



Luxury Log Homes and Timber Frame - Spring 2004

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A POST & BEAM DREAM

STYLISH TIMBER FRAME
ASSERTS ITS INDIVIDUALITY IN
A TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD.

BY GLORIA GALE PHOTOS BY BILL MATTHEWS STYLING BY GLORIA GALE



To enhance views throughout the home, Bruce Wendlant designed windows that essentially bring the outside in. "Creating a vista with light and glass was a primary objective throughout most of the home."

It's as rare to find a post and beam home in the flatlands as it is to discover a vacant parcel of land hidden in a stylish section of a suburban landscape. "This type of close-in property just doesn't come along very often," acknowledges one Midwest couple, who suddenly found themselves pondering an unexpected move. Morgan and Larry didn't contemplate too long, however, once they saw the lot that would become their future home.

The lush property that backed up to a golf course was perfectly suited to this energetic couple who are avid

players. "We have a second home on the 8 th fairway in Beaver Creek, Colorado, so when we saw this particular piece of property on the 8 th fairway, it was almost too coincidental," says Morgan.

Building from scratch and renovating homes weren't particularly daunting tasks for Larry and Morgan, who happen to have plenty of experience as homeowners. "Between the two of us, we had already rehabbed or built five homes, so this venture wasn't that unusual for us," Says Morgan.

After purchasing the land, the couple seriously considered renovating the 1940s house that already inhabited the 90-by-120-foot lot, but determined the task wouldn't prove cost effective in the long run. "We put our heads together and made the executive decision to tear the house down," agreed the couple.

"When we realized we were going to build, we interviewed five architects until a friend suggested we talk to Bruce Wendlandt, principal of Wendlandt & Stallbaumer.

As they spoke with Wendlandt, the couple finally recognized they had found the person who could interpret their thoughts about building. Morgan and Larry lit up when they realized that their ideas merged beautifully with what Wendlandt had suggested: "casual upscale elegance blended with a touch of rustic ambience."

Content with their choice of architect, the couple contemplated exactly what type of house they wanted to build. "In the fall of 2000, Larry, Morgan, and I walked the property and had a lively exchange of information," said Wendlandt.

"I knew that Morgan and Larry were fond of ruggedly handsome homes of the Colorado mountains, so I asked them to take a look at a post and beam home I had previously designed. The volume and flow of the that house were good examples of the possibilities I could incorporate for them," said Wendlandt.

Right from the beginning, Morgan felt strongly about integrating quality craftsmanship with natural materials. "We believed this might be the last home we would build and we wanted it to have the right combination of architectural integrity and beauty," said Morgan.



ABOVE: Architect Bruce Wendlandt created an efficient yet elegant design to accommodate the restrictive zoning at the suburban building site.

For the next 90 days, the couple continued to gain an understanding of post and beam construction as the architectural shop drawings passed back and forth. Once the plans were approved, construction began in the spring of 2001 and continued for the next 18 months.

The constraints of working within a relatively small lot were a bit of a challenge since the frontage of the lot wasn't very wide.

The other issue was a restrictive zoning ordinance that put a crimp in the plans. When Wendlandt looked at the ordinance, he found that the width of the new structure couldn't exceed

20 percent of the lot. To accommodate the 20 percent rule, the house would have to be designed efficiently so that it would cut under itself at ground contact and thus thrust vertically not horizontally. "We would use what I call sneaky space, like having a basement underneath the front portico," acknowledges Wendlandt.

After Wendlandt had drawn plans that reflected a highly customized design, he met with the homeowners who agreed that post and beam construction was definitely what they had in mind.

Wendlandt asked Matt Smith, who at the time was a dealer with Timberpeg®, to act as general contractor. Shop drawings passed back and forth between Timberpeg®, Morgan and Larry, and myself. During the process, we refined the plans, incorporating various individualized ideas into the overall concept. I wanted

to make the design of the rafters as distinctive as possible. That's why we worked with Timberpeg® to construct the diamond shaped design of the timbers. By utilizing this structural repetition throughout the main level, we integrated character into the home," says Wendlandt.

Richard Neroni, president of Timberpeg®, saw the ingenuity in the design for the couple. "This home was customized to reflect the unique application of timbers," say Neroni.

It was then up to Matt Smith and his crew to translate Wendlandt's plans and Timberpeg®'s materials into reality. "I enjoy working with the timbers," says Smith. "Not everyone knows how to make a home like Bruce planned, but I understood his drawings and how to make the spans work."

BELOW: Texturized stucco with white oak trim and stone veneer deck pilasters add to the rustic beauty and exceptional quality of the home.



Wendlandt's vision was a 5,000-square-foot home arranged over three levels. From the beginning, the exterior of the house was designed to project exceptional quality. Wendlandt comments, "To enhance the rustic beauty of this home, we texturized with stucco and designed heavily scaled front gables emphasized with a white oak trim. We designed 6-inch stone veneers for the front of the house and on the rear deck pilasters. We also used stamped concrete on the front walkway and deck flooring."

Excavation began once the lot was graded and prepared. A concrete foundation was poured for the future five-bedroom, four-bathroom house and the site was readied for framing.



ABOVE: Wendlandt designed this home with few hallways. This promotes a casual yet functional space with little intrusion from unnecessary walls.

With cranes and a seven-man crew, Smith began assembling the massive timbers. Once the mortised and pegged beams had been cut at a Timberpeg®'s factory, they were shipped directly to the home site. "It was rather amusing," says Morgan. "Since we back up to the golf course, golfers would stand there and ponder the huge tinkertoy-like configuration as it was being built.

