

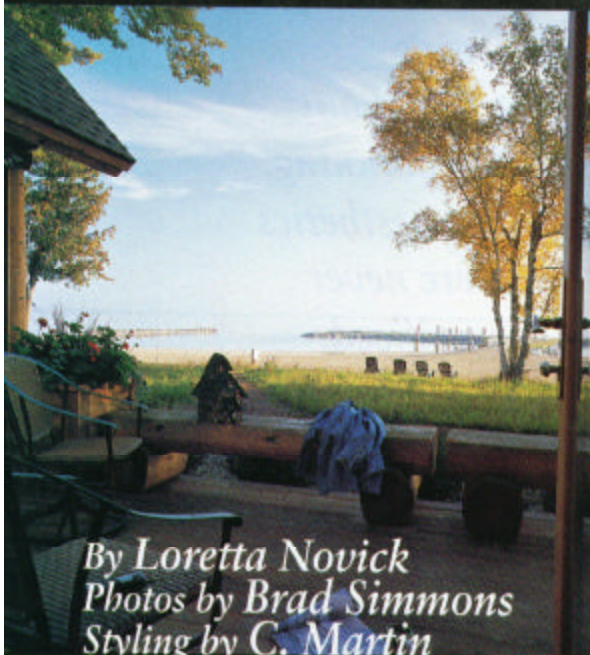
**I**F YOU LIKE LIVING ON THE WATER, AS BOB AND JULIE Knode do—they spend four months of each year sailing in the Bahamas—then the next best thing is living right on the shore. Which is why they feel especially pleased with their log home next to the beach on Lake Michigan.

Their part of the Wolverine State has long been popular with summer vacationers, but it's also become a favorite location for retirees. So, when Bob was approaching retirement and the Knodes considered where they'd like to settle down, the scenic northern Michigan area near Traverse

City seemed most appealing. Not only had they spent summers there—occasionally bringing their sailboat up for the season—but they also had friends living nearby.

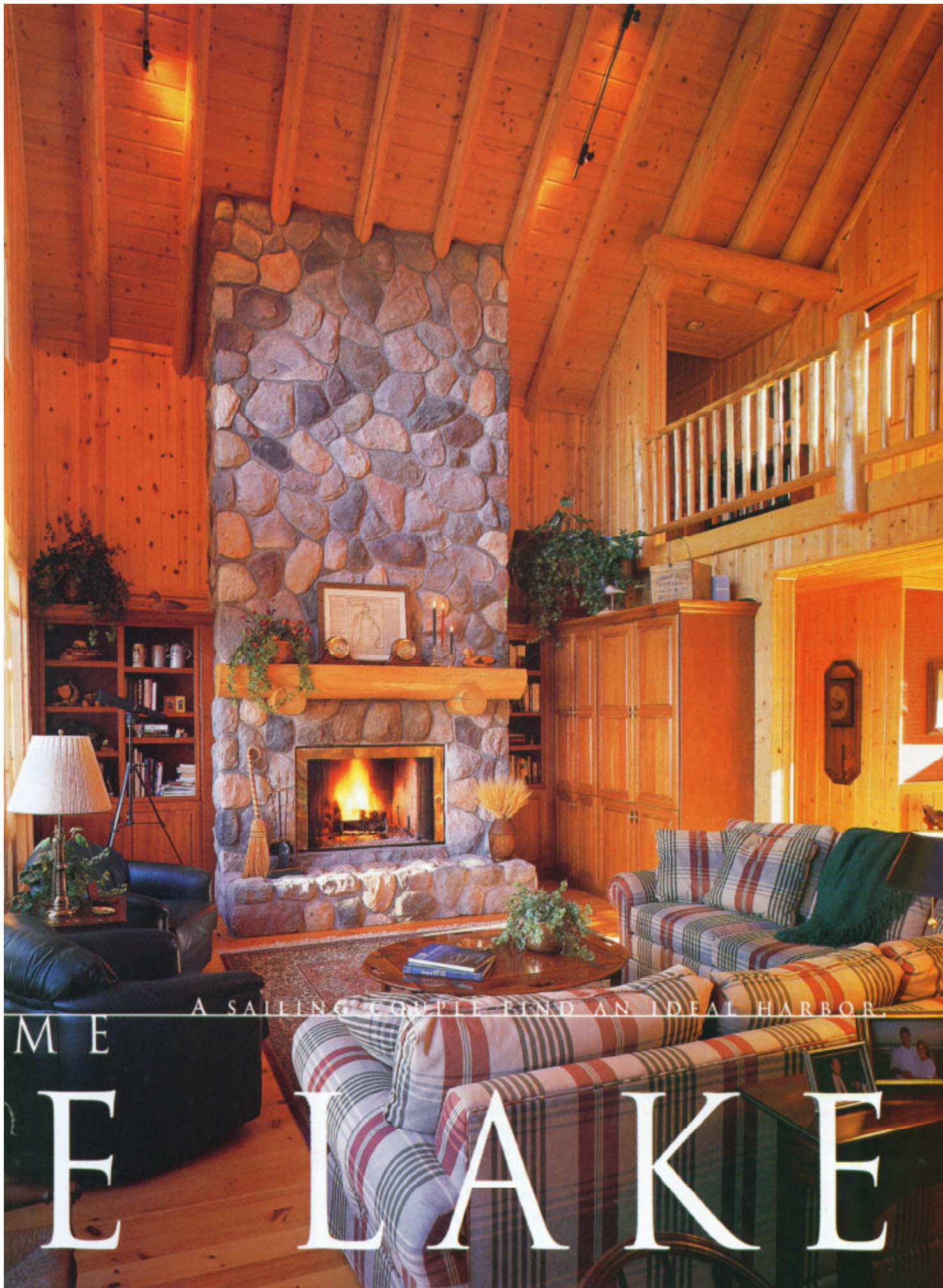
As luck would have it, a former girls' camp bordering the lake went on the market and a developer divided the land into six home sites, with room for a marina and other amenities. Bob and Julie acquired a 1.2-acre property and promptly went to work planning a dream house for their future.

