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Large handcrafted logs create a home worthy of its rugged setting. Architect Bing Hu's steeply angled rooflines and extended overhangs lend a feeling of kinetic motion to the carved animals at the end of each ridge beam. The mountain lion above the dining room seems poised to fly into the trees.

# *The Art* *of* LOGS

**Arizona homeowners enrich the landscape by creating a collective masterpiece.**

story by Reed Karaim | photography by Roger Wade | styling by Debra Grahl



Southwestern styling, large-scale furniture and works by local artists make a bold statement throughout the home. In one of the two great rooms, artist David Fischel's painted panels, carved from alligator juniper, serve as a dramatic centerpiece. Interior designer Rochelle Rubin coordinated other colors and fabrics with the art.



**T**im Donmoyer recalls dreaming of building a log home since he was “a kid playing with Lincoln Logs.” When he finally realized that dream, he invited the people he hired to bring it to life—the architect, log provider, builder and interior designer—to add their own vision to the project. The result is a worthy work of art.

The most visible example of this collective spirit is the logs themselves, fashioned by Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia. Acting on Tim’s expressed desire for a home “where the logs aren’t

uniform, where no two are alike,” the handcrafter supplied western red cedar logs that varied in diameter from 14 inches at the tips to 26 inches at the butt ends. “I told their craftsmen, ‘I love your work, your taste,’” Tim says. “‘You guys have a whim, you want to carve something in the wood? Go ahead.’” Their carvings in various logs range from an eagle capturing a fish to the Canadian flag. The prominent ridge beams of the house are all decorated with carved animal heads, much in the manner of figureheads on the prow of a ship.

Tim and his wife, Karen, went even further. They chose an architect, a builder

**The wide wall of windows in the dining area harmonizes with the large cedar logs and blurs the distinction between indoors and outside. Local artisans crafted the long table and the 10 rustic chairs, as well as the fanciful overhead wrought-iron lighting fixture. Interior designer Rochelle Rubin designed the colorful furniture fabrics and rugs.**

and an interior designer who had never worked on a log home before but whose work they admired. Architect Bing Hu and Linthicum Custom Builders, both of Scottsdale, Arizona, worked with Pioneer Log Homes to create a house that captures the traditional feeling of a log home but adds the angular, modernist sense of space

Tim and Karen Donmoyer wanted their home to have a comfortable kitchen with plenty of room for mealtime gatherings. The countertops of Brazilian granite and the barn-red custom cabinets reflect the room's informal, practical feel.

**OPPOSITE:** The tree trunk supporting the countertop in the powder room on the main level came from the mountains near Payson, Arizona.



that characterizes much of Hu's work. "I think they taught each other a few things," Tim says.

The resulting 7,300-square-foot house near Payson, Arizona, amply illustrates the wisdom of the Donmoyers' approach. From the overall design down to its distinctive details, the home has a feeling of bold choices confidently made. "It's a stunning house," says Bryan Reid, Pioneer's president, "and that's really a testament to the vision of the owners and how great they were to work with."

Inside, the Donmoyers turned to native woods—primarily alligator juniper and manzanita—and local artisans for much of the finishing work and custom furniture. They chose the late Tom Aderhold of Sedona to create stained glass

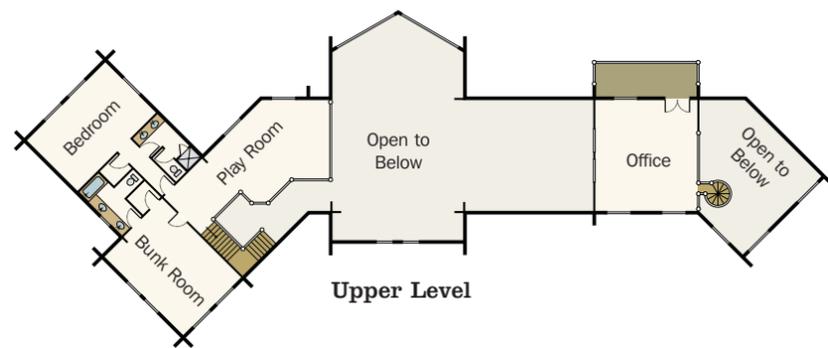
for several windows, including the entry sidelights. They also acquired a series of 3-by-7-foot carved and painted panels by their friend, Sedona artist David Fischel, for one of the great rooms and trusted the designer to work with them.

Rochelle Rubin, owner of Rochelle Rubin Design Resources in Tucson, handled the overall interior design. She found her first log home to be an enjoyable challenge, especially integrating the art and carvings. "Tim and Karen were fun to work with," Rochelle says. "They gave us a lot of freedom. They respected our abilities and let us run with it."

As the Donmoyers' log home shows, trusting the talents of others can often be one of the best creative choices a homeowner can make. ■



# design details

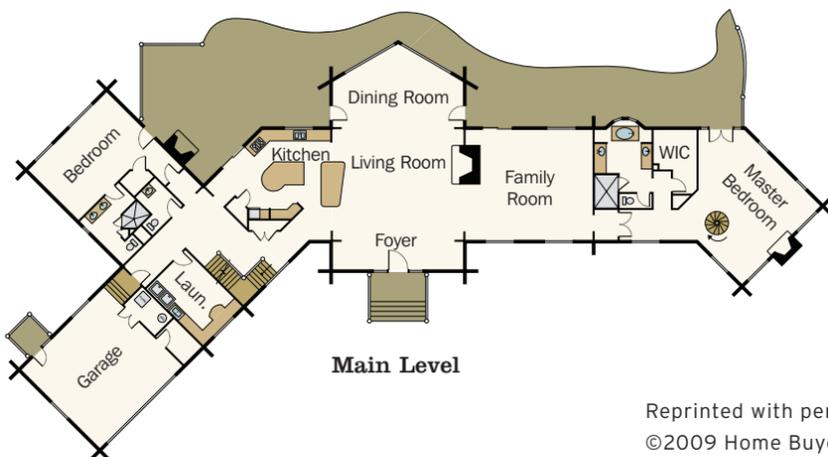


Windows, logs and a stone fireplace combine to form a cross in the master bedroom. The soaring ceiling creates plenty of room at the top of the stairs for a loft office. Another work by artist David Fischel hangs above the mantel.

## home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 7,300

LOG COMPANY: PIONEER LOG HOMES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Showcasing indigenous woods, the home features a table in the foreground that's cut from alligator juniper, while in the background, the balustrade on the spiral staircase is fashioned from manzanita; a David Fischel artwork graces the fireplace in the master bedroom and can be viewed from a corner of the office loft perched above the room; natural log joists, stained glass, two-tiered roof and carved eagle decorating the ridge beam embolden the entry; the stained-glass window behind the claw-foot tub in the master bath came from a home outside Chicago and reflects the Prairie style that Frank Lloyd Wright popularized.