

# *Framing in the Round*

Logs lend structure to a Wyoming home

**Whether the sky is clear or daunted by approaching storm clouds, the owners of this hybrid log and frame home designed by Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects enjoy panoramic views. Farmer's stone adorns the foundation, while the exterior is finished with beveled cedar siding.**





**A**lthough many couples find building a home puts major stress on their relationship, the owners of this Wyoming home discovered making decisions together was a great re-bonding experience after 26 years of marriage.

The pair had become enamored with the Jackson, Wyoming, area and originally planned to buy a condominium but were unable to find one that suited their needs.

As hard workers and zealous savers, the couple felt they were financially secure enough to purchase property for a vacation and semi-retirement home. They contacted a real estate agent, who led them not only to the 17-acre parcel on the back side of a subdivision with a full view of the Grand Teton Mountains, but also to Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects.

### *Wait No More*

At the time of purchase, the couple planned to wait a few years to actually build. The husband still was very active in his medical practice in Missouri and didn't feel he could spend enough time at the Jackson property to make it worthwhile to have a home there. However, they were so impressed with the gorgeous views of the Grand Teton Mountains from their new property that they didn't want to wait any longer.

"This was the first house we had built together. My husband just sketched out on a napkin what we wanted and shared it with Ellis. We just took the whole process one step at a time," the wife relates. "One of my best friends told me if we were going to build a house to make it fun. This was fun, and we attribute it to all of the people who were involved."

The team that made the project such a success included both Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects and Teton Heritage Builders. The Ellis Nunn architects designed a home that would not only be constructed of conventional





**Above: The complex exposed log roof system accents the hand-troweled finish on the walls. Extra-wide alder wood trim frames the large expanses of windows in the living room, which provide a breathtaking view of the surrounding Teton Mountain Range.**

**Left: A one-of-a-kind 12-inch lodgepole pine truss creates a dramatic entrance into the home. Lodgepole pine railings, hickory flooring with a matte finish, and a custom-built alder wood front door with oil rubbed bronze Rocky Mountain hardware all add to the rustic elegance to the home.**

stick-frame and dry-stack stone, but also incorporated dramatic wood accents and a complex log roof system.

The log accents in the home are 12-inch diameter lodgepole pine logs, which John Kjos, architect for Ellis Nunn, says were harvested from fire-killed, standing dead trees from the Gray's River area of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Because the home's trusses are cut to fit together precisely, having a dried log was important to prevent separation of the notches, which can result if significant shrinkage occurs.

### *High-tech Ranch*

The home's design placed all of the common areas, including the living room, kitchen, dining room and family room on the 5,500-square-foot main level. Because the home stretches out on a single level, the master bedroom and bath,

and three bedrooms with their own baths, also share the main level space. The mudroom separates the attached three-car garage from the main house.

The husband's work as a neuroradiologist called for a high-tech home. In order for the husband to be able to read magnetic resonance image (MRI) scans while he is in Jackson, the home was pre-wired with coaxial cable and voice-data wire. "Almost all rooms have jacks and each jack has its own homerun to the distribution panel. This provides flexibility for current and future technological development," explains Matt Somers, partner and project manager for Teton Heritage Builders.

Russ Weaver, the on-site supervisor and partner in Teton Heritage Builders, coordinated the installation of additional high-tech features in the home, such as the fully automated and programmable lighting and audio systems. "The drive-

Farmer's stone from Oklahoma forms the massive two-sided fireplace in the great room. It's oversized firebox opening sports hand-crafted wrought iron doors. Every stone in the fireplace is different and gives the structure personality.





way is equipped with a sensor that automatically turns on the outside lights and the interior passage way when the owners arrive home,” he adds.

The future media room planned in the lower level is also pre-wired for the day when the couple finishes the 3,700-square-foot basement. Egress windows were installed to allow for the addition of two more bedrooms with baths along with a game room.

“We love to collect wine. The only room that is finished in the basement is the temperature- and humidity-controlled wine cellar,” the wife says. “We can’t believe we already have it filled.”

**For casual family gatherings, the owners gravitate toward the family room adjacent to the kitchen. The owner has one of his favorite recliners strategically positioned in front of the gas fireplace.**

### *Warm and Cozy*

The home is equipped with three fireplaces. The wood-burning fireplace in the great room, with openings in both the living room and the dining room, provides sufficient heat to warm the main core of the home. Should the owners desire additional heat or ambiance, a flick of a switch ignites the gas-fueled fireplaces in the master bedroom and the family room. The mantels in the living room, dining room and family room all came from the same piece of reclaimed beech wood, while the mantel in the master bedroom is reclaimed white oak.

