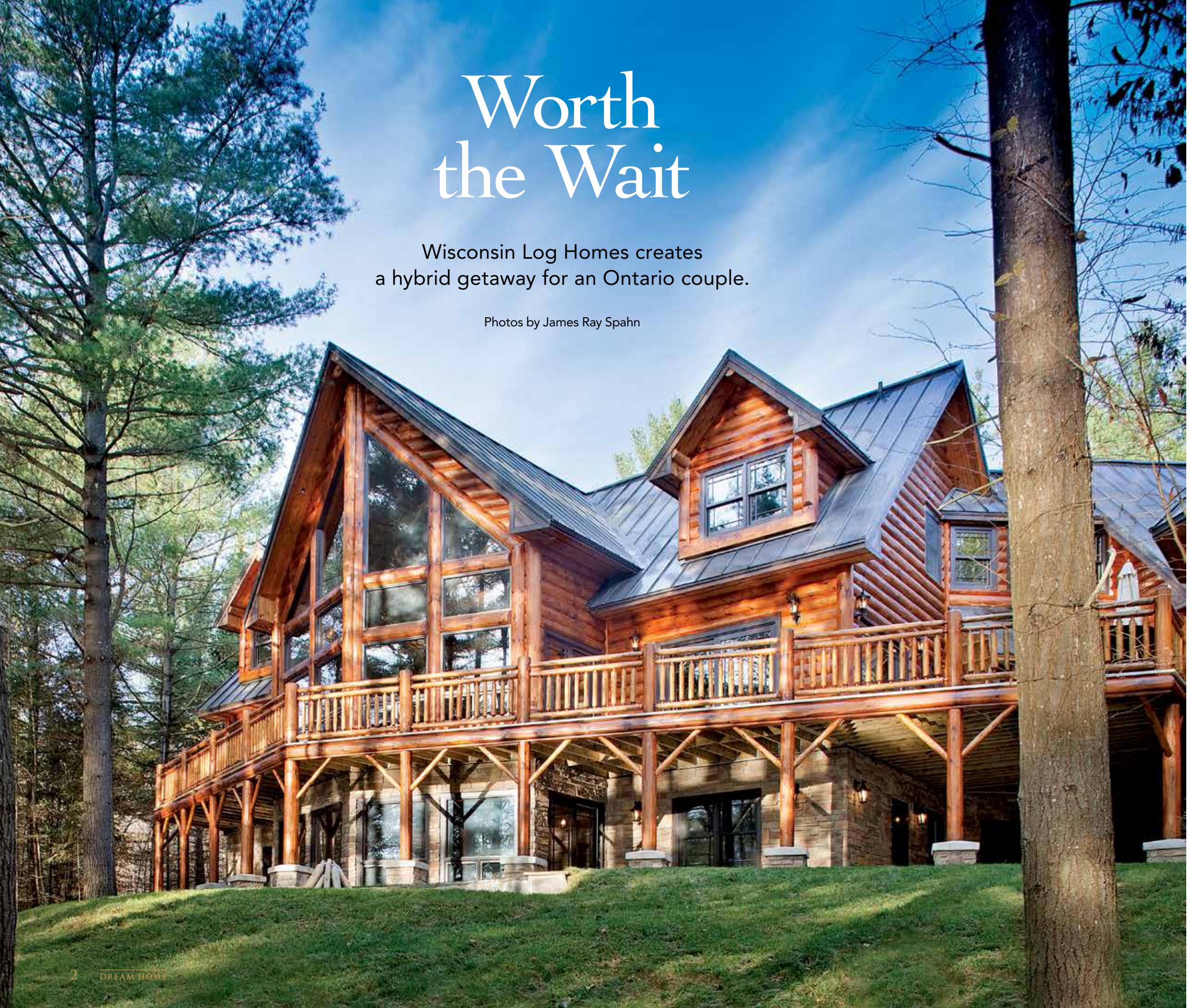


Worth the Wait

Wisconsin Log Homes creates a hybrid getaway for an Ontario couple.

Photos by James Ray Spahn



Originating from Wisconsin Log Homes' Alpine Meadow II design, this hybrid log home boasts abundant windows, 10- and 12-inch hand-peeled pine logs, stone and an expansive deck with attached gazebo.

A wooden cottage in the woods was the lifelong dream of an Ontario couple. They spent years researching log homes in magazines. When an advertisement for Wisconsin Log Homes caught their eye, the couple went to visit the national design build team headquartered in Green Bay, Wisconsin. After seeing their log and timber products and milling process, they knew the company's hand-hewn look was exactly what they wanted.

Because the couple intended this to be a vacation home where they could entertain and enjoy the outdoors, they searched for a site within an hour of Ottawa and eventually found 11 acres of lakefront property that would be a perfect plot for their dream home.

The homeowners met with Wisconsin Log Homes' in-house design team to create a three-story home based on the company's Alpine Meadow II plan, with modifications to meet their specific needs, style and contour of the property. The couple took advantage of Wisconsin Log Homes' hybrid building system that boosts energy-efficiency, minimizes maintenance and allows for a combination of wood and other building materials throughout. "Our hybrid system has enabled our team to create the industry's most artistic and functional designs. Increasingly, we are working with clients who want a natural home that welcomes the unique application and combination of all the natural materials they are attracted to, not just log" says Ehren Graf, Home Consultant at Wisconsin Log Homes.