Steadily the home grew as walls and roof were added. At that point, every beam was pegged and tightened.

Because the beams were shipped as relatively smooth, clearcut wood, they were sanded before being stained a rich chestnut brown.

I had gotten a call from a gentleman in St. Louis who mentioned I should take a look at an old warehouse filled with reclaimed timbers," say Smith. "A limited amount of wood existed, so I purchased it, thinking the timbers would work nicely in the home's lower level."

Once Morgan saw the timbers, she determined that she liked the distressed look better than the smooth finish. Carey Vannostrom, Morgan's painter, was called in to finish the surface texturing of the new wood. Vannostrom's work yielded timbers with the look of reclaimed barn wood.

The result of Wendlandt's structural plan and Smith's construction expertise was an impressively designed post and beam home that presents itself in grand fashion.

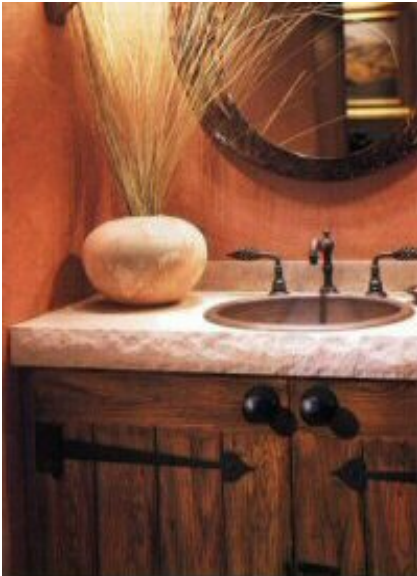
As you enter the limestone-tiled foyer through the solid paneled front door, the 2,030-square-foot main level opens up dramatically. By combining the kitchen, living room, and dining room, the home is unabashedly designed for family gatherings and comfortable entertainment. Essentially, the ease of having this very open plan allows for maximum interaction between friends and family," says Wendlandt.

BELOW: A completely modern kitchen boasts all gas appliances elegantly integrated into the overall design.



The design of these three areas, vaulted and spanned with massive timbers, is anchored with bold furnishings that are elegantly up-scale and appropriately sized.

"To maximize the abundance of natural light, Bruce designed huge windows with a striking 21-foot vault on the main level," said Morgan. The majority of the rooms—from the master bedroom through the living and



ABOVE: The sleek master bath is steeped in luxury. Granite, limestone, glass, and wood all blend seamlessly for maximum efficiency.

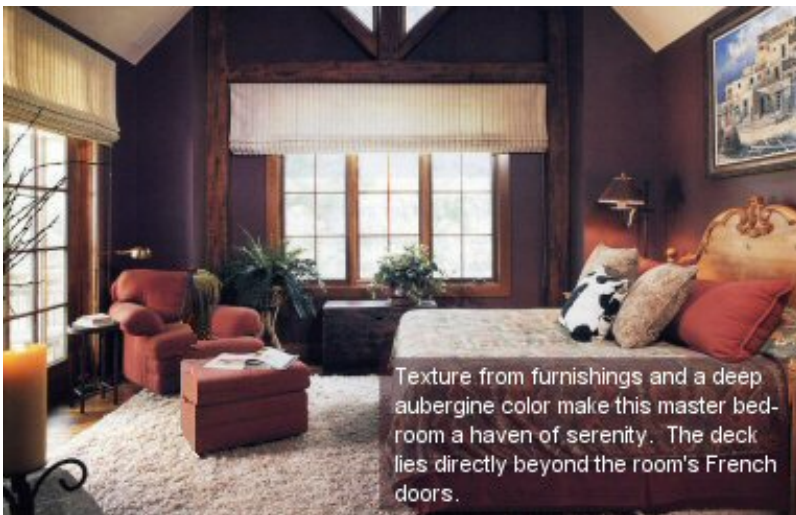
dining rooms—have the advantage of huge diamond-shaped windows. This wood-framed diamond design is then echoed in the beamed expanses.

Throughout the home, Morgan's suggestion to add quality details is evident.

Underscoring most rooms are oak floors tailored in 5-inch random-length planks. On each of the home's three levels, walls have an ivory plaster finish that has been heavily textured then polished flat.

This attention to detail continues with a variety of natural materials at nearly every turn. For example, the handsome natural-cut quarry stone façade of the fireplace/entertainment unit in the living room is an eye-catching focal point, as is the powder room's creatively designed vanity surrounded by a 3-inch-thick slab of limestone. There's even a granite-topped niche nestled into a hallway that Morgan and son Jordan use as a workstation.

Making sure the kitchen combines form and function, a granite island acts as both a workspace and breakfast bar. Morgan highlighted the oak and alderwood cabinets with a distressed and glazed finish. The cabinetry is complemented by granite countertops surrounding the island. A built-in range on an interior wall is efficiently placed across from the island. Overall, the appearance of this kitchen is reminiscent of a European chalet, although it is thoroughly modern in operation.



Texture from furnishings and a deep aubergine color make this master bedroom a haven of serenity. The deck lies directly beyond the room's French doors.

When the family isn't entertaining, they're enjoying their home's livability. Larry may be working in his third-floor office while son Jordan is busily entertaining friends in his room on the lower level. It's advisable to catch Morgan bright and early as she could be planning a dinner for friends or about to slip out for a few holes of golf.

In retrospect, Morgan and Larry agree, "We treated this building experience as a team effort. On the whole, things proceeded to completion remarkably smoothly. This house has it all; we are thrilled with the location and thrilled with the house."

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