



The Teton Mountains near Jackson, Wyoming, form the backdrop for this handcrafted log home, which features lodgepole-pine log stack for the first level and cedar board-and-batten siding for the second story. Custom windows in various shapes, styles and sizes add architectural interest. The southeast-facing, bumped-out gable provides a sunny breakfast nook.





# FULL-TIME GETAWAY

A WYOMING HOME BRIGHTENS THE  
SCENERY IN JACKSON HOLE

MARCOLOTTI & COMPANY INCORPORATED 47









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After spending years raising a family and helping to grow a successful business, a Colorado couple decided to retire and buy a vacation home. As their permanent residence was in Fort Collins, they were familiar with most of the Colorado Rockies. But when they failed to find an existing home they liked, they decided to look farther away.

On a scouting trip to Wyoming, they fell in love with Jackson Hole. After only a week of looking at homes for sale, they found one they liked: a log spec home, designed by Jackson architect Eliot Goss and built by Teton Heritage Builders. The location was wrong for them, however, so they kept looking. "We decided to try to find property where we might build and were able to locate a 35-acre parcel for sale in a quiet development on the

**ABOVE:** Each step in the main staircase had to be individually coped, creating a dramatic set of stairs. Eliminating the risers allows natural light to flow. Quality Woodworking in St. Anthony, Idaho, made the distressed elder front door. The entry floor is Kemmerer flagstone. **OPPOSITE:** Extending the Montana moss rock fireplace created niches where the owners could display their art collection. Teton Heritage Builders mirrored the log mantel so that it fully wraps around the fireplace. The curved steps in the foreground lead from the sunken great room to the adjoining dining room. John Mortensen used metal with bronze castings of trees and mountains for the sconces in the living room, as well as for the entry and dining chandelier.

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A custom chandelier by John B. Mortensen of Jackson Hole highlights the dining room. Greg Race of Guandary Design in Leadville, Colorado, made the table of a nine-foot solid piece of walnut with a juniper base.



**ABOVE:** Craftsman Cabiners topped with granite and finished with a brown glaze lend a crackle finish that harmonizes with the uneven surface of the pine logs. Two Hills Studio in Austin, Texas, crafted the copper exhaust hood with the punched Teton Mountain motif.





Snake River with a view of the Teton Mountain Range," the owner says. "Although the property alone was more than we had intended to spend on land and a house, we knew this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The couple had been planning on a conventional home, but after seeing the logs in the spec home and its traditional lodge look, they were enraptured. They asked Eliot to design them a similar home, only customized for their lot and lifestyle. Then they contracted with Teton Heritage Builders to complete it.

"Our first step was to set the main floor level at an elevation to take full advantage of this spectacular site with views across the Snake River to Grand Teton National Park," Eliot recalls. "By designing the home to

be no more than 24-feet tall, we were able to stay within the height limits imposed by the Teton County building codes and the subdivision's CC&Rs."

The resulting handcrafted-log home boasts 7,000 square feet on two levels, each with a central core and two wings. On the main floor, the entry flows into the great room. Two hallways either side of it lead, on the left, to the dining room, open family room and solarium, and, on the right, the master bedroom suite. The solarium has bifold doors that the owners keep open during the summer. The mudroom and laundry, located behind the family room, lead into the attached two-car garage. A powder room is beside the entry hall.

"Our family room is set up with four distinct areas,"





the husband points out. "The first is a library in front of the gas-burning fireplace, where we placed comfortable chairs for reading. Next is the bar area. The third is an entertainment area with a big-screen television. The open kitchen is separated from the dinette area by the center island."

Upstairs, to the left of the catwalk that overlooks the great room, are two guest bedrooms. Each has its own bath and small deck viewing the river and mountains. To the right are the home office, exercise room and bath. "Because the water table is so high this close to the Snake River, we were unable to install a traditional basement," the owner explains. "There is a small partial basement, made possible by raising the house six feet above grade, where we have a wine cellar and laundry."

