

**Affordable Floor Plans: All Sizes & Styles**

# LOG HOME LIVING<sup>®</sup>

Plan, Build  
& Live  
Your Dream

**Yes, You Can  
Still Build It!**

**5 Ways to Buy a  
Dream Home Right Now**

**25 Gorgeous Decor Ideas  
(lighting, furniture, rugs)**

**PLUS:**

**Design Basics for Kitchen Eating Nooks**

**Our Favorite Bathroom Sinks**

**Spring Landscaping 101**



# The Natural

**When it comes to craftsmanship and longevity, a Georgia home proves that building with logs is the only way to go.**

story by Kenya McCullum | photography by James Ray Spahn  
styling by Colleen Macomber



Warm colors, including crimson and mocca, invite guests into a classic home characterized by chinking between the logs and hand-hewn timbers in the ceiling beams.

**OPPOSITE:** The Mengs fell in love with the classic charm of log homes, despite Paul's background in stick-built construction. But his building know-how aided in a smoother construction process.



Large amounts of both natural and artificial light add warmth to the great room, which provides access to the home's wraparound porch.

**P**aul Meng builds conventional, stick-built houses for a living. So you might logically think that, when it came time to construct his dream home, he'd go with what he knew best. But this doesn't account for Paul's desire to build a classic—something he was sure that logs could deliver.

"We had our eyes on a log home for a few years, and when my wife and I actually visited one, we decided right then and there that's what we wanted to build," says Paul, who had toured a house built by Tennessee-based StoneMill Log Homes. "It was a lifestyle we knew was right for us."

Paul was particularly impressed with the style of log home that StoneMill specializes in—a dovetail corner rectangular log with a 4-inch chink joint—which the company has made its hallmark since 1974. Matthew Sterchi, StoneMill's vice president of sales, says this log home design is popular for both aesthetic and practical reasons—including the fact that his company's signature

dovetail log profile helps the home shed water away from the structure.

So over the next year, Paul worked with StoneMill to build his dream home, and as a builder himself, he knew exactly what he wanted and how to communicate with company representatives in a common builder's language. Paul made extensive modifications—such as adding a garage, dining room and an extra bedroom—to one of StoneMill's stock floor plans.

In order to cut costs, Paul decided to have his own company pick up the project where StoneMill left off at the shell. His crew took the lead on the construction of the home's interior, which allowed him to cut back on some expenses. Of course, not everyone has this luxury, but Paul notes that it's easy to keep a watchful eye on the bottom line if you do your homework and work closely with the builder on what's being spent—from labor to materials. It's all about planning out each room in the house from the beginning.

As Paul is quick to note, it's a labor of love that delivers comfort, warmth and the setting for unmatched memories. 🏡



A glass breezeway, added to the original floor plan, connects the main house to the garage—which houses a laundry area, mudroom and workout space.

The living room offers privacy behind closed doors, with the added ambience of candlelight from both the chandelier and candle sticks.







**OPPOSITE:**

**ABOVE:** Butcher-block sits atop an island in the kitchen, which sits alongside the great room to make family time and entertaining more convenient.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Tennessee stacked stone graces each bedroom fireplace.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** The master bath's iron detailing is outstanding, especially in the form of faucets, an old-fashioned tub and towel baskets.

**ABOVE:** The rich woodland tapestry dresses up an otherwise bare wall space while drawing attention to the masonry. The chandelier and lantern-style sconce add to the Old World feel.

**RIGHT:** The home's gorgeous exterior showcases StoneMill's signature dovetail log profile, as well as classic chinking—a favorite look among many log-home enthusiasts.





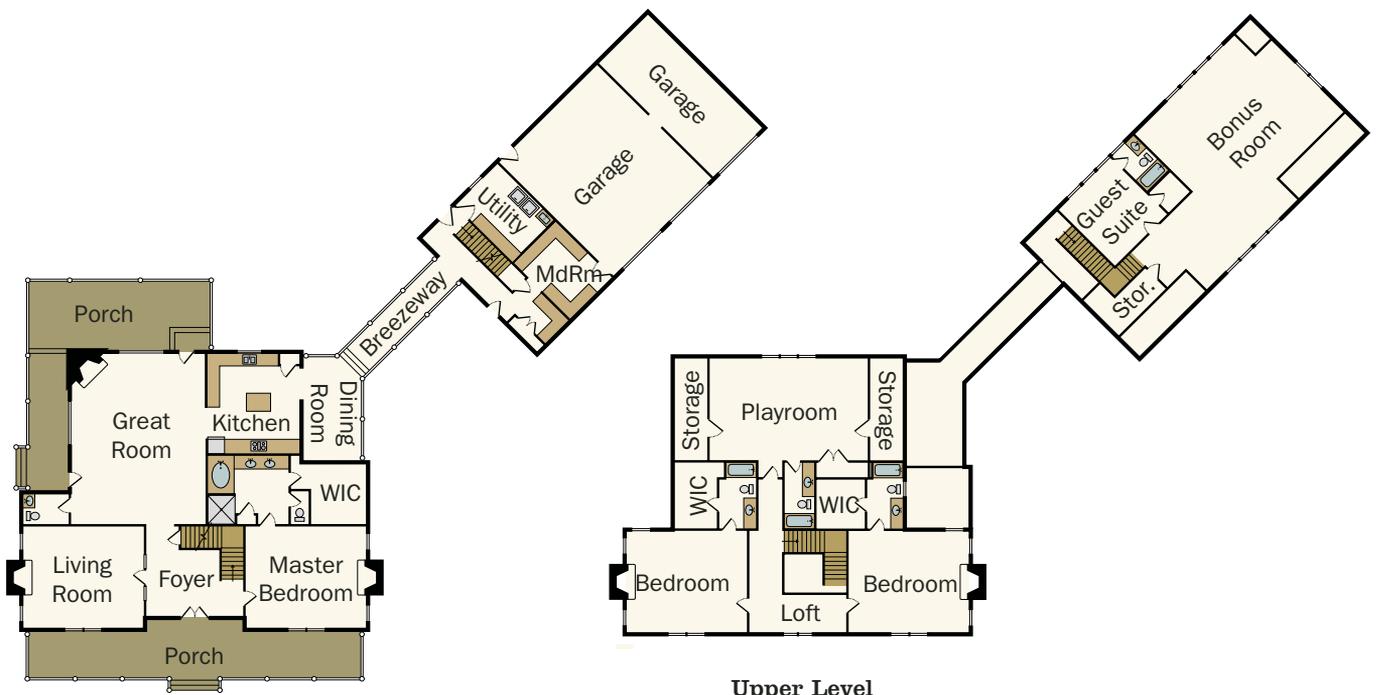
## home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 6,158