"While we were still living in the Chicago area," Julie recounts, "I saw an ad for a log



*By Loretta Novick  
Photos by Brad Simmons  
Styling by C. Martin*

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A SAILING COUPLE FIND AN IDEAL HARBOR.

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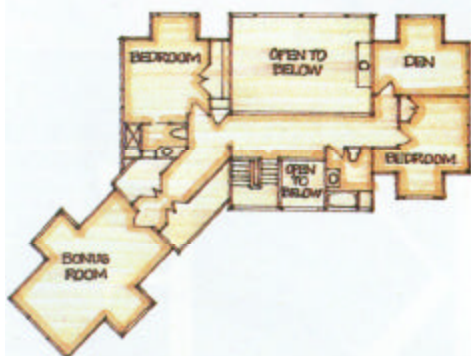
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home and asked the company, Town & Country Cedar Homes, for its brochure. We also looked at other companies' materials, but we're glad we made the choice we did. They were wonderful to work with." A special offer by the company helped make the decision: They were invited to spend a night in one of the manufacturer's log homes.

It wasn't the model they wanted, but the sales representative, Arden Schlueter, drove the couple around to six or eight other Town & Country homes to view other styles. By then, they were definitely hooked on a log house. As Bob puts it, "The Town & Country people were completely flexible. They offered to do the design alone or the entire project; that is, completely building and finishing the home to the point we could merely 'turn the key' and walk it. We were glad to have them take on the whole thing." Because the Knodes had built their former house near Chicago, they were familiar with the stages of construction, and they felt confident they'd be satisfied with the end result.

Northern white cedar, cut from their own trees, is used almost exclusively in constructing Town & County homes. The Knodes selected a D-shaped log for the flat face it made for the interior wall, and they asked for a warm-toned stain to be applied.





Open to the kitchen with its two-level counter and bar stools, the dining area offers views of the great room and the great outdoors. ABOVE LEFT: The master bedroom has its own access to the deck. PREVIOUS SPREAD: A fire warms the Knode great room. INSET: A view from the deck to the lake.





(An advantage of white over red cedar is that it can be stained in a variety of tints.) The company also points out that northern white cedar features a cell structure that won't absorb moisture, thus resisting the internal growth of mold or mildew. One additional claim that impresses buyers: a kiln-drying process for the logs that reduces moisture content.

When it came to layout, Julie and Bob had a lot of well-considered ideas. Although they started with the company's basic Walloon style, they made some major changes, ending with an asymmetrical silhouette and a dramatic roofline.

