

statement home

WHAT STARTED AS A REMODELING PROJECT
TURNED INTO A ONE-OF-A-KIND CUSTOM
WOOD PROJECT IN COLORADO



Although the rocks have been artfully arranged between the seasonal creek and the Preusses home, they all came from somewhere on the 370-acre property. And while the family had tried four remodel plans for an existing cabin and one fresh attempt to design a home during the first 12 years Gunter and Gloria owned the place, it took only 20 months to build their home after they joined great design via architect Kathy Scott, formerly of Kenny & Associates, and great execution from Pioneer Log Homes.



Left: The unique main entrance of the home features massive cedars that homeowner Gunter Preuss discovered in Pioneer's yard. They were actually intended for another project, but the owners graciously allowed them to be incorporated into this home instead. Neighbor Dale Traut designed and carved the front door, along with several other carvings inside.



Above: Just above the door to the tower room is a carving of an eagle, nest, and eaglets that fans may recognize as Paul Stark's work. The Preusses were fans for 15 years before they had exactly the right place to take advantage of this brilliant piece. Additional Stark work is found in the home.

Gunter Preuss was finishing up a family fishing trip in British Columbia when he mentioned how frustrated he and wife Gloria had become in trying to find just the right log-home supplier for the remodeling project they wanted to undertake in a picturesque valley outside Loveland, Colorado. "There's a great company right here," one of the guides assured him, and it turned out to be, if anything, an understatement.

Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia was constructing Phase I (36,000 square feet) of a 120,000-square-foot home also destined for Colorado when Gunter dropped by the yard on his way to the airport. Bingo. People could work with a visionary architect like Kathy Scott, who had been trying to help the Preusses create just the right place.

Pioneer owner Andre Chevigny came to the property, looked around, and very, very politely told Gunter and Gloria that they would be "idiots" to simply remodel or expand on the modest little cabin their predecessors had lived in. It was like the faucet for creative juices was turned on full, and the designers and homeowners just went wild. The result was some of the finest — and most detailed — work ever unleashed on a 10,000-square-foot mountain home. Add as much detail to furnishings, and voila, the Preusses have a home that is equally warm and livable as it is a showplace.

STORY JOYCE STANDRIDGE PHOTOGRAPHY HILLIARD PHOTOGRAPHICS

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Right: After the family moved into the home, Gunter began building this massive 12-foot-long table, finishing it up at 11 a.m. on Christmas morning. More than two dozen guests for sit-down dinner arrived at 1 p.m. And Gloria never doubted he would have a place for her dinnerware to sit!

Below: The love of wood not only drives the Preuss family business, but is obvious throughout their home. In addition to reclaimed oak such as this distressed beam, the floors throughout the home are recycled hickory. The patina of age adds an incalculable overall appeal.



Right: Gloria designed her kitchen with the assistance of Michael Forester, who is also a member of the family's firm. Because this kind of custom cabinetry is the foundation for business, it was both the most difficult area (after all, they would be expected to produce something special) and the easiest (because they do it all the time and make it look easy). The objective was to make it look like a room filled with furniture, and they succeeded so well that it's become a natural gathering place for guests.



Above: In the great room, the conversational grouping focuses on a fireplace surrounded by indigenous stone. But more than one conversation has been stopped by the titanic 24-inch-diameter handcrafted cedar logs. And the hand-planed hickory floors. And the fabulous twig-backed chairs designed by Lester Santos of Cody, Wyoming. And the custom light fixture by artist Peter Fillerup. And...well, just about everything in the room!



Left and Below: Along with the cedar logs, Pioneer sent Douglas fir timbers and Gunter, using a CNC machine, crafted the planks for a circular staircase to the tower room, which serves as the home office. In addition, there is a suspended bridge above the main foyer that adds even more character to the area.



Left: Extensive exterior lighting not only shows off the home at any time of the day or night, but allows the Preuss family and guests to enjoy the play of shadows among the many angles, gables and corners of the home.



Above: Attention to detail was exceptional throughout the house. The mantel above the fireplace in the master bedroom, for example, came from the cedar rootballs, while another handcrafted chandelier (such as might be found in many great rooms or dining rooms) hangs overhead.





Above: As part of the recreational area on the lower level, this comfortable seating area has been the site for many great conversations and lots of laughter.

Opposite Right: In the corner of the powder room is a massive cedar log that is structurally functional for the home. Its beauty belies its job. The pedestal for the sink, made from one of the rootballs, is another dynamic idea that makes the home unique.



Left: Pioneer had to talk Gunter into the hourglass-shaped doorway to the master bathroom, but visitors have been uniformly impressed. And Gunter says that it's grown on him to a very comfortable degree.