Various woods and stone were incorporated to complement the home's lodgepole-pine logs. One distinctive element is the non-structural character, or feature, logs.

"Feature logs are the most prominent logs, those that you first see at eye level that you can touch and examine closely," project manager Matt Somers of Teton Heritage Builders says. "We handpicked those that have the most unique features—ones that might have been created by a lighting strike or an unusual branch formation."

The owners' goal was to create a décor that was comfortable but not over-the-top Western that they might soon tire of. They purchased all new furniture and added their eclectic collection of paintings and sculptures acquired over many years of traveling.

A favorite piece is their dining room table, built by Greg Race of Quandary Design in Leadville, Colorado. The top is fashioned from a large slab of walnut, and two crosscut pieces of juniper form the pedestal bases. The sandblasted pedestals were harvested as dead-standing specimens, more than a thousand years old, from the upper reaches of the Colorado River. The finished table





**ABOVE:** Because the owners have a jetted hot tub in their solarium, they saw no reason for a whirlpool in the master bath, opting instead for a non-jetted Swiftway by Davanti. Hand-troweled drywall adds another layer of texture to the log walls and tumbled Travertine tile. **LEFT:** A view of both Grand Teton Mountain and the Snake River from a private deck awails guests. The grained feature log in the truss adds a special touch. **BELOW:** In the master bedroom, contemporary furnishings blend with the chinked lodgepole pine walls, pine tongue-and-groove ceilings and painted, hand-troweled drywall. Leather chairs and an ottoman add to the comfort of their private Xrodhake gas-burning fireplace constructed of Montana moss rock. A dormer with triangular transoms enhances the view of the Tetons.











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**ABOVE:** Thanks to the home's southeastern exposure, the owners enjoy the morning sun in the bumped-out breakfast nook next to the entryway. **LEFT:** The family room includes a second Xirodinaire gas-burning fireplace and built-in bookcases. This distinctive bar features a copper face, a bar rail wrapped in red leather and a fossiliferous stone countertop from Ulrich Studio in Jackson. Pendant lights add a touch of whimsy.

weighs close to 1,200 pounds.

Although the couple likes to entertain, they prefer intimate dinner parties with two or three other couples. At least twice a year, typically during the Christmas holidays and in the summer, the owners' two children find their way to Jackson Hole. The area abounds with outdoor activities all seasons.

Because Eliot stretched the design lengthwise to parallel Grand Teton National Park, so every main space would have a view of the Tetons, the owners were able to create two distinct landscape styles. The front of the home gently slopes away from the graceful structure for a more naturalistic feel. The rear is dramatic with stone walls and patios. "Kemmerer flagstone was selected for the patios, and Verdone Landscape Architects utilized different techniques of laying the flag-

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Teton Heritage Builders drove piers and built timber retaining walls to create a level grassy area behind the home next to a man-made pond. Mulched patios along the rear were made possible using Montana moss rock retaining walls and installing Kemmerer flagstone in various patterns.

stone in their design, with the intent that it would transition smoothly from man-made to natural landscape," Matt explains. "We began with mortar sand-set stone that flows into fan-set stone and finally into stepping stones within the grass."

Working with VLA, the wife planned the exterior so that she could continually expand her gardens. In addition to pots on the patio, she has increased the flowerbeds around the home where she has a plethora of roses, daisies, lilies, lavender and Russian sage, to name but a few.

To augment space in the main house, the owners asked Eliot to design a detached guesthouse in keeping with the style of the main home, including an arched opening to overlook the river. The result was a two-bedroom-two bath, 1,000-square-foot space with its own living room and kitchen. A three-car workshop with cedar board-and-batten siding blends with the other structures on the property and provides room for the husband's vintage sports cars and the wife's gardening gear.

The owners' plans to use their new log home for vacations changed once they realized how happy they were living in it. They sold their Fort Collins home and moved to Jackson Hole full time. "We love our house," they say. "The design and architecture are perfect for our lifestyle." **LH**

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