

KITCHEN
& BATH
ISSUE

Timber Home Living

Design ideas for custom wood homes

**your home
the way
you want it**

**the flexibility
of timber design**

**plan
your
baths**

**size, location,
storage, finishes
and more**

**3 STUNNING HOMES
lakeside landmark
rustic but modern
built to feed a crowd**



The homeowner says the kitchen was designed to allow plenty of elbow room for gatherings of family and friends, with ample counter space for buffet-style dining and multiple sinks for easy cleanup afterwards.

Designed to Feed a Crowd

STORY BY REED KARAIM
PHOTOS BY HEIDI LONG

A year-round vacation home a mile high is designed to accommodate large groups of outdoor enthusiasts.

A steeply sloped lot (opposite) allows the four-story home to present an appealingly modest profile from the drive. The full scale of the home is revealed in the facade that faces away from the entrance and toward the slopes.



house rules

Reduce the perceived scale of a large home by hiding two levels from the driveway view, but giving them lots of daylight and providing gorgeous views.



LOCATED A MILE HIGH near a ski slope, looking out on some of the most beautiful scenery in the United States, the home in northwestern Montana built by Ray and Scarlett Burns feels nearly as majestic as the mountains that surround it.

With seven bedrooms, a separate bunk room for children, a home theater, a ski-in/ski-out area and heated patios designed to be used year-round, the home comes with the comforts of an upscale

ski lodge. But there's a reason for the nearly 15,000 square feet of luxurious living space: The Burnses have a big family and a large network of friends, and they wanted to be able to share the house and the splendor of the surrounding country with as many people as possible.

"This is a vacation home, and we have a lot of guests here two or three months of the year," Ray says.

The timber-frame design, by Gavin-Hanks Architectural Studio in Missoula,

Montana, with considerable input from the Burnses and their builder, incorporates an open floor plan on the main level that allows for large, sociable gatherings of any size. Lower levels include the bunk room and the ski-in/ski-out area, which makes it easy to head out onto the slope at the back of the house, along with more intimate spaces for relaxing after a day on skis. The upper level provides private living quarters for Ray and Scarlett and their youngest son, who is still at home.

Central to the home is the large kitchen, which was designed to feed a crowd. To that end, it incorporates a large pantry, a double oven and spacious countertops laid out to provide plenty of space for buffet dining.

"Even if the house is overflowing, we don't trip over each other," Scarlett says. She adds that ease of cleanup was another concern. The kitchen includes multiple dishwashers and sinks so the family can quickly tidy up and move "onto the

fun stuff — games, movies and conversation."

Builder Gary Ince of Stevensville, Montana, adds that the kitchen was built with heavier grade wiring so it could handle "commercial-grade coffee pots" and other heavy-duty appliances.

The overall size of the home meant the design needed to incorporate concrete and steel supports in addition to its timber-frame structural elements, says Vince Gavin, the lead architect. But tim-

ber framing was essential to the feel the family wanted.

"We were looking for something that would blend in with the area, and certainly the timber frame does that very well," says Ray.

Particularly notable in the timber-frame design were the cedar trunks used as posts throughout the house. Centennial Timber Frames of Kalispell, Montana, provided the timber-frame package for the home. Mike Koness, co-owner, has



LEFT: The different woods — including chestnut, cedar and Douglas fir, along with the iron and stone that give the home its majestic character, are all on display in the foyer.

OPPOSITE: The great room's soaring windows provide the perfect spot to contemplate the dramatic Montana mountain scenery visible from the house. The complicated timber framing, marrying cedar trunks and Douglas fir milled beams, also is on display.

been in the business 23 years, but he was still impressed by the more than 40-foot-tall cedar trunks incorporated with the central stairway that climbs through all four floors of the house.

The trunks, the timber provider says, came from Fraserwood in Canada. "They're very carefully logged in a responsible fashion," he says "They might get one log when a city is expanding a park, for example, and they'll trench around it to get as much of the root knuckle as possible and then take out the whole tree." Fraserwood pressure washes the trunks to remove the bark while preserving the cambium layer of the wood, and removes the moisture from the wood in a radio frequency kiln, which uses radio waves in a manner akin to a giant microwave.

The other parts of the extensive timber frame were reclaimed Douglas fir, while the flooring was reclaimed yellow chestnut. The architect says the feeling of the home was inspired in part by Many Glacier Hotel, a historic lodge in nearby Glacier National Park, which in turn draws on Scandinavian lodge design. "You get a feel for that European Scandinavian architecture in the railing details and the shape and colors of the woods used throughout the house," the architect explains.

The home's high-altitude location and steeply sloped lot presented a series





The dining room is open to the kitchen for large, informal gatherings, but also provides an elegant setting for more formal meals.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The main entrance has a scale and sense of drama to match a home that measures four floors and nearly 14,000 square feet. The seemingly infinite scenery near Glacier National Park in northern Montana is visible from much of the house. The epic scale of the home is revealed on the side facing the ski slopes, especially at night when the great room is illuminated. Intended as a spot for playing games or just kicking back, this nook is on the same level as the area where skiers can come in from the slope directly behind the house. The home theater is Ray Burns's favorite room in the house. The tub in the master bath comes with a view of the mountains.





ABOVE: The bunk room in the lower level is intended for the children of guests and can sleep up to a dozen.

OPPOSITE: A sitting area off the ski-in/ski-out area provides a warm, quiet spot to unwind before making the next run down the slopes.

of building challenges, including the need to blast away some granite for the foundation. A principal consideration was situating the house properly. "I spent a lot of time doing a preliminary design on the house where we could take advantage of that view," the builder recalls.

In the end, the steeply sloped lot allowed a design that incorporated two lower levels that were open to the daylight but invisible from the drive, presenting a more modest initial profile. "That was very important to us," the architect says, "to make sure that the house had a scale to it that fit the mountain, but was also very approachable."

Approachable, and with the Burnses at the front door, always ready to welcome a crowd of friends and family. ■



home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 13,935
 ARCHITECT: Gavin-Hanks Architectural Studio
 BUILDER: Gary Ince Construction
 TIMBER PROVIDER: Centennial Timber Frames