LOG COMPANY: STONEMILL  
LOG HOMES

**ABOVE:** Paul's cozy back porch overlooks a yard brimming with scores of mature trees. Low-maintenance landscaping plantings, including azaleas, ferns and hydrangeas, also grace the yard.

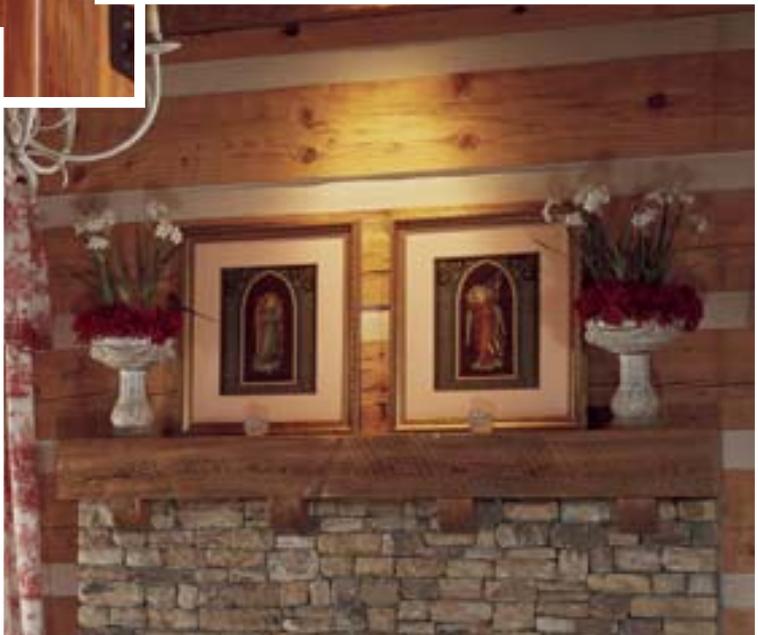
**ABOVE RIGHT:** Nothing says French Country like toile and an antiqued paint finish, while the large red plaid adds some rustic flavor.



Main Level

Upper Level

# design details



## CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

The home's classic French Country motif extends into the home's bathrooms; a glass breezeway connects the main house to the garage, which eases trips to the car during inclement weather; religious iconography above the fireplace and adorning a great-room wall carries an eclectic theme throughout a home brimming with meaningful curios and family keepsakes.

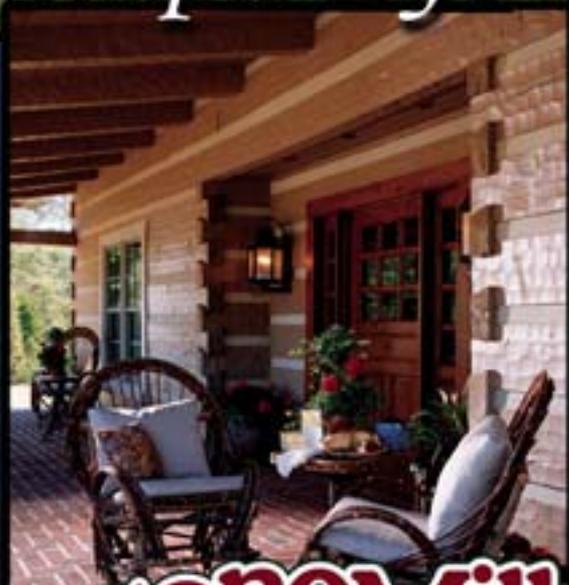
Reprinted with permission from *Log Home Living* March 2009. ©2009 Home Buyer Publications, Chantilly, Virginia, 800-826-3893.



*Welcome back to the Simple Life*

*We know what the simple life means to you. It's a rustic, peaceful place to enjoy your retirement. An efficient, cozy home for your growing family. And at Stonemill Log Homes, it's something more. Traditional handcrafted designs and trustworthy materials; from our patented dovetail and chinked construction to our 40' premium, Western Hemlock heartwood logs. But more importantly, it's our old-fashioned commitment to customer service; from our unrushed personal consultations to our specialized design department and experienced shell erection and dry-in services. Don't wait until your home is built to start enjoying the simple life. Begin today by calling us at*

*800-438-8274 or visiting*



**Stonemill**  
**Log Homes**

Dept. LHD1  
10024 Parkside Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37922  
(800) 438-8274

**[www.stonemill.com](http://www.stonemill.com)**