

Rustic Elegance

A Wyoming spec home has the look of long ago



Story by Teresa L. Wolff • Photos by Roger Wade • Styling by Debra Grahl

The multiple rooflines give a rambling feel to this home, which is intended to convey the impression that it was originally a small cabin that had been added onto many times.





The deck off the dining room features an exposed rafter shed-type roof supported by buttressed piers. Extending the structural ridgepoles and purlins creates a typical mountain cabin porch. Alaskan yellow cedar was chosen for all of the decks due to its durability when exposed to high-altitude sunlight.

Wade Pannell's business is creating living spaces where people can do whatever they enjoy most. When the opportunity arose to build a ski-in, ski-out residence in the Granite Ridge subdivision near Jackson, Wyoming, for devotees of the downhill sport, Wade took on the challenge of coming up with a distinctive home that would appeal to the right buyer. Given its location, he says, logs were the natural choice for building material.

Wade was able to acquire a lot, nearly an acre, strategically situated in Granite Ridge, off the Teewinot run, in Teton Village. The densely wooded and sloping site offered an elevated bowl on the uphill side of the road and an excellent view of the Snake River valley floor. "Our goal was to create a rustic mountain dwelling that seemed to just grow out of the mountain," Wade explains. "We planned the location of the home to capitalize on the natural beauty and shelter offered by the

many native trees, and endeavored to protect as many of those trees as possible during site planning and construction."

Wade employed Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects to help design the home and Teton Heritage Builders to perform the actual construction. The home was planned to give the illusion that it had been on the mountain forever. Thus, the central area, or core, appears as if it originally was a small cabin with the outside rooms added on or growing over time

with the needs of the homeowners.

One of the ways that the team was able to achieve this feel was by using stone for some of the interior walls. It creates the impression that it had been an exterior wall at one point that had been knocked out to make the opening for another addition to the home.

Lost River Log Specialists of Rigby, Idaho, supplied the Douglas fir logs used in the construction of

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The front portico features Pozzi transom windows topped by the vertical half-log pole board-and-batten construction used in many of the home's gables and eaves. More than just architecturally interesting, many of the logs in the portico area provide structural support to other areas of the home.



Above: The see-through fireplace greets guests in the main entry. Knotty white oak flooring forms the base for the two hand-peeled, elephant-foot posts. Lightly peeling the logs allows the different textures of the wood to take the stain so as to give a variegated appearance.

Right: Teton Heritage Builders built the handcrafted log staircase as a focal point for the great room. It features overlapping half-log treads over log stringers and wrought-iron pickets accented by top and bottom log rail and newels. Leather and fabric couches invite relaxing in front of the stack-stone fireplace.



this handcrafted, chink-style home. Fourteen-inch diameter logs were used for the walls, while 18-inch diameter logs form the roof. “Even though the basic style includes chinking between the stacked logs, none of the column-to-beam work is chinked,” says Matt Lee, the owner of Teton Heritage Builders. “We crafted the log connections tightly so that fill was not necessary. This type of craftsmanship makes log-home construction an art form.”

In several places in the home, including outside the front entry and inside the great room, Teton Heritage Builders employed one of its trademark designs. “Where steel connectors are required between logs to meet current structural code, we like to chamfer the steel plate into the log about an inch to give it a more refined, elegant look and avoid the appearance of the plate simply being slapped on.” Matt explains.

Wade relates that the main floor of this 6,800-square-foot home was planned so that the owners could carry out all of their daily activities on this level. Thus, the entry, great room, kitchen, dining room, hearth room, master suite, mud room and garage are all on this first floor.

The core area of the lower level consists of the game room, a wet bar and a home theater. Three bedrooms, two with attached baths, and an additional three-fourths bath, wine cellar and mechanical room are nestled around this central recreational space.





The log walls in the great room have a stone extension to give the appearance that the exterior wall of an original small cabin was cut through to allow for an addition. Architect Ellis Nunn featured a hammer truss and oversized headers over the Pozzi windows. The custom wrought iron chandelier with aspen leaf detail is made of faux rawhide because real rawhide cracks when exposed to the heat from the lights.

Right: The kitchen combines different woods and finishes to create a sense of rustic elegance. Western Douglas fir purlins and beams nestle against knotty pine in the ceiling, while knotty alder was used for the door and window trim.

