Tanners wanted to bring the outside inside, and they sure did it!" Of course, the great indoors isn't too shabby either. This house, of just over 4,000 square feet, has wide open spaces on the first floor, where the beauty of the wood and other natural materials is the primary focal point of its décor. "This house combines the best elements of log and timber construction," continues Biggs, "as well as natural stone and natural stucco. This is a requirement for high-level architecture—you find a

balance of all of these materials."

The Tanners knew they wanted a steep, pitched roof and enough space to accommodate a long staircase, and architect Dan Houlihan of the Fountainhead Studio came up with a striking plan for the great room. The high vaulted ceiling contains two large wooden arch trusses that are echoed by the arches on the home's front and back overhangs. Guests who walk in the door are struck by the height and beauty of the great room, then almost immediately by the gorgeous views opposite them, seen through the room's many windows. The house was basically designed around the great room. "The community spaces are the most important parts of the house," says Cindy. The structure of the great room was a challenge to all who worked on the home. To facilitate its perfect construction, Town & Country actually built the structural roof system on their shop floor, tagged it, disassembled it, and shipped it off to the home site where it was finally constructed.

The house was built by Dean Anderson of Anderson Mountain Homes, who has been in the home building business pretty much all of his life. He started building houses with his father when he was just 10 years old. "Other kids would go play baseball," he remembers. "I

BELOW: Room décor that relies on texture rather than color keeps the focus on the views.

OPPOSITE: The focal point of the Tanner house is the great room. The height and the visual interest of the structural roof system accent the sweeping views available through the wall of windows on the other side.





Natural stone facings enhance the organic look of the home. The massive arch under the roofline is echoed in the great room arch trusses.

“The Tanners’ goal was to bring the outside inside, and they did it!” says Steve Biggs, Town & Country Cedar Homes.

would go to the job sites and watch the guys work.” Anderson is a general contractor, not just a home salesman, and so could reliably oversee the building process locally while the Tanners continued their work in Denver—Cindy as a physician’s assistant and Jim at his own CPA firm. Anderson takes a team approach when building an extraordinary home like this, and works hard to prevent the process from becoming adversarial. He says, “You aren’t just building something out of wood, you are building a relationship.”

The Tanners have kept the overall theme of their decorating focused on neutral colorways and staying clutter-free. Cindy says, “We didn’t want to do a whole lot of decorating. We collected a lot of things at our Denver home, and it is nice to come here and just get away from all of the clutter!” “The beauty of the wood almost decorates the house itself,” Jim adds. “I guess you could say that the views are our artwork.” Instead of being bland, the Tanners’ plan ensures that the colors outdoors are center stage. “It is amazing how much color there is outside,” says Jim, “and every time you come out here the combination of light and shadows and the changing greenery make it look a little different.” Thick rugs and plush and leather upholstered furniture complement the wood and stone textures of the house without detracting from them.

Like most second home owners, the Tanners say they don’t spend as much time in their house as they would like. When they are in residence, they are often accompanied by guests or family. The Tanners have three adult daughters who often make use of the house with friends and family of their own. One of the things that makes entertaining here so pleasant is the open kitchen layout. “I would rather be with my guests or hiking than cooking,” says Cindy. “The kitchen layout works very well because there can be more than one person working in there without getting in each other’s way, and the openness means that you can prepare meals but still feel like you are part of the action.”

And everywhere, there is light. Since privacy is not really an issue the way the house is laid out, the Tanners stayed away from fussy window treatments that might impede



a view. They have recently added translucent roll-down shades to some of the windows, to keep the sun out of the rooms when the house is empty. Cindy was careful to choose a shade style that is nearly invisible when they are not in use.

Parts of the house extend right into the great outdoors that the Tanners love. There are four separate decks on the house: Cindy refers to the two decks off of the master bedroom as the Sunset and Sunrise Decks—one is best for each time of day. Another deck is referred to as the Stadium Deck. The whole Tanner family is made up of sports fans, and that deck features two fold-up stadium chairs that were taken from Denver’s Mile High stadium during its recent demolition and replacement.

In addition to beautiful woodworking, part of the house’s exterior is covered in locally quarried, rectilinear-cut natural stone. This

further the building team’s goals of having the house look as if it really belongs on this site, like it has grown right out of the mountain. Natural stone was also used inside, on the great room and master bedroom fireplaces, and the natural granite countertops in the kitchen, all of the bathrooms, and the TV room wet-bar area.

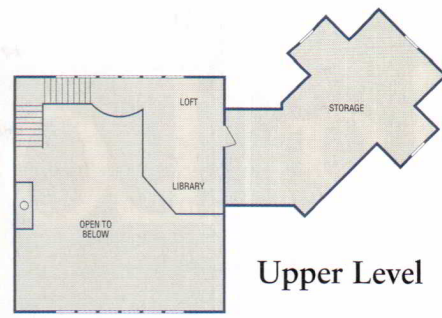
Jim and Cindy Tanner may have waited a while to achieve their dream house, but it was well worth it. They got just what they wanted, where they wanted it—perfectly designed and built to last. 🏡

LOG AND TIMBER PRODUCER: Town & Country Cedar Homes, Petoskey, Michigan; **BUILDER:** Dean Anderson, Anderson Mountain Homes, Telluride, Colorado; **ARCHITECT:** Dan Houlihan, Fountainhead Studio, Telluride, Colorado.

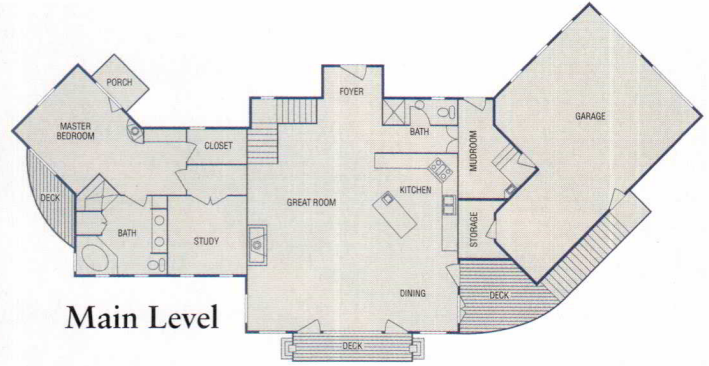




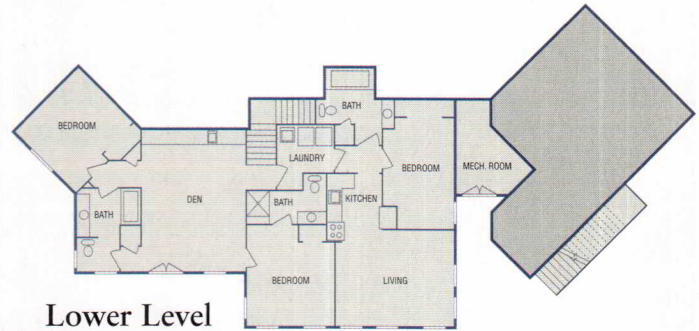




Upper Level



Main Level



Lower Level



The master bedroom is awash in sunlight from sunrise to sunset. Granite countertops in the master bath provide another natural link to the surrounding mountains. There is even a great view from the bathtub!

OPPOSITE: The clean, vertical lines of the dining room furniture complement the beautiful wood framing on the great room windows.