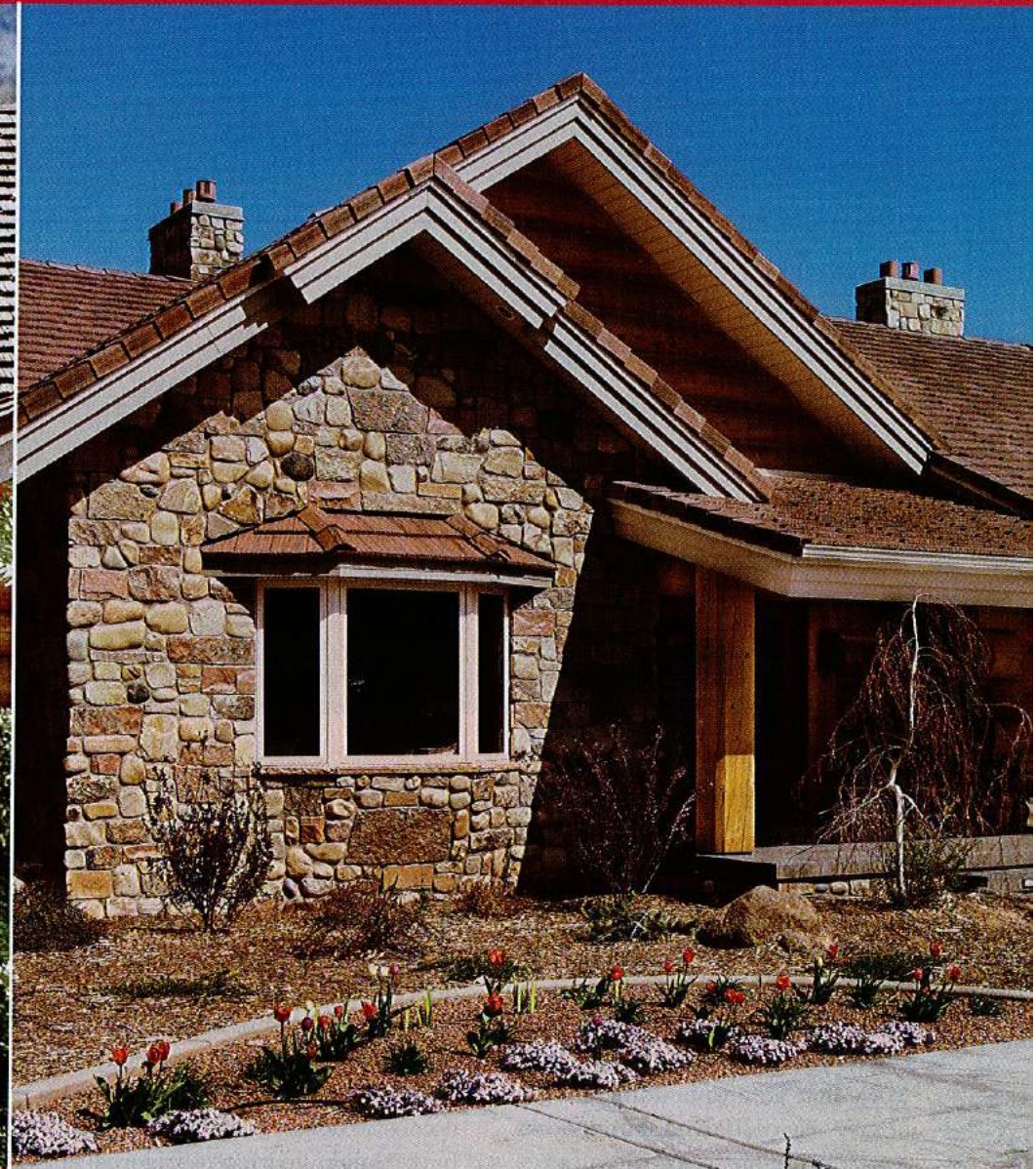


a painted

HOUSE

Sorbet colors transform a Utah log home into a sweet retreat.



WRITTEN BY AMY LAUGHINGHOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY
HOME BY YELLOWSTONE LOG HOMES



When Jeff Hunter first envisioned his log home, he pictured a handsome structure built of massive Engelmann spruce on a serene 10-acre parcel near southern Utah's Cedar Mountains. For him, it was all about the wood—and the craftsmanship. “Now more than ever, I value the skill and hard work that go into building a log home,” says Jeff, who founded his own logging business, Mountain Valley Timber, in 1996.

