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Elegant by Nature

Mountain Log Homes of Colorado crafts a rustic masterpiece.

Photos by Beaton Photography

ABOVE: A stone chimney and rustic vertical board siding on the second floor contrast with the home's massive logs.

RIGHT: Outdoor spaces, like this cozy firepit, allow the family to soak up the beauty of their Rocky Mountain surroundings—even on cool evenings.

o create a warm and inviting home that was casual enough for grand-children and elegant enough for entertaining, Rich and Dee James looked to classic log architecture. "It was unique and different and we wanted to explore that possibility," Rich says.

The home, built by Mountain Log Homes of Colorado with logs handcrafted by Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia, has truly distinctive style. The walls' massive Western red cedar logs range from 20 to 36 inches in diameter and meet at notched corners highlighted by staggered tails that reveal the "base bloom" and growth rings of the logs.

Upon entering the residence, you are greeted with a welcoming cedar aroma. Architect Brian Higgins of RAW Architecture designed the house to appeal to the senses, and to be so eco-friendly that it qualifies as an Energy Star home. Mountain Log Homes' in-house design coordinator, Karen Wray, created a timeless palette of neutrals, underlined by distressed hickory plank flooring that will hold up to wear and tear.

To blend the home's décor with its giant logs, Wray paid careful attention to the scale of the furnishings and the light fixtures. High-back chairs and beefy light fixtures work well in the home. Sometimes, she says, it's best to go for subtlety. "When choosing backsplash tile, don't get too busy," she says. "Let your log elements speak for themselves."

With its location in Frisco, near some of Colorado's ski slopes, the home creates a warm welcome after a day in the snow. A grand fireplace with natural Oklahoma stone lures friends and family to gather. The cozy feel continues in the master suite, where a two-sided fireplace warms the bedroom and bath. The master suite includes a soaking tub, steam shower and generous walk-in closet.

In the spacious kitchen, a turret-style wall of windows brings in natural light. Tahoe Brown granite countertops are easy to care for and the kitchen perfectly suits the couple's mountain lifestyle. "The large kitchen island connected to the dining space encourages interaction...and help in the kitchen,"



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ABOVE: Rich colors and gorgeous views highlight the master suite, which includes a luxurious bath and spacious walk-in closet.

TOP: Subtle countertops and backsplash tile allow the beauty of the home's logs to take center stage in the kitchen. An adjacent dining area makes entertaining easy.

Wray says. Just off the kitchen, the dining area's bay windows frame what Rich calls "drop-dead gorgeous mountain views."

The Jameses' house is just one of the many dream homes built by Mountain Log Homes of Colorado. Owner Brian Wray has specialized in log and frame construction in the Colorado ski resort area since 1988. Wray says that one advantage his company offers is its unique team approach to home projects, with a designated project manager who manages contracts and budgets, a full-time on-site owner general contractor, and an in-house interior designer to ensure seamless cohesion.

The finished projects have earned the company kudos from homeowners and from the community: "Our homes have won multiple awards in the Summit County Parade of Homes," Wray says.





ABOVE: Staggered log ends and scribe-fit corner notches give the home truly handcrafted style.

TOP: The logs' "base blooms" peek out from under the front porch roof, providing an organic touch to the entry.



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FLOOR PLANS

