

*A  
Classic  
Cedar  
Creation*

BY CAROL SORGEN

PHOTOS © BRAD SIMMONS

STYLING BY SUZANNE

KASLER INTERIORS



A 50-year-old, 800 square foot house once stood in this five-acre clearing. The new log home was carefully designed to meet the needs of an energetic, outdoors-loving family.





Large expanses of windows throughout the home afford the family an up close and personal look at the wildlife that makes the property its home.

A double-sided stone fireplace opens onto the screened porch on one side and the great room on the other.

When this Indiana family decided to build a weekend home on their thousand-acre site, they sat down together — mom, dad and the two boys — and thought about how they actually live in a house, and about all the features that could make their life more enjoyable and convenient. Two years later, with the help of Town & Country Cedar Homes of Petoskey, Michigan, they had a plan that made them all happy.

Today, a year after the family moved into their 5,000 square foot home, they know the time spent on design and construction was worth the wait.

"We personalized it so much," the mom says. "It's really working for us just the way we had planned."

The family loves hunting and fishing and just being outdoors. They had been spending weekends on the property in a 50-year-old, 800 square foot

house that, while charming, provided few, if any, amenities.

"We really loved that little house," says the homeowner, a successful businesswoman in Indiana. "But every time we came in from the woods, all muddy and cold, we'd think how nice it would be to have certain things in the house."

Certain things like a mudroom (complete with a bath so everyone can

clean up before moving into the rest of the house), a dog shower in the laundry room, a covered porch that wraps around much of the house, and even a fireplace on the screened porch for chilly days and evenings.

The couple had decided early on that the property "just called out for a log cabin." With a five-acre clearing surrounded by woods, one of the most beautiful natural streams in Indiana and abundant wildlife at every turn, it's easy to see why.

Several friends of the family's friends

had already built log homes with the help of Town & Country, so the family turned to design director Arden Schlueter when it was time to start designing their own log home.

The family worked within the basic design of Town & Country's Colonial Lodge floor plan but customized it to suit their particular needs. The first floor now features a kitchen, dining room, great room, study/bedroom, laundry, mudroom and two baths. Two covered porches and a deck grace three sides of the house, while a screened

porch (with removable screens) and a double-sided fireplace that warms both the porch and the great room adorns the fourth side.

The second floor includes a master suite, two additional bedrooms, two baths, a loft and a bonus room over the garage. A full basement provides all the extra space the family needs.

"It's not unusual that all the beds in the house are full and that kids are in sleeping bags," the homeowner says. "This is a great gathering place." For now, the family uses the home on

An open kitchen/dining room makes mealtimes for both family and friends practical and convenient.





Natural light is abundant in the dining room as in most of the house. Windows encircle the first floor's common areas — the kitchen, dining area, great room and screened porch — to take advantage of the home's beautiful setting.

weekends, but the couple plans to live there full-time once their children are grown.

The home is constructed of 10- to 14-inch diameter white cedar logs, the largest profile Town & Country offers. The crew constructed the shell and performed the scribe work on-site. They created fully-scribed cross corners and a structural log rafter roof system as well. (Scribing is the technique

builders use to tightly fit irregular wood surfaces together.)

Schlueter says the homeowners had a very clear vision of what they wanted — a home that was open, relaxed and inviting — which made them a pleasure to work with.

When it came to the home's interior design, the wife had a clear idea of what she wanted there, too: a sense of "rustic elegance," as she puts it. "I

wanted the feel of walking into an old lodge that had been there for 75 years," she says.

Starting virtually from scratch, the homeowner worked closely with Suzanne Kasler Interiors of Atlanta. "Suzanne went out of her way to make us happy," says her satisfied client. "She really got into the psychology of both my husband and myself."

Though "rustic elegance" was the



vision, neither Kasler nor the homeowners forgot that this is an active family with two growing children. Practicality and ease of maintenance were paramount.

Kasler spent time with the family, determining just "how the house is really going to live," as she puts it. "This is a house they plan on using a lot. We wanted a quality interior, furnishings and objects that would wear well — indeed, get better looking over time."

The home, which Kasler describes as classic, not trendy, features a mix of antique and new furnishings. Hickory chairs and an antique trestle dining table, for example, blend well with a new leather sofa from Ralph Lauren's home collection.

Beautifully worn kilim rugs in


warm, rich colors provide a casual but interesting effect. And the homeowner's photography gives the home just the right personal touch.

Kasler says the traditional decorating approach log home owners often take is a "theme look" that makes use of such features as heavy, rough textures and wildlife art and accessories. This couple's white china with animal drawings, arrowhead collection and animal antler mountings leave no doubt this is an outdoorsy family. But they — and Kasler — wanted a look that combined the rustic with the elegant, so they incorporated such untraditional log home colors as teal and red.

"People like log homes because it's a fantasy way to live," Kasler says. "I

wanted to fulfill that fantasy, but also create a unique tone for the house."

Working together, the homeowners, Town & Country and Kasler created a home that gives the family what they envisioned from the beginning — a retreat that reflects everything they love and all the ways in which they live as a family.

"I don't think there's anything we'd do any differently," says the satisfied homeowner. "We accomplished our goals." 

*See pages 124-125 for resources and floor plan.*

*Carol Sargen is a frequent contributor to Log Home Design Ideas. Her last article, "Home Away from Home," appeared in the November issue of LHDI.*







#### RESOURCES:

Town & Country Cedar Homes  
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Atlanta, GA 30309  
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The home, which sits on a five-acre clearing in rural Indiana, features the largest white cedar logs offered by Town & Country Cedar Homes. Fully-scribed cross corners were created on-site as the logs were set.

The teal wall and red lampshades in the entryway (opposite) subtly pick up colors in the floor rug. The muted tones of aged kilim rugs complement distressed flooring reclaimed from New England warehouses.

## Floor Plan

Courtesy Town & Country Cedar Homes