When the temperature drops, the couple can count on a





hydronic heat system to keep the whole house toasty warm. Hydronic in-floor heating is installed under the slate floors in the mudroom, kitchen, laundry and entry, and creates a gentle heat that radiates up from the warmed floors. The same hot water used for the in-floor system circulates through the coils of the forced air system.

“The forced air system includes steam humidifiers to make the interior of the home more comfortable during the extremely dry winters,” Matt says.

**Above: One end of the main truss separates the dining room from the kitchen. The custom-made ponderosa pine dining room table with a plank top is oversized to seat ten. Curio shelves above the green buffet create extra storage and display space.**

**Left: The double, sloped log beam in the foreground separates the kitchen and family room and mimics the same motif as the larger double truss that spans the entire house. The owners topped their cabinets with granite and chose glass fronts for their upper cabinets. Casual seating is available on wrought iron bar stools.**

### *Playing Up the View*

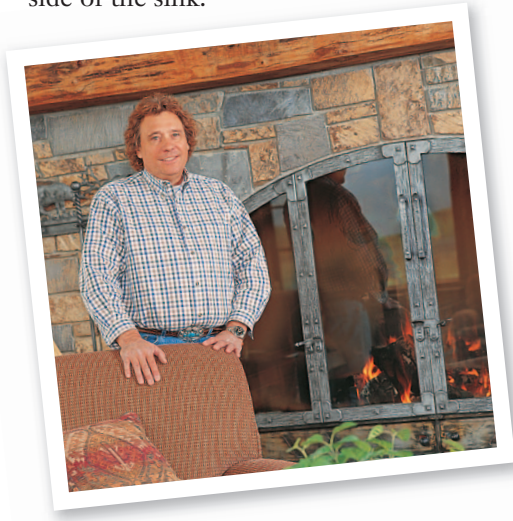
To fully enjoy the view of the Grand Teton Range, John says the home was designed such that the great room, office and master bedroom all have a corner with west- and north-facing glass. The couple can also take in the natural splendor of the outdoors from one of the home’s many exterior living spaces.

A sand-set stone patio provides what Matt calls, “an amazing and unhindered vista of the Teton Range.” A covered deck off of the kitchen features a built-in grill and affords the



couple views of Sleeping Indian Mountain and the Gros Ventre Range.

The owners say they are very cautious about how they spend the precious time they have in Jackson and prefer small intimate dinner parties with just another couple rather than large gatherings. In the kitchen, they included a Sub-Zero refrigerator-freezer, a six-burner Thermador range complete with griddle, and two full-sized dishwashers on either side of the sink.



Decorating the home is a work in progress. Aided by Cass Faller of Burnsville, North Carolina, the couple has added pieces that reflect their own personality. They recently purchased three paintings by Amy Ringholz, a Jackson, Wyoming artist. “We truly wanted this to be our home and not a showcase house,” the wife adds.

Throughout the building process, the owners kept a notebook of pictures of samples of the tile, trim and stain color, and other items they were including in the home. Because they were working long distance and only able to be on site about once a month for the major decisions, this helped them remember what

**Left: Architect Ellis Nunn designed the home to take advantage of mountain views outside and to highlight the timbers inside.**

**Below: The corner whirlpool tub is nestled against a tumbled marble tile installed both on the wall and the floor in the owners’ master bathroom. The windows, with their knotty alder trim, offer an unobstructed view of Sleeping Indian Mountain.**





The couple's master bedroom reflects the neutral color scheme found throughout the home. The bed features tooled leather inlays with an antique finish. The upholstered chair-and-a-half and ottoman provides relaxed seating in front of the bedroom's hearth.

selections they had made.

"We love the home more now than when it was first completed," the wife says. "The home just feels like a part of us now. Even though we are able to be in Jackson only six months out of the year, it feels like we are supposed to be here all of the time." **THI**

#### **RESOURCES**

**Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects;**  
*www.ellisnunnarchitects.com, (307) 733-1779*

**Teton Heritage Builders;**  
*www.tetonheritagebuilders.com,*  
*(307) 733-8771*