

PLANNED TO PERFECTION

TEAMWORK CREATES A HANDCRAFTED LOG HOME IN JACKSON, WYOMING

Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects designed the roofline of this custom home near Jackson, Wyoming, to mimic the natural peaks of the spectacular Teton Range in the distance. All of the gables are inset with large clear glass panels and oriented to view the snow-covered peaks. The log-accent bridge with old lanterns, piled stone and log details provide a welcoming entrance. The rustic mountain architecture mixes nature and Wild West motifs. Lost River Logs supplied and erected the intricately crafted logs, while Teton Heritage Builders infused the home with high-end custom details and finishes.

STORY BY TERESA L. WOLFF PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL



ABOVE: The architects positioned the peaked two-story window exactly in line with the front entry. Three walls of Pella windows form the bay floor plan to open the room to the dramatic view.

OPPOSITE: Extra-wide hickory bar stools with leather seats from Hickory Furniture Design cozy up to the breakfast bar, which is finished with vertical random-width planking for a hand-carved look. Jackson Hole Kitchen & Bath supplied the custom knotty alder wood cabinets. Granite countertops and tumbled Shabui tile backsplash with metal dot accents add natural elements.



Although Roy and Jackie Cronacher have lived in Naples, Florida, for the past 18 years, they wanted a second home in a totally different climate. For several years, they vacationed in Colorado and frequently stayed in log homes. “We fell in love with the comfortable feeling of the surroundings,” Roy says, “and decided our next residence would be handcrafted logs.”

As much as they enjoyed the amenities of the Colorado mountain communities, they were drawn to the relaxed, family-oriented lifestyle of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. They had definite ideas about what they wanted in their home, but after months of looking, they were unable to find an existing house to suit them. They turned their attention to locating property where they could build and found 7 acres in the private Tucker Ranch subdivision. “We wanted to have horses for our children and guests to ride,” Roy says. “Fortunately, the acreage we were considering is one of the acreages at Tucker Ranch where horses are allowed. With its views of the Teton Range and its exposed location on the valley floor, it was ideal.”

Roy, a homebuilder for 20 years, and Jackie looked at building their Jackson home as a creative challenge. “For me, the project is not just about a structure; the project also is the setting,” Roy explains. “The home must blend with its surroundings and vice-versa. Thus, building a high-end home takes teamwork to assure that the interior and exterior of the home and the landscaping all fit together. In our projects, we always bring all of the team members together in the beginning.”

Jackie and Roy began by touring several homes by Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects and decided its experience designing high-end log and mountain homes in Jackson Hole made the firm a natural



The great room features a bay-like layout and large windows that view the Teton Range. A log spiral stairway, supported by exposed-rootball tree columns, ascends to the upper bridge, which overlooks the dining and family room like an interior balcony. A Chief Joseph stone wood-burning fireplace adds to the Western influence of the home.



LEFT: The spacious master bedroom showcases the dramatic handcrafted logs. A gas fireplace and coffee bar add to the comfort. The bench at the foot of the custom-crafted bed conceals a flat-screen, pop-up television. Upholstered chairs in soft tweed chenille and a dark green ultra suede ottoman are ideal for relaxing and enjoying the magnificent view of the Teton Range.

homeowners step into the great room to be greeted by an immediate view of the majestic mountains of the Teton Range. The 4,600-square-foot main floor leads either to the guest wing, which holds Roy's office and two guest suites, or into the main living area. A full bar connects both the great room and the formal dining room. A cozy family room is adjacent to the kitchen, kitchen bar and adjoining breakfast nook. Somewhat secluded from these living areas is Jackie's office. The utility-laundry room and mudroom lead to the three-car garage.



RIGHT: Teton Heritage Builders created a dramatic entry using exposed-rootball tree columns atop boulders, which appear to be growing out of the ground. Montana moss rock skirts the edge of the house, and Kemmerer flagstone forms the patios and walkways.

choice. They selected Teton Heritage Builders as the general contractor, who in turn subcontracted with Lost River Log Specialists in Rigby, Idaho, to erect the log shell. Laurie Waterhouse of Laurie Waterhouse Interiors and Brad Suske of the Bradley Company rounded out the team charged with creating a Wild West residence appropriate to the history and heritage of Jackson Hole.