The knotty alder center island features turned corner posts and crown molding, and is finished in Antique Bisque. The knotty alder wood in the breakfast bar was distressed and stained English Brown. Absolute Black granite countertops and bar chairs featuring red leather seats with cowhide backs complete the showcase of textures.



True to the home's purpose as a skiing retreat, the upper level is finished with a study and apres-ski room. Currently, the latter is set up as an active living room, but it could be used as a fifth bedroom with attached bath. "Even though the square footage in the home is fairly substantial, we used high ceilings and lots of glass for natural lighting to create the illusion the home is even larger than it actually is," Ellis explains.

To complement the log structure, Wade selected knotty pine for those ceilings that are not finished in dry-wall. Circular-sawn knotty white oak flooring was installed in the

main floor living spaces, and all-wool carpeting was used in the bedrooms to provide cushiony warmth on winter mornings.

A distinctive feature in this home is that most of its living spaces contain doors that open directly to outdoor function spaces, either patios or decks. However, none of the decks or patios is directly connected to each other. "This provides a tremendous amount of privacy for the homeowners and their guests," Wade points out, "as the only way to get from one patio or deck is by walking on the grassy lawn areas."







Above: In the apres-ski room, massive logs are highlighted against the hunter green drywall ceiling. Slifer Designs incorporated a variety of fabrics and textures in the furnishings to add to the cozy feel.

Left: The lower-level recreation room boasts a lodgepole-pine billiard table set atop rustic log legs by Drawknife Billiards of Jackson, Wyoming. Blue, red and beige furnishings create the feeling that the room flows naturally from the adjacent media room, decorated in the same colors. The coffered ceiling was created by recessing the pine tongue-and-groove paneling beneath the log frame.

The home is equipped with six fireplaces, all built of Wyoming moss rock in the same dry-stack style as the exterior stone work. The wood-burning central fireplace between the entry and the great room is the see-through style. Open on both sides, it provides a connection between spaces and an inviting fire in the entry, while maintaining the privacy of the great room. The remaining fireplaces, all gas, can be found in the hearth room, the game room, both master bedrooms and the apres-ski room. "After a day on the slopes, the owners and guests would more

likely benefit from both the heat and ambience of the fireplaces if they were able just to flip a switch and enjoy the convenience of natural gas," Wade says.

Although the home probably could be heated almost exclusively with the many fireplaces, it is equipped with a central heating and cooling forced-air unit, powered by a hot-water boiler. This central unit includes a humidifier and an air-cleaning system to combat the low humidity and high summer pollen in the Jackson area. Hydronic in-floor heating is installed throughout the lower level



Above: The homeowners can enjoy a view of the Teton Mountains from their Kohler spa tub, framed by Douglas fir posts and beams. The tumbled travertine floor features hydronic heating. The custom chandelier is an amber glass bowl with wrought iron shaped like twigs.

Right: A half-log mantel with log corbels graces the natural gas fireplace in the master bedroom. This texture-rich room combines skip-peeled logs, drywall, knotty pine ceilings and a stone fireplace. Double-transom Pozzi windows allow for abundant natural light.



and under the tumbled travertine stone floor in the master bath.

Decorating the home to appeal to a wide range of potential buyers was the challenge for Slifer Designs of Edwards, Colorado. Project manager Donna Figg and senior project designer Sarah Schiltz worked with Wade to create a sense of Western elegance. “All of the pieces in the home are of different finishes and fabrics,” Donna says. “We wanted to give the feel that the furnishings had been collected over time, just as the home appears to have been a work in progress.”

In addition to being a developer, Wade also is a licensed landscape architect. He planned the plantings, then hired Teton

Heritage Landscaping to complete the work. After selecting Kentucky bluegrass to connect the outdoor spaces, he added dogwood, buffalo juniper, arctic blue willow, aspen and wildflowers to fill in and complement the native vegetation.

“We designed this home to feel like a cabin in the woods, not to be overly grand. The spaces are sized to be comfortable enough for a small party, yet have the capacity to handle a larger gathering,” Wade states. “The home came out better than I ever could have imagined. I am happy that I could have been a part of creating it.” **LHI**

For resources and contact information, see page 78.

