





BY PHYLLIS MONG

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STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL

LEFT: A deck crosses the entire lake side of the Ondricks' white cedar log home built on glacial drift at the tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

# white cedar & glacial rock



LEFT: A loft overlooks the conversation area before the great room's massive fieldstone fireplace.

BELOW: Ice fishing prints line the open stairwell to the loft and second story bedrooms.

RIGHT: The tall cabinet between the fireplace and arched windows overlooking Lake Charlevoix was custom-built to house a television and audio-visual equipment.

Millions of years ago, a great tongue of ice flowed south across North America, scooping out the great Lake Michigan and depositing masses of rock, sand and gravel on the tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Charles and Margaret Ondrick spent five years looking for a piece of that ice age land on which to build a log home that would dovetail perfectly with its surroundings. They found their five acres along the shore of Lake Charlevoix on the state's western edge.

"We wanted a secluded, natural setting," Margaret says. That explains why she and Charles appreciate the nature preserve which flanks their property. "We have watched as many as six deer on their path to the lake."

For 50 years, the Ondricks' land had been a family campsite. The property was classified as wetlands, which placed some restrictions on their build-





ing plans. Still, the Ondricks felt fortunate that they were able to purchase the site, successfully ending their search for a place to build the log home of their dreams.

When they first considered building a log home, Charles recalled his fascination with a log cabin with a stone fireplace that his family occupied while on fishing trips to Gracefield, Ontario.

Margaret recalled similar happy experiences of visits to an aunt's log home in Grayling, Michigan. Their long-held wishes to have their own log home would soon come true.

The Ondricks live in Centerville, Ohio, but will make the Michigan retreat their retirement home. For now it is being well-used as a center for vacation and holiday gatherings.

Margaret and Charles have two daughters, a son and two grandsons, all of whom enjoy getting together at the lakefront home.

"This is the first house we have built and we had accumulated many ideas for it. We studied hundreds of designs, but we had to customize our plans to get the open space concept we wanted," Margaret says. "We chose Town &

BELOW: A custom-built bar and lighted china cabinet separate the open kitchen from the dining bay, which has access to the deck outside. The radial bays incorporated into the home's design are reminiscent of the sea captain's ship watch in the Ondrick family home in New York.





ABOVE: Granite countertops provide the working space atop custom cabinetry in the open kitchen. The stove and refrigerator, as well as spaces for small appliances, are built-in.

Country Cedar Homes of Petoskey because they offered the white cedar log siding we wanted, and because they gave us total input in the customization. Their designer, Tim O'Brien, was very patient."

The Ondricks chose half-round log construction without chinking because it provides more interior space than full-round logs. Walls and ceilings throughout the home are tongue and

groove pine. Floors are hickory, which blends well with the cedar and pine. Some plasterboard was used in the bedrooms and bathrooms, and all of the bedrooms are carpeted or bear area rugs.

The interior is finished with a natural seal, while the transparent exterior finish "makes the logs come alive," according to Margaret.

A dirt road leads from the highway to

the block-paved driveway that runs across the front of the house. A small stream from an artesian well trickles over a rock bed, finding its way across the lawn to the lake. Only the shrubbery along the deck is cultivated; all else was left in a natural state. A recessed entrance is flanked by wood pillars set in a fieldstone base. The heavy, arch-topped mahogany door is Town & Country's signature anniversary door.

The foyer is tiled in a slate lookalike. An open staircase angles up to a loft which overlooks the stunning great room, where a massive fieldstone fireplace and arch-top windows overlooking the lake rise to a beamed cathedral ceiling. Between the fireplace and the windows, a nine-foot cabinet houses a television. Margaret says the beamed ceilings were designed at nine feet on

the first floor and eight feet on the second floor — except where the ceilings flare to cathedral heights — to avoid claustrophobia.

Charles is a geologist, rockhound, fisherman and outdoorsman. His collection of fish carvings and bird decoys grace the half-canoe alongside the fireplace, while collected prints of ice fishing hang on the walls.