Based upon the Cronachers' input, Ellis drew the plans, and the firm's Danny Béasse completed the elevations and technical drawings. Danny also acted as the project architect and was on site frequently to oversee the progress. "Our overall goal for this home was to maximize the views of the surrounding mountains," Ellis notes. "We set the home such that the front of the house has a panoramic vista of the Sleeping Indian Mountain in the Gros Ventre Range and the Teton Range from the back."

Dan Clancy, co-owner of Teton Heritage Builders, points out the home's distinguishing feature is that it is 100-percent log construction. "Most log homes of this size are actually a combination of log and conventional framing," Dan says. "All-log walls create a true challenge when placing mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment. The result is very much worth the extra effort."

The architects started by enhancing one of the ranch's irrigation ditches to form a stream, over which the Cronachers drive to access their home. Once there, after passing through the dramatic entrance, the

ARCHITECT

Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects
P.O. Box 7778
Jackson WY 83002
(307) 733-1779
www.ellisnunnarchitects.com

CONTRACTOR

Teton Heritage Builders
160 West Deloney
P.O. Box 4819
Jackson WY 83001
(307) 733-8771
www.tetonheritagebuilders.com

LOG SUPPLIER

Lost River Log Specialists
221 1/2 West 2nd South
Rigby ID 83442
(208) 745-6875

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Laurie Waterhouse Interiors
P.O. Box 3100
Jackson WY 83001
(307) 732-0130
www.laurieinteriors.com

LANDSCAPER

The Bradley Company
P.O. Box 9664
Jackson WY 83002
(307) 690-6211

RIGHT: Exposed, intricate roof log connections add drama to the vaulted ceilings. Follow the chokecherry twig railing to the private master bedroom suite at the far end of the bridge walkway. Custom hand-woven rugs accent the luster of the reclaimed chestnut floors.

A curved handcrafted log staircase winds to the second story and a bridge overlooking the dining and family room. The guest master suite is above the kitchen, while the master bedroom is at the opposite end of the bridge. Each upper room has its own deck to enjoy the views. "With a teenager still living with us, a media room was a must-have on our list. This fit perfectly in the bonus space above the garage. We added a full bath in case we ever decided to sell the residence and the new owners wanted another guest suite," Roy says. "One of the excellent suggestions Ellis had to offer was that we add a second staircase to the media room. This contributes to the positive flow throughout the home."



From the project's beginning, Laurie Waterhouse and her staff collaborated with Jackie to begin translating the Cronachers' dream of an elegant Western home into reality. Roy named their new residence "The Wolf's Den," providing a concept that influenced Laurie's selection of fabrics, rugs and most of the lighting accessories. She used the soft hues of the color palette found in the Western art painting the Cronachers purchased for display in the dining room. Laurie paired different fabric styles with the antler look Roy so admires to create an understatedly beautiful and subtle décor in the residence. She commissioned the antler chandeliers,



ABOVE: The media room, equipped by Video Vision, features reclining leather chairs from the John Elway Collection. Neutral wool Berber carpeting complements the rich patina of the lodgepole pine logs.

LEFT: An antique oak chest was transformed into a vanity for the vessel sink in the main level powder room. Robert Kilmain added the soft leathering faux finish to the dry walls.

table lamps and sconces from Wildwest Design in Jackson and ordered custom-made, hand-woven rugs from Oaxaca, Mexico, to match the fabrics and to protect the reclaimed chestnut flooring.

Landscaping occurred while the home was being built. Existing water features were augmented, and reflecting pools were formed to mirror the image of the surrounding the mountains when viewed from the upper deck. Roy recalls that at one point they had 18 active permits for the ponds and streams. In the back of the house are acres of horse pasture separated by a large stone deck with exterior lounging furniture, barbecue, a fire pit and a self-contained fishing pond.

After creating the home to their satisfaction, the Cronachers realized they had done well when someone approached them with an offer to buy the house and all the furniture. "We decided to sell and move onto our next project," Jackie says. "When we told our son of our desire to take what we had learned from this home and improve on it in our next project, his response was, 'How can you improve on perfection?' Then we knew we had created a masterpiece."

"We enjoy the creative energy of building a custom home," Roy says. "The entire process is like a team sport, which requires the right players to work together to achieve the final result: a magnificent piece of artwork." **LHI**

To see more photos of this home, visit www.loghomesnetwork.com/PlannedToPerfection