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2011
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BEST HOMES OF THE YEAR



West Meets East

*Appalachian-style logs feel right at home
in the southern Washington countryside.*

PHOTOS BY DARCI RADTKE

StoneMill
Log & Timber Homes



West Meets East

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Built of square-hewn western hemlock timbers on 40 acres of farmland, the home features a standing-seam metal roof that accentuates the intricate roofline. Huge boulders ground the home to its surroundings.



OPPOSITE: Oriental rugs soften the flagstone slate floor and hemlock logs in the great room. The cathedral ceiling provides overhead volume that adjoins a loft area containing two bedrooms, an office and a den. Transom windows in the upper walls add light.

ABOVE: The great room fireplace features two ebony side columns that the owner fashioned for a historic-renovation project 20 years ago but never used. The mantel is made of salvaged steel; the keystone, salvaged cast iron.

An appeal of log homes is the opportunity to design them to suit any taste. The owners of this home, built on 40 acres of farmland near the Washington-Oregon border, assured themselves a true one-of-a-kind look by choosing a log style that's common in the East but rare in the West: hewn flat with dovetail corners — true Appalachian-style logs from east Tennessee's StoneMill Log Homes. To enhance the look, a standing-seam metal roof tops off the western hemlock timbers.

The home does show some western sprawl, however, which the varied roofline emphasizes. But true to its heritage, it shuns the wall of windows with a view, relying instead on a full wrap-around porch for enjoying the outdoors. The great room is thoroughly up to date, having a tall ceiling and adding transoms to the upper walls to gain light. Flagstone floors throughout the main level create a sturdy complement to the 6-by-12-inch flat wall logs and overhead timbers.

The design for the home began with



a standard plan, which appealed to the owners because they've renovated so many houses during their lives that they knew exactly what they wanted. "We planned this home to last our lifetime and to be welcoming for our children and their friends," the homeowner says.

Because they intend growing old in the home, they planned their kitchen for when they might be using walkers or wheelchairs by leaving wide spaces

home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 5,300

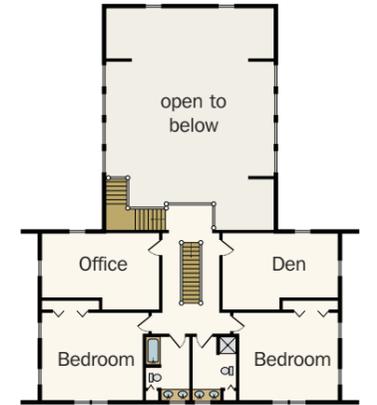
LOG PROVIDER: StoneMill Log Homes

BUILDER: Jeff Leuthold Inc.

between the island and perimeter cabinets. The extra space also allows family and friends to congregate in the kitchen. Since both husband and wife are tall, they

built 39-inch counters to keep them from having to bend over. The island features a 32-inch counter "for our children and shorter friends."

Landscaping brought the house into scale with the property. A rockery base surrounding the porches allowed the owners to expand the patios using tumbled pavers set on sand. It also created a great perimeter for planting, topping off the home's picture-perfect setting.



Upper Level



Main Level

OPPOSITE: To maximize natural illumination in the kitchen, divided-light windows take the place of customary upper cabinets, except to the left of the refrigerator for spices and above the center island for glassware. The owners installed red and negro marinachi granite countertops.

LEFT: Tongue-and-groove pine decking and exposed timber framing form the roof overhangs for the outdoor patio. The split, rugged Grey Stone fireplace results in a lodge-like look for this cozy outdoor setting.

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