

BY MARGARET LOFTUS
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OHIO'S HOCKING HILLS HAD LONG HELD A SPECIAL PLACE IN the hearts of Cathy and Tom Lewis. The Columbus couple had been retreating with their four children to the wilderness an hour from their home for years, camping at state parks or renting log cabins. "We discovered that when we were on vacation we connected to our kids far better than when we were at home," explains Tom. But the kids were getting older and the Lewises'—now empty nesters—craved a more permanent base for that connection.

Figuring out what sort of home they wanted was a cinch. They'd long dreamed of a roomy log cabin—half Colorado lodge, half Cape Cod-style—on the side of hill overlooking a lake with a plenty of land for horses, but finding the property, a designer, and builder to realize their vision seemed like a long shot.

A *Family Affair*

Finding the right builder and the perfect plot of land was the beginning of a seamless log home building journey.



Surprisingly, it wasn't. After laying out the specifics to builder Tim Jubach over breakfast one day at a Bob Evans restaurant, Jubach simply responded, "I can do that." It was music to the Lewis's ears. A rough sketch the builder had drawn on the back of a placemat assured them that Jubach "got" their idea. Only one obstacle remained. The couple had scoured the region for the right plot of land. But as luck would have it, Jubach himself has developed several plots in a swath of Hocking Hills and had one unsold 20-acre parcel that fit the bill perfectly. He said, "I'll take you there right now."

GREEN TIP

WE CREATED THREE ZONES FOR HEATING AND AIR SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO HEAT OR COOL ALL 4,200 SQUARE FEET AT THE SAME TIME.

— Sarah Jubach

The actual building of the home, which took just five months, was just as seamless. With its own mill, the Jubach Company—run by Tim and his daughter Sarah—cut, air-dried, and hand-peeled the exterior's white pine D logs. Some 90 percent of the nine varieties of wood used in the house, from the cherry office cabinets to the cedar flooring, was grown locally.

ABOVE: THE OPEN DESIGN OF THE MAIN FLOOR IS PERFECT FOR A LARGE GROUP. SKYLIGHTS AND TRACK LIGHTING SET IN THE TIE LOGS LIGHTEN UP THE WHOLE AREA.

RIGHT: A LOCAL AMISH CRAFTSMAN BUILT THE MASSIVE HEARTH OUT OF OHIO RIVER ROCK.



GREEN TIP
 PORCH OVERHANGS
 MINIMIZE WEAR AND
 TEAR. MINIMAL
 MAINTENANCE IS
 KEY FOR US.
 — Sarah Jubach

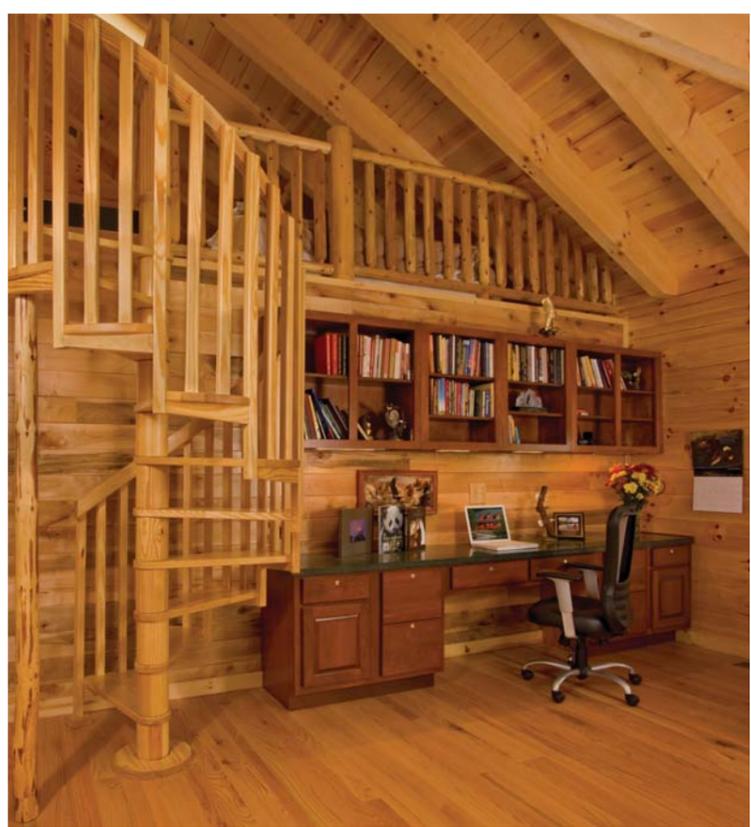


ABOVE: LOG FURNITURE THROUGHOUT ECHOES THE FEEL OF THE HOUSE.
 LEFT: THE HOME'S D LOGS, WHICH ARE ROUND ON THE OUTSIDE AND FLAT ON THE INTERIOR,
 MADE INSTALLING CABINETS AND OTHER FIXTURES A BREEZE.
 OPPOSITE: A WRAPAROUND DECK SHADED BY A ROOF OVERHANG PROTECTS THE EXTERIOR
 FROM SUNLIGHT AND MOISTURE.

Indeed, the Jubachs kept the project as green as possible. They purposely chose a less-wooded site on the property to build the 4,200-square-foot lodge, allowing them to fell as few trees as possible. The home was oriented to avoid afternoon sun, tucked against a hillside to avoid overheating. A highly efficient heat and air conditioning system allows the temperature to be controlled separately in three different zones, depending on which rooms are being used. A wraparound deck is shaded by an overhanging roof, which helps shield the exterior from sunlight and moisture, which can wreak havoc on exterior logs. And as an extra precaution against moisture, a vapor barrier was created in the basement behind the poured walls.

GREEN TIP
 BEDROOMS
 CLOSETES WERE
 CONSTRUCTED
 WITH DRESSERS
 INSIDE OF THEM TO
 SAVE ON SPACE.
 — Tom Lewis

Sandstone rocks from the Jubachs' quarry were used for landscaping and for a fire pit to achieve an organic look and less maintenance—after all, who wants to spend their family getaway weekends pulling weeds? But perhaps the most impressive feat was the creation of a 35-foot-deep spring-fed lake and a waterfall from the four



ABOVE: HICKORY CABINETS AND STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES BRIGHTEN UP THE KITCHEN. LEFT: CUSTOM CHERRY CABINETS WERE BUILT FOR THE LIBRARY. OPPOSITE: A 35-FOOT-DEEP LAKE WAS CREATED OUT OF NATURAL SPRINGS ON THE PROPERTY.

natural springs on the property.

Tom and Cathy hope to build a smaller home on the property to retreat to in their golden years, leaving the main house, which sleeps 20, for extended family. Nonetheless, Tim Jubach designed the home to be as accessible as possible, a consideration that's becoming de rigueur after he built a home for a client who uses a wheelchair. "Everything you need to live and take care of is on the main floor, including the master bedroom and laundry room," explains Sarah Jubach. They also made sure to include a ground-level entrance.

Ever since it was completed in 2008, the lodge has become the glue that holds the Lewis clan together. Come weekends, the entire family can be found gathered around the massive Ohio River Rock fireplace in the great room, swimming in the lake, or relaxing in rocking chairs on the deck in front of the outdoor fireplace, enjoying the sights and sounds of nature. "You sit there and get to experience the unforced rhythm of life in the midst of the turbulent world," says Tom. "The times that we're there, it's magnificent." ❄️



THE JUBACH COMPANY
Hocking Hills, Ohio

Four-story home
Square Footage: 4,200
Bedrooms: 7 | Baths: 4.5