

# LOG HOME LIVING®

2012  
Special  
Edition

## BEST HOMES *of* THE YEAR



11 INSPIRATIONAL HOMES  
CELEBRATING LOGS' CHARM



The inviting entry to this cozy cabin uses western red cedar logs to form the king-post truss and large log posts with flared bases. Large boulders were positioned to add ruggedness to the setting that matches the surrounding mountains.

# Cozy but Grand

*Mighty logs add timeless drama to a retirement cabin in Washington's Cascade Mountains.*

PHOTOS BY HEIDI LONG



**L**og homes needn't be big to make a grand impression. This 2,400-square-foot cabin perched above Washington's Yakima River Valley is the perfect example. It combines tree-sized logs, cut as close to the ground as possible, and a bold design to create a home rich in character.

The irregularly shaped western red cedar logs feature a silken latewood finish, so-called because the trees were harvested after that year's growth cycle. Instead of peeling them with a drawknife, the logsmiths at Summit Handcrafted Log Homes modified a Japanese technique that removes the inner bark layer with

hot water. Summit's crew achieved similar results by using high-pressure water to obtain a smooth finish that preserves the logs' natural beauty. The close-cut logs also retain the natural shape of the trees' root bases, which punctuate the scribe-fit logwork throughout. Finally, the crew used branches and bent logs for staircase railings and strategic accents. The overall result is a rugged rustic look throughout.

The custom design provides plenty of living space for the homeowners and mixes impressive views of the surrounding Cascade Mountains with close-ups of the expressive logwork. The front exterior relies on huge logs for a king-post truss

**ABOVE:** Poured concrete countertops mimic costlier granite in the kitchen. Knotty alder cabinets are fitted with faux deer antler handles. The breakfast bar combines quartzite and cedar to create a profile of the nearby Cascade Mountains.

**OPPOSITE:** Leather and upholstered furniture highlight the fire-side grouping in the great room. The Rumford fireplace uses fossil-embedded shale from the Den Hoeds' property and features a decorative screen for a rustic touch.



**LEFT:** A satiny smooth log adds a meditative touch and a timeless look to a loft nook, which features large custom windows for abundant natural light and inspirational views.

**RIGHT:** The dramatic side prow provides panoramic views, while the extended eaves shade the patio in summer and protects from snow in winter.

and posts with flared bases to support the porch roof at the welcoming entry, which a distinctive carved custom door further emphasizes. A dramatic side prow provides panoramic views, while extended eaves protect the patio deck. Attention to detail creates a sense of timelessness that defines the interior. Among its highlights are a river-rock Rumford fireplace and a hand-fashioned spiral staircase leading to the loft.

The cabin makes the most of the roomy loft to accommodate the owners' six children and 23 grandchildren by extending it over the garage. The cabin gains abundant additional space outdoors, thanks to the spacious patio deck. Whether hosting family or spending time alone, the owners agree their retirement cabin is a heavenly place to relax. 🏡