BELOW: Natural light from an arched window bathes the double whirlpool tub and colorful landscape painting in the master bath.



A handsome Oriental rug, brought from Charles' family home in New York, centers the floor in the living area. A leather sectional sofa encircles the rug, creating a conversation area in front of the fireplace.

Charles fondly remembers that home along the Narrows of New York's Hudson River, with its sea captain's ship watch, a feature he incorporated into his Michigan log home with the inclusion of several radial bays. He found soulmates in local stonemason Gino Longo and landscaper Bob Drost, who made the re-creation possible.

Longo used a cache of Michigan glacial stone to build a fireplace of masterpiece proportions. It requires no screen because a set of locally-designed and patented steel doors inside the firebox can be closed, effectively damping the fire. Drost, who is also interested in rocks, arranged more of the glacial stones along the deck that runs across the entire lake side of the home.

In the kitchen, the dishwasher runs silently so as not to be heard in the adjoining great room. Custom-made cabinets designed by Kitchen and Co. of Petoskey are topped off with granite countertops. The Jenn-Aire cooktop, a refrigerator and assorted small appliances are all built-in.

Margaret enjoys cooking but says she wants to do so in the companionship of her guests. The openness of the kitchen/dining bay makes that possible. Another of Charles' collectibles, a spiny black fossil, is poised on top of a bar on one end of the room while a lighted china cabinet displays some of



ABOVE: The radial bay was a must for the master bedroom — the perfect place for lake gazing from a wicker chair and ottoman. The Ondricks purchased the handmade dahlia quilt in China several years ago.

the Oriental pieces the Ondricks have collected.

A Tiffany-style glass chandelier in a leaf and flower motif hangs over the dining table. Placesettings in jewel-tone reds, blues, greens and yellows enhance the modern Scandinavian table and chairs. The dining bay has an opening to the deck.

On the other side of the great room is the master suite. The custom-made white cedar bed, with its six-foot latticework headboard, is supported by legs that resemble a root structure, cre-

ating the illusion of the bed growing out of the floor. The table in the radial bay bears a similar "root" base; along with the wicker chair and ottoman, this little seating area is designed for lake watching.

Although Margaret is a watercolorist herself, she decided to hang an old watercolor done by one of her father's employees in the bedroom. "She wanted it back, but I wouldn't give it up," Margaret says with a laugh. She also likes to sew; her handiwork can be seen in the valances over the windows in the

bay and over the access door to the deck.

An arch-top window over the double whirlpool tub imparts an airy light across the master bath. Margaret is not sure how much use she and Charles will make of the whirlpool, but was amenable to its addition to the bathroom. "Maybe someday we will want a whirlpool outdoors," she ponders.

A two-sink vanity with a granite top, tiled corner shower and toilet enclosed in its own water closet complete the room's appointments. Margaret thinks





RIGHT: At dusk, house lights reflect on the artesian spring water run-off that trickles down to the lake.

BELOW: A warm glow is cast over the entrance to the Ondricks' white cedar log home on Lake Charlevoix.



well enough of the master bath to have brought from their Ohio home a colorful landscape painting to hang over the bathtub.

"Whoever heard of a painting in the bathroom?" she asks. "But the decorator agreed that it was right to do."

An antler chandelier over the stairwell lights the way to the loft bedroom and bath, and to an apartment over the garage. Outfitted with a sleeper sofa and wet bar, the quarters also has its own bathroom. Skylights open the apartment to the outdoors, while a lakeside balcony is a bonus amenity. Also on the second floor, over the dining bay, is the den where Margaret paints and sews.

Including the garage apartment, the home encompasses 4,300 square feet. Construction of the home began in October, 1998, and was completed in September, 1999. Charles, a businessman who travels the world, had to leave supervision of the construction to his wife.

"I got phone calls from all over — Charles checking to make sure everything was going according to plan," Margaret remembers fondly.

Between the couple and their contractors, the stunning log home on the shore of Lake Charlevoix was built to last, perhaps until the next ice age. ■

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