Because Gunter and Gloria have collected wine for more than 20 years, having their own wine cellar was a must. Along with indigenous stone, the space features an Andre Martinez mural that pays homage to Tuscany. Martinez, whose company is The Faux Design Center in Denver, did several murals for the family in other parts of the home.



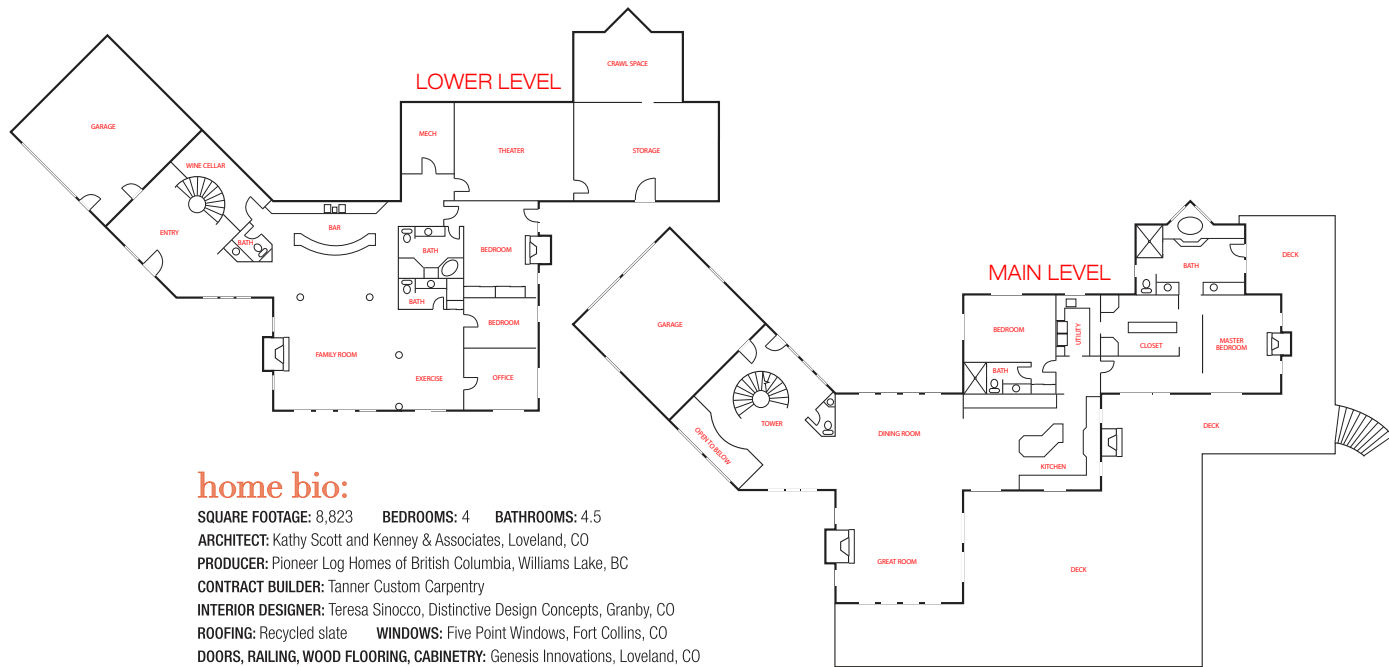


Left: Another appealing aspect of the lower level's recreational area is the indoor multi-media room that features all the latest gadgetry.



Left: One of the reasons the Preusses loved working with Pioneer is because of their custom scribing that retains the irregular shape of the cedar logs. "Some people might refer these as natural defects," notes Gunter, "but we loved the character it brought to our home."

Below: The bar area features considerable amounts of reclaimed wood, some from as far as Pennsylvania and Ohio. The far wall features a Lori Salisbury-painted mural of the Preuss's upper meadow. CWH



home bio:

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 8,823 BEDROOMS: 4 BATHROOMS: 4.5
 ARCHITECT: Kathy Scott and Kenney & Associates, Loveland, CO
 PRODUCER: Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia, Williams Lake, BC
 CONTRACT BUILDER: Tanner Custom Carpentry
 INTERIOR DESIGNER: Teresa Sinocco, Distinctive Design Concepts, Granby, CO
 ROOFING: Recycled slate WINDOWS: Five Point Windows, Fort Collins, CO
 DOORS, RAILING, WOOD FLOORING, CABINETS: Genesis Innovations, Loveland, CO
 MASONRY & FIREPLACE: Local moss rock, Soderberg Masonry, Fort Collins, CO
 TILE FLOORING: Capco Tile & Stone, Denver
 LIGHTING: Peter Fillerup, Heber UT, Grace & Graham Luxury Lighting, Boulder, CO FURNITURE: Lester Santos, Cody WY
 DINING ROOM AND HUTCH: Gunter Preuss LANDSCAPING: Rocky Mountain Hydroscapes, Berthoud, CO