But Jenni Hunter, Jeff's wife, had a different vision for their

dream home. “When I was growing up, I loved visiting my grandparents' farm,” says Jenni, who remembers how all the beautiful colors came to life in the country-style farmhouse and its surroundings. This was the feeling she wanted to evoke in a log home.

Faced with these seemingly irreconcilable differences in domestic decor, some folks might have high-tailed it to a divorce attorney. Jeff and Jenni headed to an architect instead.

“We both wanted the kind of

place where you walk in, take off your shoes and think, ‘Now *this* is home,’” Jeff says. Armed with a single page from a magazine, the couple met with Robert Mercer of Mercer Architecture in Cedar City, Utah. Five hours later, they walked out with preliminary plans that combined the best of a frontier log home and a painted farmhouse.

Tickled Pink

To accommodate Jenni's passion for pastels, Jeff agreed to incorporate a

considerable amount of painted sheetrock into the log home. “We bought quarts and quarts of colors to try on the walls to see how they looked,” laughs Jeff, who thinks a recent houseguest described it best. “He said our home is like the the Baskin Robbins of color—you get all 31 flavors.”

So Jenni got her sheetrock—and Jeff got his timber. Lots of it. “I pushed the wood to the limit,” admits Jeff, who used logs for several interior walls, as well as the home's perimeter. He hand-selected

immense standing dead spruce with an average diameter of 20 inches and a span of up to 55 feet—a choice Jenni loved, too. “With logs that large, there are fewer chinking joints, which makes for a cleaner, neater look,” she explains.

Finding enough big logs for the Hunter's five-bedroom, four-bath home was no sweat for Yellowstone Log Homes of Rigby, Idaho, which is supplied in part by Mountain Valley Timber. “As far as we know, we've got the nation's largest supply of material in our yard,” says

Under the tutelage of interior designer (and professor) Annie Brudno, design students at Southern Utah University helped select some of the home's furnishings, including this geometric carpet.

Scott Youngstrom, whose grandfather founded Yellowstone Log Homes in 1962.

Log Jam

During construction, the couple moved deliberately slow and steady—visiting the job site regularly over two years and making a few big design changes.

“When a house starts to go up and become three-dimensional,





White and green cabinets, understated lighting, mix-and-match seating and a cozy hearth give this bright kitchen its farmhouse-chic appeal.

clients sometimes see things they want to do a little differently," explains architect Robert Mercer.

The first and most significant change took place shortly after general contractor Larry Pendleton of Larry Pendleton Building Inc. broke ground in October 2000. "We realized the house was going to feel way too big," says Jeff, who asked Robert to remove the second story and move the kids' bedrooms to a daylight basement level.

As Yellowstone and Pendleton stacked the logs, the Hunters made a few more changes, such as vaulting the great room ceiling and adding a covered rear porch supported by log trusses. "Once you start changing the plans, it affects every log, so we had to do a lot of handcrafting on site," Larry says.

As much as Jeff loves natural wood tones and grain, he couldn't help but infuse a little color into the den, which now boasts gray bookshelves and deep green cabinets—a combination the cabinet-maker found symbolic. "He pointed out that these colors represent the life cycle of a forest," says Jeff, who harvests standing dead timber for his logging company. "But, to be honest, I just liked the feel of the colors."

Symphony of Style

One of the home's most unique design elements is the wide arch cut right into a log wall in the great room—creating a sheetrock alcove for the grand piano. Jenni taught all of her children (Tiffany, Scott, Heidi and Brett) to play the

piano, so she wanted it in a central social spot. "But I read someplace that a grand piano in the middle of the room looks like it's waiting for a concerto to be played," she says with a laugh. "So we tucked it back in a little bit."

On the opposite side of this log wall, the sheetrock extends several feet into the master bedroom, forming a lavender accent wall that adds a refreshing dash of color in a room dominated by logs.

In fact, this whole room is a microcosm of compromise. Where else would you find a sheepskin rug snuggled up with a traditional floral runner? "I feel like the home is an excellent blend of log and traditional," Jenni says.



"We both wanted the **kind of place** where you walk in, **take off your shoes** and think, **'Now this is home.'**"

—Jeff Hunter

ABOVE LEFT: A lavender wall in the master bedroom reflects Jenni Hunter's passion for pastels.

