A large, rustic living room with a high wooden ceiling, a stone fireplace, and large windows overlooking a forest. The room is filled with warm, natural light from the windows. A wooden ceiling fan is mounted on the ceiling. The fireplace is made of stacked stones and has a fire burning in it. A wooden mantel is above the fireplace. The room is furnished with a large wooden coffee table, a sofa, and several chairs. A large window on the left side of the room provides a view of a forest. The overall atmosphere is cozy and inviting.

Filling the Empty Nest

A first-rate second home



Town & Country Cedar Homes photos

*Story by Cathy Nelson Price
Photography by Brad Simmons*

**Left: Windows soar to the peak of the living room's ceiling.
Above: The back of the home faces Bay Harbor's golf course.**

On the shores of Lake Michigan, a log home waits for some lucky buyers to unlock the door and put on the coffeepot. The Glenwood model by Town & Country Cedar Homes is part of Bay Harbor, a 1,200-acre resort in Petoskey, Michigan, that includes a golf club, yacht club, equestrian club, lake, marina, inn and village.

Bay Harbor has received a great deal of national attention over the past three years. Taking over a reclaimed cement factory, developers actually blew up the old quarries to construct the 27-hole, Arthur Hills-designed championship golf course that's been likened to Pebble Beach. Town & Country sited the Glenwood to overlook one of the fairways.





Opposite: Wood accents the kitchen, from the tongue-and-groove ceiling to the cabinetry. Left: An antler chandelier in the dining room is reminiscent of a Western hunting lodge. Below: The floorplan is open, allowing the living room, dining area and kitchen to flow together.



In many cases, homes like the Glenwood are designed or customized according to the buyer's tastes and lifestyle needs. But Steve Biggs, president of Town & Country Cedar Homes, based this home on the kind of family he thought might fall in love with it. The finished Glenwood is the result of both research and imagination.

Built with Town & Country's signature white cedar logs native to the upper Michigan peninsula, the home also features post-and-sill preassembled walls. The walls are made up of layers of wood, insulation and half-log cedar siding. "We cultivate our own trees," Steve says. "We use white cedar because of its durability and resistance to rot."

"We designed the Glenwood as a kind of family center," Steve explains. "Today's families are so far-flung that we have to redefine the permanent family home. Once the youngest child is off at college or takes that first job, Mom and Dad may opt for a smaller house that better suits an empty nest."

"But they still want a place to gather during vacations, holidays or important family events," he adds. "That's where a second home actually



Opposite: In the master bedroom, window doors capture a view of the woods and golf course. Above: Log railings and roof beams accent the loft.

becomes the important home; the emotional center where the family is together. And when they are together, what do they need space to do? Cook, eat, entertain and sleep."

With that in mind, Town & Country designers Stephanie Baldwin and Steve Werner created the Glenwood to accommodate the needs of a multi-generational family that needs sizable communal areas as well as privacy. The Glenwood is 2,600 square feet, with a large great room at its center. One first-floor wing houses the kitchen, dining and mudroom areas, leading to the garage with its bonus room above. Off the other side of the great room sits the master suite, where Mom and Dad (or Grandma and Grandpa) can retire after a day of family togetherness. A second-floor balcony, with full bath, overlooks the great room. Two bedrooms flank the balcony. "Whoever buys this house will probably be a golfer," Steve says. "As you walk through the entrance, you look out the cathedral-ceilinged great room onto the golf course."

Town & Country serves as its own general contractor for its homes in upper Michigan, milling its own doors, cabinetry and molding. The custom flooring is slate and carpet over slate.

Another kind of challenge fell to decorator Beverly Hill, of the interior design studio Quiet Moose, also in Petoskey. Beverly has outfitted other model homes for Town & Country, learning







The home was designed as a vacation retreat with the needs of today's extended families in mind.

along the way that a model house may not look the same from week to week. "As potential buyers go through, they see something they like, and ask, 'Can I buy that sofa?' Of course, we say, 'Sure!' so we keep replacing items," Beverly laughs.

But she always has a plan. "I start with fabrics," Beverly says. "For the Glenwood, it's built of logs and it sits on a golf course. We went with a north-country feel; burgundy, green, camel." Town & Country artisans built several pieces, including the great room log chairs and two of the dining room chairs, which Beverly covered in a Ralph Lauren fabric, and the pine log bed in the master bedroom.


The antique snowshoes on the front porch came from Quiet Moose, as did the Mackenzie-Childs checked mugs on the kitchen tray. Hearthwoods, based in nearby New Buffalo, Michigan, made the cabinet behind the great room fireplace.

In addition to the furnishings she found locally, Beverly went searching in the West. Antler Art in Grand Junction, Colorado, supplied the chandelier in the dining room, as well as the great room's moose lamp, floor lamp and chest (all are

real antlers). On the front porch, the light fixture and chair back came from Wish Craft in Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Reflecting the heritage of early area settlers, the master bedroom dressers are reproductions of Russian and Latvian old country pieces, from Banburi, a California firm. The log settee in the great room is made of bristlecone pine, and comes from High Country in Silverton, Colorado. In the loft, the wall sconces are the work of Steel Partners in Chehalis, Washington.

Considering their common heritage of hunting and trapping, "I've always been amazed that we don't use more Western influence in our northern Michigan homes," Beverly remarks. Another favorite supplier is Old Hickory in North Carolina, where Beverly obtained the dining room chairs and kitchen barstools.

"Some families want a cocoon, some want to be a part of the outdoors and at one with their environment," Steve observes. "Bay Harbor, for instance, draws people from Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit and St. Louis, and all of them have different needs and lifestyles. The times are redefining what's meant by a second home." 

NOTEBOOK

Material package price: \$160,000 for a full package
Square footage: 2,600 square feet, plus 400 square feet of bonus room above the garage

Log home producer: Town & Country Cedar Homes

Interior decorator: Beverly Hill, The Quiet Moose

Antler light fixtures and chest: Antler Art Cabinetry: Wood-Mode

Desk: Design Connection

Dining room chairs and barstools: Old Hickory Furniture Co.

Front porch light: Taos Drum

Great room cabinet: Hearthwoods

Loft wall sconces: Steel Partners

Roofing: Certainteed Corp.

Snowshoes: The Quiet Moose

Stain and sealant: Sashco Sealants

Windows: Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Co.

For contact information, see Resources.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

“Today’s families are so far flung ... a second home actually becomes the important home: the emotional center.”

— Stephen Biggs, Town & Country Cedar Homes



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



Half-log siding on the home's exterior is completed with full-log corners.

◆ Town & Country uses a post-and-sill system to construct its homes' walls. This system, using half-log construction, adds extra insulation and structural stability to the walls.