"On the second floor, we added a bedroom and bath on the lake side of the house. We also needed a two-car garage," Bob reports. "Above the garage, which is at an angle to the front of the house, there's what we call a 'bonus room.'" It's a 25-by-13-foot space with dormer windows, "but we haven't decided on its ultimate use yet."

Another key decision involved the utility room between kitchen and garage, designed to hold laundry equipment. Bob and Julie converted its closet into an extra half-bathroom for a specific use: a place to change out of wet swimsuits before entering the main rooms. They also added "a

**OPPOSITE: A covered entry porch invites visitors to the Knodes' 3,158-square-foot home, built of northern white cedar. ABOVE: A connecting hallway on the second floor makes for a pleasant place to show off classic tables and chairs, and cradle.**

most wonderful walk-in pantry." The main floor now includes a master bedroom suite, the great room, dining area and kitchen, and the formal entry plus guest bathroom.

On the second floor, there's an open loft area that overlooks the great room, plus the "bonus room," an office for Bob and two more bedrooms, each with its own bathroom. The setting of the 3,158-square-foot house couldn't be more idyllic. Out the front door, a variety of shrubs and flowering plants ornament the entrance. In the rear, there's the vast open view across the bay to the lake, with tree-filled vistas framing the scene.

In October 1996, the house was completed and, shortly after, Bob and Julie moved in. They feel exceptionally pleased with their design decisions. Pine floors, occasionally covered by rugs, shine throughout the house, with the exception of the entryway, where ceramic tile was the



Beyond the tiled entry and out the front door lies a storybook setting of plantings and birch trees. **CENTER ABOVE:** Ornamental beams suggest rusticity while multiple light fixtures add convenience to the efficient kitchen. Note the handy bookshelves. **CENTER BELOW:** The Knode home has many windows overlooking the lake. **FAR RIGHT:** Through a Palladian window comes a breathtaking view of the Lake Michigan beach and sky.

practical choice. Ornamental beams add a rustic look in the kitchen, with arching windows providing a note of elegance. Track lighting fixtures holding halogen lights ("less conspicuous," Bob says) illuminate the great room and entry.

"With the breezes off Lake Michigan, we never need air conditioning," says Bob, but ceiling fans are used in several rooms. Since they'll probably be spending more of the year in their new house as time goes by, Bob and Julie have provided well for the colder seasons. "What we have," Bob

explains, "is a geothermal unit that picks up on ambient ground temperature to help provide heat. It's a system perfected in recent years that uses fluid-pumping instead of air." Though it cost more to install than a conventional heat pump system, Bob figures he saves a third on his annual heating cost. The asphalt shingle roof, "recommended over cedar shakes by the company," he says, provides a high-rated measure of insulation.

The great room features a fireplace of cultured stone, a look-alike for two kinds of

natural rock from the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior regions. It's an economical choice, both as to installation time and the amount of footings required for support. The same material appears as an architectural element on the front of the house. In the kitchen, tile and cedar are supplemented by warm cherry-wood cabinets, while in the adjoining dining area, a traditional dark wood table and chairs, brought from their former home, blends well with the lighter wood walls.

For further contrast with the cedar inte-



rior, Julie opted for some “wallpaper touches.” So cheerful paper patterns appear on several bathroom walls. Another important amenity is a sound system installed throughout the house; it allows music to be played in any and every room, and even through outdoor speakers on the porch. With porches or decks on three sides, including the charming covered entry, the favored spot is the inviting screened porch off the dining area. “Because of the deep overhang above, and with the roll-up shades, we can actually enjoy the outdoors

out there almost through November.”

What other personal touches do the Knodes particularly enjoy? “Well, the high kitchen counter where you sit on stools for breakfast or snacks was built with a lower level on the kitchen side for a good reason—we can put dirty dishes down there and have them out of sight.” Shortly, an outdoor shower will be installed alongside the garage to permit rising off sandy feet when they leave the adjoining beach. And if they had it to do over, Bob and Julie might expand the great room—“move it

out two or four feet,” as they did with the master bedroom plan. But that’s not even a minor quibble. And their many guests must agree. “We had 34 guests overnight the first year after we moved in,” Bob recalls.

With their ideal home in its perfect setting, Julie and Bob can probably expect to welcome many more during their very active retirement. 🍷

**LOG HOME MANUFACTURER AND BUILDER: Town & Country Cedar Homes, Petoskey, Michigan.**