THIS PHOTO: The craftsman from Davis Brothers Cabinetmakers liked Jeff's color choices in the den. "The green and gray feel organic, like the life cycle of a forest," he says.



To jumpstart the **paint-selection** process, Annie and Jennie examined the colors in the **Utah sunset.**



HOMESPECS

Square Footage:
7,800

Log Provider:
Yellowstone Log Homes

Architect:
Robert Mercer Architecture

Builder:
Larry Pendleton Building Inc.

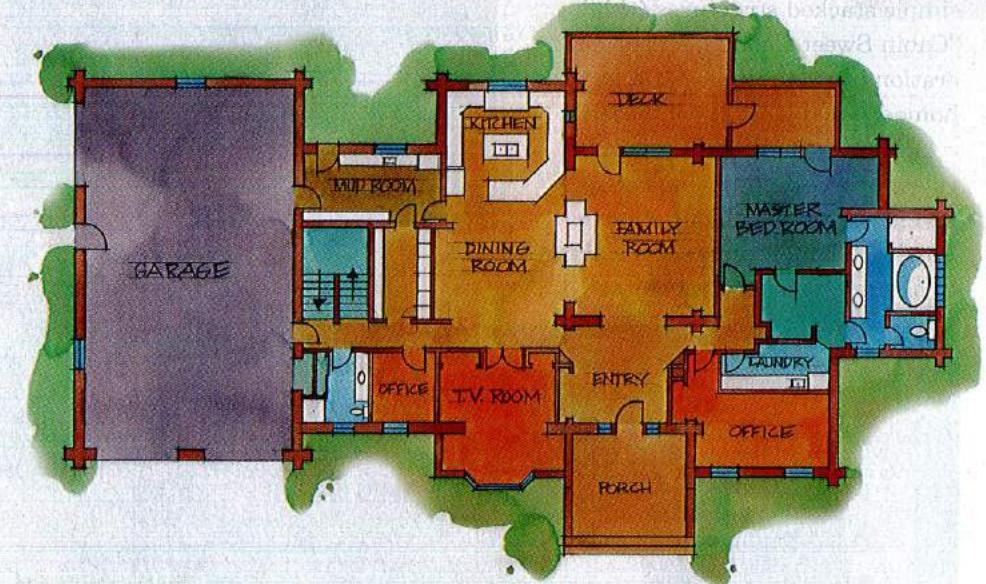
Cabinetry:
Davis Brothers Cabinetmakers

Once the foundation was laid, the couple feared their home would feel too grand—so they switched from a two-story design to a ranch with a daylight basement.

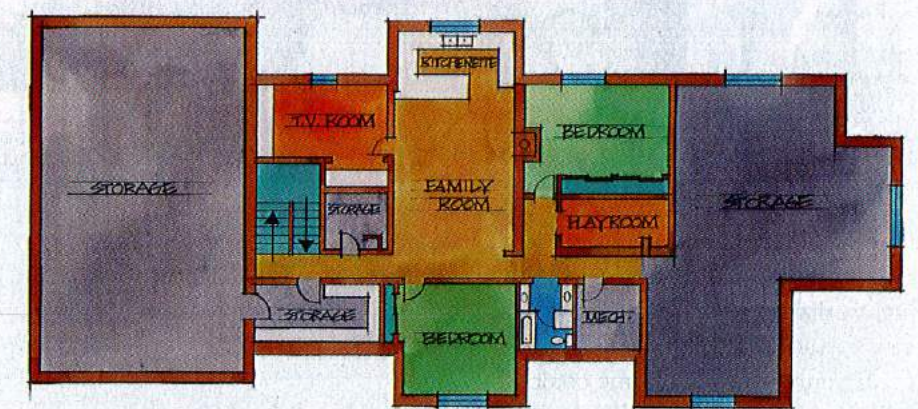


Interior designer Annie Brudno agrees, noting that the home is an equally fine example of no-rules decorating. "We ended up using 20-some colors, but they flow pretty seamlessly because they're all of similar visual weight," says Annie, who owns the Austin, Texas-based firm, Routh & Co., with her designer/architect husband, Ken Routh.

To jumpstart the paint-selection process for other rooms, Annie and Jennie examined the colors in the Utah sunset and even surveyed a jumbo box of Crayola crayons. "I teach my clients to look for inspiration everywhere," says Annie. "You have to go with the colors and accents that sing for you." And what a duet this log home has become. ■



Main level



Basement level