




*the love
of wood*

Logs and timbers steal the show
in this Canadian retreat.

It's easy to become mesmerized when you're sitting on the front porch—larger-than-life log posts feature a flared bottom design that makes a strong style statement. Cultured stone creates a nice contrast.



A rustic log cabin interior. The walls are made of light-colored wood paneling. A large stone fireplace is the focal point, with a mounted deer head above it. A large, thick log coffee table sits on a patterned rug in the foreground. A window with a wooden frame is visible on the right side of the room.

A one-of-a-kind coffee table carved out of a large log takes center stage in the great room. It was created by the talented artisans at Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia.

OPPOSITE: Talk about a lasting first impression: Oversized handcrafted logs stop visitors in their tracks the moment they see this inviting cabin in British Columbia's Cariboo Region. Ranging in diameter from 18 to 24 inches, the Western red cedar logs feature a natural flare.



People build log homes for many different reasons—some want to create the ultimate rustic retreat; others yearn to capture the nostalgia of yesteryear; and then there are those who simply have a love affair with wood.

The owner of this eye-catching log home in British Columbia definitely falls into the last category—in fact, he and his family are so enamored with wood homes that they can't imagine living any other way.

“Our client really wanted a home that was all about wood,” explains Gary Crosina, the sales and marketing manager at Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia. “Not only does he love wood as a building material, but he also loves the idea of being in the woods in general. It is a part of his character.”

One of a Kind

Though this is not the first log home that the homeowner and his family have built, its one-of-a-kind wood character makes it one of the most distinctive. Defined by majestic 18-inch Western red cedar logs, the log post-and-beam home makes an instant style statement.

“The house also boasts logs that are bigger,” Crosina ex-

plains. “On the front porch, the logs flare out and are very unique, closer to the 24-inch range.” The home's logs are unique because they are handcrafted and not sawn to a uniform size.

Finding logs with character is a priority at Pioneer. “We have hundreds of trucks of logs air-drying on our company property,” Crosina says. “We like to build with a ‘wow factor,’ and by air-drying our logs for so long, we're able to observe how they'll twist or crack and react over time, helping us to choose logs with the perfect character for each project.” The log chosen for a prominent truss in this home has a wonderful bend.

Family Friendly

When the homeowner and his family approached Pioneer with their ideas for their log home, their wishes were fairly simple: They wanted to create a rustic, everyday retreat with an open floor plan that would allow them to easily gather together as a family. They came to Pioneer's in-house designers to create the look they wanted. The resulting plan features 2,200 square feet of living space spread out over a main level and a basement. Three bedrooms and two baths offer ample room for family members without making the space feel too voluminous.

“The clients worked one-on-one with our designers to fine-tune the look that they wanted,” Crosina recalls. “The family-focused plan is spacious yet comfortable.”

Once the plan was set, Pioneer began to set it into mo-



The owners' passion for wood is evident in the kitchen, where knotty alder cabinets, aspen trim and cedar walls come seamlessly together. Granite countertops, ceramic tile flooring and a cultured stone island provide a great contrast to all of the wood tones.





tion. All of the logs and timbers were cut and pre-fitted on Pioneer's building site, then taken down and transported to the job site. A small crew from Pioneer helped direct the assembly of the log structure, but the homeowner and his family actually finished the house from top to bottom.

In addition to the Western red cedar log walls, the home boasts an abundance of other wood tones, from aspen accents on the walls to knotty alder in the cabinets. Stained fir trim adds a distinctive note to the windows and doors. A bonus touch is the collection of one-of-a-kind log tables and other furnishings created by Pioneer.

"The beauty of wood is that it doesn't need updating," says Crosina. "It is just such a timeless look." And, he says, with the log post-and-beam style, you can add interesting angles to create more of a modern log home.

At Home In Nature

While the construction details of the home are certainly striking, its picturesque setting is equally impressive. Set in the town of Williams Lake in the heart of British Columbia's Cariboo Region, the 10-acre parcel affords breathtaking vistas of rolling hills and valleys. Visitors feel close to nature the moment they arrive.

"The area is just wide open country," Crosina says. With more than 2,000 lakes and abundant woodland, the region is a wonderful place for fishing, hiking, snowmobiling and biking. "It's all about outdoor recreation," he says.

Whether the homeowners are out enjoying the local hiking trails or simply sitting back and savoring the beauty of wood that defines their home, this Canadian family is sure about one thing: There truly is no place like home—especially when that home is made of logs.

TOP: A bevy of wood tones adds a note of sophisticated drama to this simple eating area. Stained fir window trim, lighter aspen wall areas and cedar wainscoting create a distinctive style. A custom log table created by Pioneer is the perfect finishing touch.

BOTTOM: The bathroom makes it clear that stone is a natural complement to wood. Granite countertops and porcelain tiles are juxtaposed against a bevy of beautiful wood tones.

OPPOSITE: The eye-catching Western red cedar doesn't end at the house—decorative planters and a log post-and-beam garage also feature the beautiful wood. A honey-colored stain imparts a sense of warmth.



SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,200

BEDROOMS: 3

BATHROOMS: 2

Builder/Designer:
Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia
(877-822-5647; pioneerloghomesofbc.com)