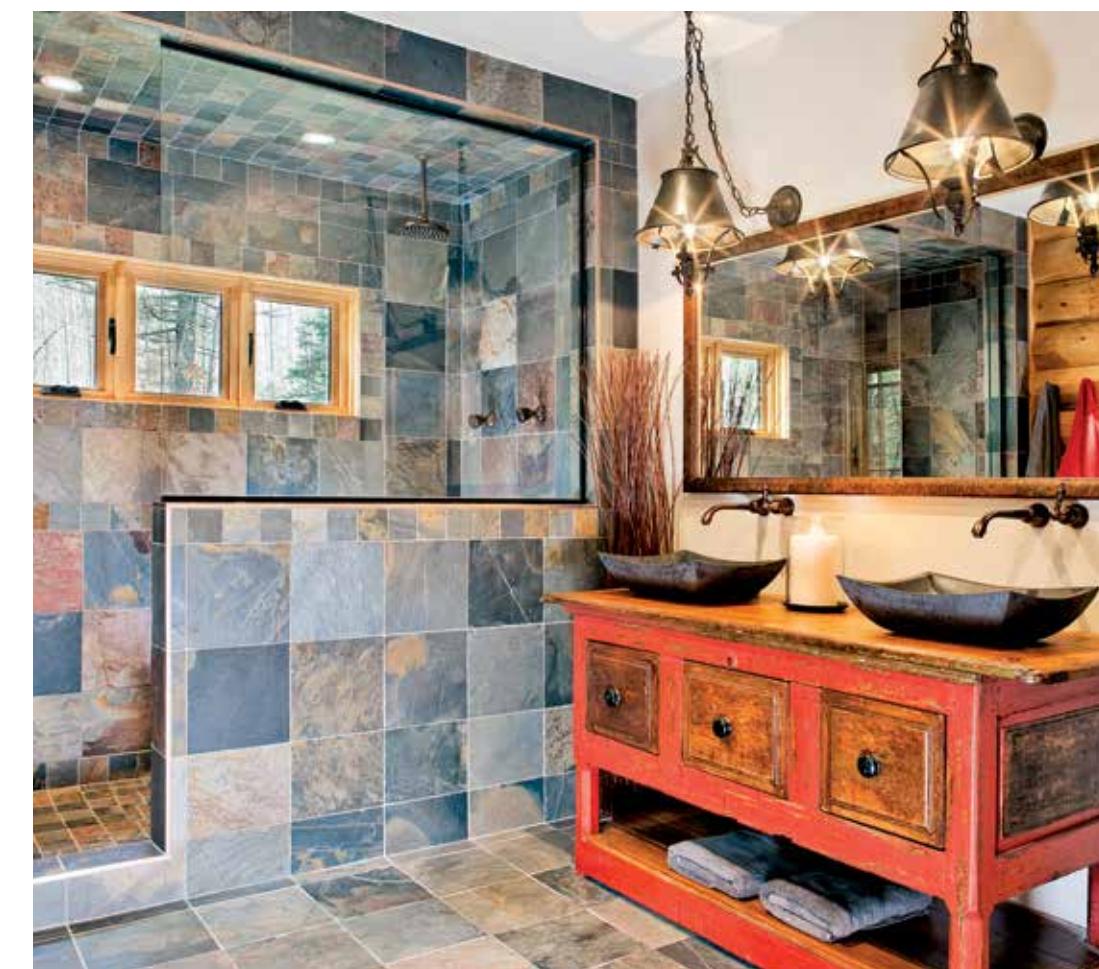
The couple opted for an open-concept kitchen, dining and great room that mixes various styles and environmentally friendly materials that work together to create a casual yet classy look. The owner notes that decorating the home was as simple as including furnishings that he had made himself and others that had been collected over the years.

Patio doors in the dining room and great room invite guests to an expansive deck that wraps around the entire back of the home and connects to a covered gazebo, ideal for taking in the views. Outside, the owners limited the number of trees that had to be cut for the home's construction and retained the natural beauty of the gradual slope down to the lake. They finished the lower patio with flagstone for a more organic transition to the lawn. One of the bathroom's sink bases was even made from a yellow birch tree stump found on the property.

The couple's years of research paid off and the rewards were well worth the wait. "When we are here, I feel like my batteries are being recharged. I am happy and relaxed, and happy we did our homework," the owner explains.



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OPPOSITE: Sprawling prow windows connect the 25-foot-tall great room with the woodland surroundings. King-post ceiling trusses, thick log window trim and a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace make this a true showpiece.

ABOVE: The open French Country kitchen was built around its large island, and artfully blends classic glazed maple cabinets, log accents and slate flooring. Ample storage and efficient workspace make this every homeowner's dream.

LEFT: African slate covers the floor and walls in the master bath and walk-in shower, while a converted baker's table is repurposed as a vanity.



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