

SAVE TIME & MONEY 5 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BUILD

LOG HOME LIVING[®]

HOW TO CREATE
**Inviting
Guest
Rooms**

FLOOR PLANS
For Every Budget

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Chinking Made Easy

The home features massive western red cedar logs, which are stacked so that their tips and butts alternate. The flared ends are evident in ridge beams and purlins supporting the roof and the large overhangs that protect the protruding corner logs.



In Tune with Nature

*Building their home together inspires
a Massachusetts couple to tie the knot.*

STORY BY TERESA L. WOLFF | PHOTOS BY PAUL DEEGAN

Thomas Roberts wanted to live out west, but he and Mary Ann were reluctant to leave their family in Massachusetts. They also ran a 120-acre farm and a roofing business. As luck would have it, they were able to bring the West to them.

A 200-acre farm in nearby Belchertown came on the market that boasted a plateau ideal for positioning a home overlooking the open fields and woods. Because they are in tune with nature, the couple agreed that a log home would be their best option. They found exactly what they were looking for from Summit Log & Timber Homes in Boise, Idaho. “We fell in love with the naturalness of the handcrafted western red cedar logs,” Mary Ann notes.

The rugged-looking home is more characteristic of the Rocky Mountains than western Massachusetts. It features large-diameter logs, staggered corners, floor beams and roof members with flared ends, and posts with flared bottoms. To get an idea of what their home might look like, Mary Ann and Thomas flew to Arizona to see a model home. “The homeowner was a general contractor, so they had the opportunity to hear firsthand what it would like to be the contractor for their own home,” Summit owner Robert Lockerby says.

The couple worked with Gemma Courtenay, one of Summit’s designers, to create a floor plan to fit their lifestyle and be big enough for entertaining family and friends. “It is



RIGHT: Big logs form the walls, trusses and posts in the great room, where Thomas shows off his trophy mounts. An upholstered sofa and an heirloom drop-leaf table exemplify the old and new furnishings that fill the home. Goshen stone forms the fireplace.



very important to get a feel for what each room will be like and to know what you are going to put in the home. This allows you to create room dimensions where your furniture will fit and to have a flow that works for you," Mary Ann notes.

One of their must-haves was archways to soften the construction angles and convey a warm feeling. The most noticeable of the archways occurs between the foyer, which is conventionally framed and added to the log shell.

Having run a restaurant, Mary Ann placed a lot of emphasis on the kitchen. "I love to cook and preserve the bounties of our harvest," she says. "I was adamant the kitchen be designed so I would have views of the fields and be able to watch nature unfold outside the window over the sink."

She also wanted to be able to see from the kitchen into the great room and positioned the perimeter counters so that the gas cooktop is set at an angle in one

corner. Cabinets under the stove feature two slider shelves for easy access to pots and pans. The two levels of the center island were planned so the lower counter is at the same height as the oven, letting her easily place hot foods there after they are cooked, and the upper countertop is more convenient to the refrigerator for cold foods.

The couple's many years in the roofing business provided them with the knowledge to act as the general

contractors for their project. Since they were new to log construction, however, they relied heavily on Summit to guide them. They not only oversaw construction, but also were very hands-on. They cut the lumber on-site and milled their oak floors. Their grown children, Brian and Michelle, also pitched in.

After the couple completed construction, Mary Ann put her artistic talents to use decorating the home in a rustic motif, with every room having its own

identity. Because of their careful planning, they didn't have to cram in their heirloom furniture, and there is sufficient wall space to display her wildlife paintings and Thomas's hunting trophies.

Lighting the home proved challenging, but Mary Ann was able to overcome the obstacles by combining a variety of lighting types: hand-rubbed bronze chandeliers, wall sconces, antler chandeliers and spotlights with dimmers. The resulting artificial illumination allows sufficient

ABOVE: The conventionally built foyer adds hand-peeled logs to frame the alder doors and sidelights. Ceramic tile provides easy-care flooring.

OPPOSITE: Rustic cherry cabinets team up with granite countertops to highlight Mary Ann's dream kitchen. Carved oak leaves adorn the decorative corbels supporting the countertop on the antique center island.

home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 3,500

LOG PROVIDER: Summit Log & Timber Homes

The main level includes a large open great room with adjoining kitchen and dining area for entertaining on one side and the master bedroom and bath flanking the other side. Nooks within the open spaces contribute to an intimate feeling. The second story contains a bedroom for each of their children and a shared full bath. Additional storage space is found in the unfinished basement. A two-car garage with a powder room and an upper-level bonus room is connected via an enclosed breezeway.

BELOW: An arched opening leads to the log-filled master bedroom, which is decorated with family heirlooms. Elegant bed linens adorn the king-sized bed with rustic oil-rubbed headboard.

brightness or the ability to tone it down to soften the mood. Ample windows let in natural light.

Planning the exterior spaces was an integral part of the project. Mary Ann oversaw the landscaping and maintains a large vegetable garden and a greenhouse from which she is able to supply her family with fresh produce year-round. She also included raised gardens and flowerbeds for three seasons of color. A wraparound patio features a stonewall topped with blue stone for additional seating space. She also used stone for walkways between the patio and the fire pit, which she surrounded with large boulders. Rolling lawns flowing down to the fields blend the landscaped and the natural portions of the property.

Building the home turned out to be such a positive experience that Mary Ann and Thomas decided to become dealers for Summit Log & Timber Homes. But that wasn't the most notable outcome. Having been partners for more than 20 years, both in business and in raising Mary Ann's children, they had not found time to get married. "I had always heard that building a home together is one of the most stressful adventures any couple could experience," Mary Ann says. "Once we finished the construction and were still speaking to each other, we decided it was time to tie the knot. It was so special to us to be able to hold our wedding reception in our new log home, and though we have been together for a long time, this is truly a new beginning." 🏡



Sturdy alder double doors bolster the dramatic entry, which is flanked by field-stone walls. Wavy-board siding covers the dormers. The homeowner-supplied roof is slate.

