



Now & Later

*A Wisconsin family builds a home
for the generations of today and tomorrow*

Log homes are often designed as getaway retreats—places to be used during vacations or during retirement years later in life. The owners of this spacious log home in northern Wisconsin had a different outlook: They designed their home for the present as well as for the future.

“We decided to build for now as well as for down the road,” they say. “We wanted our kids to enjoy it while they were young, to have memories here. Then someday they’ll

Above: The lakeside home boasts breathtaking views and more than 10,000 square feet of living space. Natural landscaping helps the home blend into its surroundings.

Opposite: The striking totem pole and fireplace mantel in the great room were carved by Petoskey artist Glen McCune. Rustic furnishings promote a cozy, inviting flavor. The fieldstone fireplace is a strong focal point.

come back with their families and build more memories. It will be a house for generations.”

Before building their dream home, the owners spent a lot of time thinking about its design. They bought dozens of magazines and ripped out photos that appealed to them, placing them in a file. They

also kept a journal of ideas that they liked. “It’s your living space,” they say, “so it’s important to create a place that appeals to you.”

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The couple's stockpile of magazines also helped them select a company to build their home. They requested material from many of the advertisers and carefully looked over each of the brochures. Both owners chose the same company as their favorite: Town & Country Cedar Homes of Petoskey, Michigan. After spending a day up in Petoskey, the couple knew they had found the right people for the job. They even found a floor plan that they liked in the company's plan book, and after "juggling some pieces to make it fit," they finalized the design.

Shortly after their Petoskey trip, the couple was connected with a local Town & Country dealer, Northern Visions Inc. of Eagle River, Wisconsin. Under the direction of Tim Casey, Northern Visions would serve as the facilitator and builder for the project.

Finding the right site was not a problem: The couple already owned a plot of land in a resort-like setting overlooking a lake. They had enjoyed spending time there for many years in a small cottage on the property. In fact, they liked the

Right: The bar on the lower level is a great place to unwind after a busy day at the lake. The countertop was crafted by Tim Casey's crew. It was made from an old cedar tree that was split down the middle, sanded and built into the wall.

Below: The weathered cabinets in the kitchen were designed by Liz Firedaugh of Signature Kitchens in Petoskey. Black cherry flooring complements the Northern white cedar logs overhead.

Opposite: The dining area in the kitchen is perfect for intimate family meals. The island in the background seats five. The owners love the open design of the floor plan on the first floor.





cottage so much that they considered incorporating it into their new home. "It was so cute and very quaint," they say. "We tried to move it, to pick it up, but we couldn't do it. We made sure that everything in the place went someplace, however. For example, the cabinets were donated to a nearby shelter."

After demolition of the original cottage was complete, work on the new home began. Pre-cut logs arrived at the site, and Tim's crew assembled them with precision. The owners were very involved with the project; though they lived a few hours away, they were at the building site

almost every other day. "We build homes *with* people instead of *for* people," says Tim. "That's the posture we like to take."

The owners were so excited about their new home that they spent a week living in the house months before it was complete. "We slept in the bunk house on plywood on sleeping bags," they recall, laughing.

The result of all the hard work is a home that is truly a work of art. Boasting around 10,000 square feet, the house can accommodate many family members and friends at once. "We love the fact that we can all be together but still



get away and have solitude,” say the owners. “The house has many cozy areas where people can enjoy privacy. We can be so close and yet so far away.”

Northern white cedar logs were used both inside and outside the home, providing a sense of warmth and solidity. The logs vary in size; some of the truss logs measure 18 to 20 inches in width. The frame of the home contains mixed species of wood, including fir, oak and balsam. White pine was used for the tongue-and-groove paneling.

The floor plan offers three levels of living space. The

lower level contains a recreation TV area, hot tub-sauna area, bath with shower, two bedrooms and the main entrance area to the lakeside docks. The first floor has the public living space—the kitchen, great room, master suite and a sun porch. The great room boasts an open floor plan that makes the home feel bright and airy. The upstairs level has a balcony sitting area, two bedrooms (each with a mini-loft) and a fun “bunk house” room that offers extra space for guests. Garages and exterior decks provide additional square footage.



Above: An upstairs bedroom offers breathtaking views of the lake. A log bunk bed makes it a fun place for the children.

Top Right: The master bedroom features a circular sitting area that offers spectacular views of the lake. The warm red tones found in the fabric and bedding provide a nice splash of color against the cedar logs.

Right: A Jacuzzi tub in the master bathroom is the perfect spot for a luxurious soak. The tile surround is a nice contrast in texture. Fresh flowers brighten up the room.

The decorating complements the scale of the home. The owners describe the theme as an "up-north" feeling. The rooms are filled with comfortable furnishings made of hickory and other woods that promote a relaxed, livable ambiance. They credit Nonie Pace-Morgridge of Quiet Moose-Compass Interiors in Michigan with the interior design. Several handcrafted pieces, including a carved totem pole and door, by Glen McCune of Petoskey lend a note of distinction.

Today, although the owners sometimes miss the small cottage that once stood where their new great room stands, they couldn't be happier with their log home. Whether they are gazing out at the lake and enjoying the tranquility of it all, or spending a festive holiday dinner with 20 family members, they are very content in knowing that they have built a place where the traditions of tomorrow will be born. **LHI**

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