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Country's Best

Log Homes

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worth
the wait

Exposed trusses and a big wraparound deck add to a cozy hybrid log home

By Ronda Mollica > Photos by James Ray Spahn > Styling by Colleen Macomber

OPPOSITE: Selecting the appropriate lighting fixture can be critical to providing enough light and staying within the proper scale. The rustic five-foot wide wrought iron chandelier works well in this open space and is visible from the outside. The raised hearth stone fireplace is one of four in the home and creates a solid focal point in the room.

RIGHT: The front entry features beveled glass doors, side lites, transom and arched window. The Heckers chose a glass door to provide one more view of the lake located at the front of the home.

BELOW: The front porch swing is one of Ken Hecker's favorite sitting spots where he can spot wildlife that come to drink at the nearby lake.



The Hecker family's dream of a log home was 30 years in the making. Ever since Ellen Hecker visited her aunt's log cabin in Ohio, Ellen has wanted to recapture the relaxed country feel that she experienced.

When Ken and Ellen married in 1976, Ellen expressed her desire for a log home and the thought was filed in the "someday" mental folder. They bought a starter home instead and eventually moved up to an older farmhouse as the family grew. The farmhouse featured smaller single-purpose rooms, which gave Ellen inspiration to begin drawing out her dream-home floor plan with an open concept as a priority — a multi-functional space that would allow the family to interact before, during, and after dinner.

"Our farm house served its purpose," Ellen explains, "but the rooms were so small that when Ken would recline in his Laz-e-boy chair, he would be halfway into the kitchen."

Other items on her list for the dream home were a wrap-around porch, a first floor master suite, a home office, and several fireplaces. This was to be built on a large country lot, made of sturdy logs, just like her aunt's home.

As commercial growth caught up to the area, the Heckers found the time right to leave the farmhouse. Ken was a little reluctant, but knew that Ellen had done her homework. They met with a log home company and put money down to begin the process.

As it turned out, the land they purchased would not support

"I had the idea to connect the master suite with the laundry room to make life a little easier. This arrangement — along with the walk-in closet, spacious bathroom, gas fireplace and access to the deck — makes this space feel like we're on vacation." — Homeowner Ellen Hecker



a septic tank for the size home they wanted. This put a hold on things until they could find another piece of property.

In the meantime, the Heckers had visited a nearby log home show and met Leon and Lisa York of Landmark Log Homes. In a short time, the Heckers knew that Landmark's log home system struck a cord that Ken could go along with. "Their wall system blends half logs with standard stick framing and dovetail corner notching for an authentic look," says Ken. "They then took us on a tour of their own home, which

sold us on the hybrid home idea. Soon after, we reversed our plans and put a deposit down with Landmark."

Everything Ellen had dreamed about took shape: the pine logs, the wraparound porch and open central room. "Leon offered a few suggestions that I was very happy with," says Ellen, "including removing a useless hallway and opening up the kitchen even more. We can all be together after a long day and re-connect, even if we are sitting in the home office."

One area of the home that turned out even better than



LEFT: One corner of the great room is designated as the dining area that can expand when large groups gather for the holidays. A wrought iron chandelier is highly visible against the lighter pine plank walls.
OPPOSITE: Decorating a kitchen in an open space can be a challenge. Here the darker hickory cabinets stand out against the lighter pine walls. The owners chose to vary the heights of the upper cabinets to add interest and topped them with decorative crown molding. Black appliances, chairs, lighting, and granite counters also add to the drama.

The hybrid touch

At first glance, the Hecker home may look like a traditional log home, but Ellen Hecker knew that a home with a 58-foot front porch would need a little beefing up to keep it from looking empty.

"Looking at magazine photos of log homes, I knew I wanted the exposed king trusses in the dormers and at the front door, which is not a traditional log-home element," says Ellen. "I also added a bit more stone around the doorways and the pillars to break up the all-wood look. I would recommend owners of any home consider a variety of materials to add to the exterior."





RIGHT: The hand-made open stairway is made from squared off light-colored timbers to blend with the rest of the home.
 BELOW: A large home office was important to the Heckers, who own their own business. The office has an open-beamed ceiling to allow light from the dormer window and allow the dramatic cathedral ceiling to be seen.



FAR LEFT: The spacious main floor master bedroom with 20-foot ceilings required dark, large-scale furniture and rich Australian cypress wood floors to create a sense of color balance. Access to the wrap-around porch proves to be a great source of light and fresh air in the morning and evening.
 LEFT: The tile, granite, and wood elements in the master bath work in harmony in this smaller space. Another highlight is the easy entry to the laundry room accessed through the walk-in closet.

expected is the master suite. "I had the idea to connect the master suite with the laundry room to make life a little easier," says Ellen. "This arrangement — along with the walk-in closet, spacious bathroom, gas fireplace and access to the deck — makes this space feel like we're on vacation."

"There are so many places in the house to just sit and watch the wildlife outdoors," says Ken. "From our porch swing, we can watch deer, turkey and even coyote move across our property."

"I'm glad Ellen did her homework and that we took our time in creating this home," he adds. "From the beautiful wood, to the efficient layout to the selection of the furnishings, our log home was well worth the wait."

Square footage: 2,800

bedrooms: 2

bathrooms: 3

Producer: Landmark Log Homes, Vevay, IN. Circle 136 on the Reader Service Card for free information on this company.

Dealer: Ken & Ellen Hecker, Henryville, IN

Roofing: Corning Architectural

Windows: Weathershield

Wood flooring: Australian cypress

Masonry: Coronado Stone

Lighting: Keller Lighting

Appliances: Whirlpool, Jenn-Air

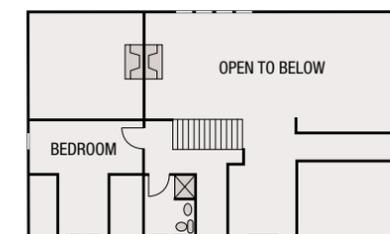
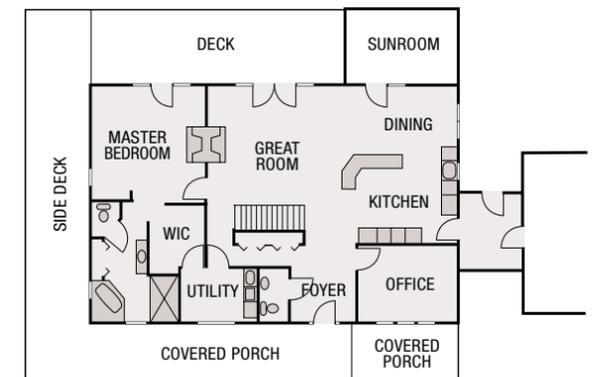
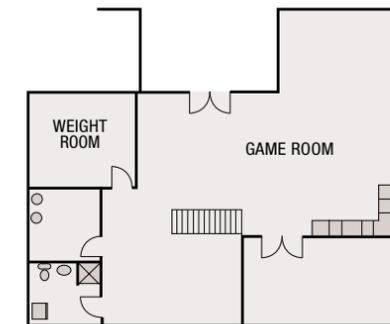
Faucets: Kohler

Ceramic flooring: Skip Mumaw

Cabinetry: Haas Cabinets

Landscaping: Flanagan Landscaping

Pool: In-ground by A & B Pool



Find more photos of this home online at www.loghomesnetwork.com/hecker