

The home incorporates 6-by-8-inch, D-style white pine logs atop a Pennsylvania fieldstone base and topped by a shingle roof to form the exterior of the lower level. The home is located on a wilderness lake between the North Carolina and Virginia borders and allows the owners a rural lifestyle for their semi-retirement years.

# Lakeside Living

A North Carolina couple builds their retirement home

Story by Teresa L. Wolff • Photos by Roger Wade • Styling by Debra Grahl

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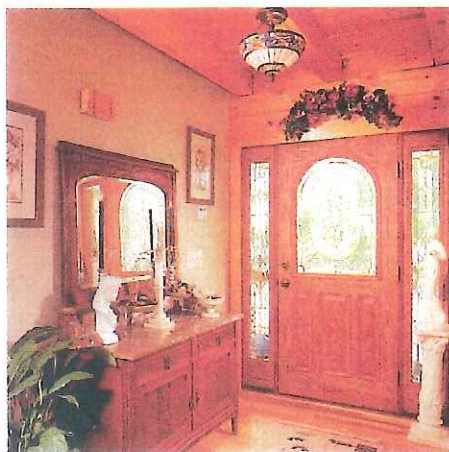




**A**fter living in the Washington, D.C., area for more years than they really wanted to, Tom and Letha Anderson finally had the opportunity for semi-retirement and to leave the congestion of the city behind. Their dream of a more rural life—the kind that Letha grew up with in West Virginia and Tom in Ohio—became a reality at Kerr Lake in North Carolina's Vance County.

Built for flood control, the 50,000-acre water impound wilderness lake boasts 850 miles of shoreline and is located on the border between North Carolina and Virginia. The Andersons were able to acquire a 4-acre plot with access to a significant amount of adjacent government property.

A log home seemed appropriate for the setting. "If I could have had my way, we would have built a one room log cabin. We just wanted a very basic floor plan," Letha says. "However, because we planned for our daughter and my brother to visit occasionally, we expanded the size to



**Above:** Kuhn's Bros.' designers modified one of the company's standard plans by extending the upper-level dormers through to the rear of the home, making the front and back main and upper levels mirror images. The main living spaces, one of the bedrooms, the walkout basement and the rear deck enjoy a view of Kerr Lake, less than 150 feet from the house.

**Left:** Entry into the Anderson home is through this Thermo-Tru door with matching leaded glass sidelights. An antique mahogany sideboard with brown marble top fits smoothly against one of the interior walls, which is finished with textured and painted Sheetrock.

meet the minimum needed to entertain on a small scale."

Tom and Letha selected Kuhn's Bros. Log Homes of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, as their log producer and worked with one of the company's sales representatives in North Carolina: NC Model Home Village of Mebane. After searching through numerous log-home designs, the couple found a floor plan from another company that fit their ideas. They showed it to Kuhn's Bros., whose architects turned it into a design Tom and Letha liked.

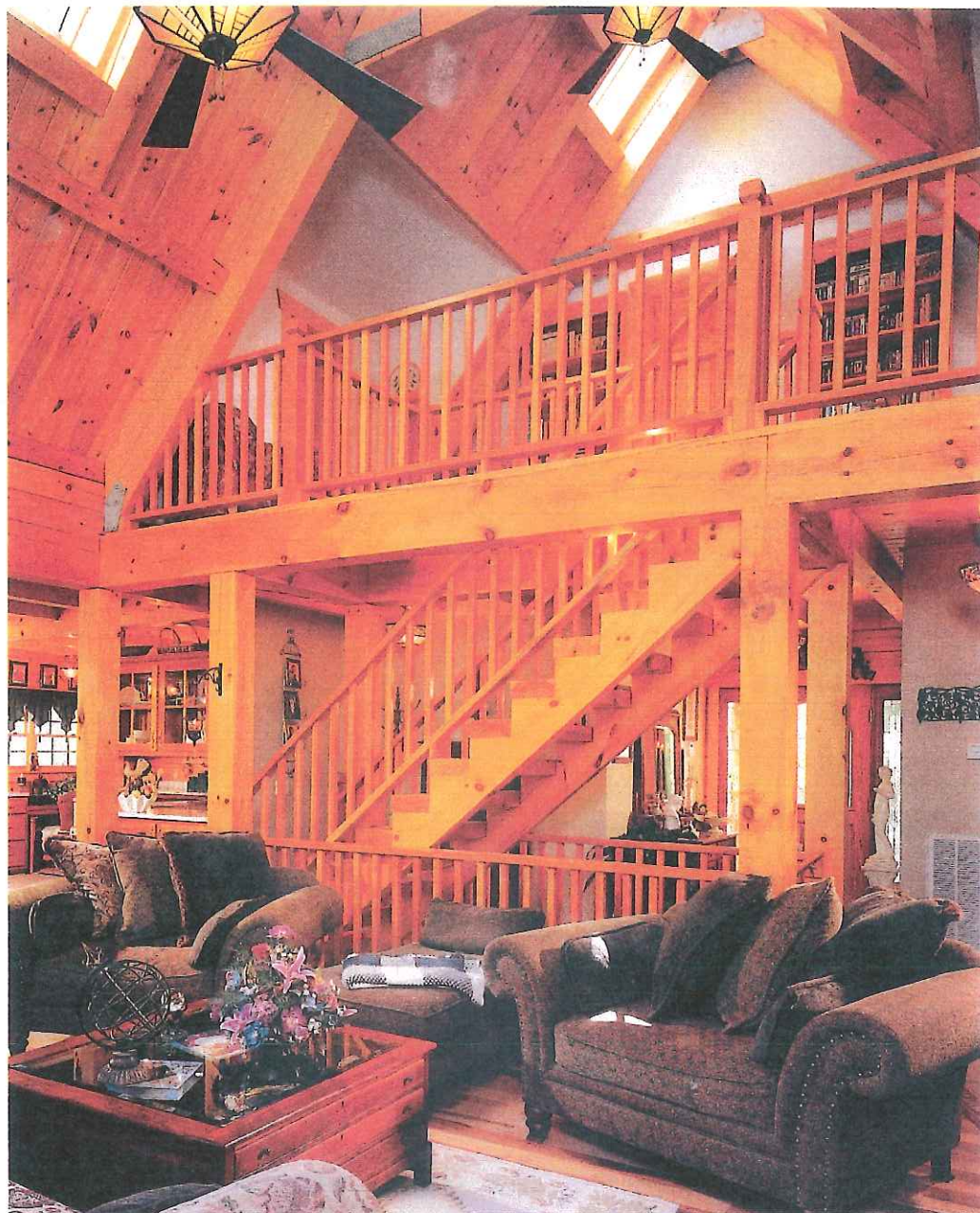






**Previous:** Kuhn's Bros. employs a beam and purlin roof. The ceiling is finished with 1-by-8-inch tongue-and-groove white pine. Tom and Letha added half-moon and rectangular accent windows over the patio doors to brighten the great room and enhance their view of Kerr Lake. The Pennsylvania fieldstone fireplace has a gas insert but can be wood burning.

**Right:** Robert Parker constructed the red cedar staircase leading to the loft overlooking the great room, while Ned Series completed most of the finishing carpentry. The entry to the second story bath was placed between built-in bookcases in the loft, with the two dormer bedrooms on either end. Skylights and Mission-style Tiffany ceiling lights by Hunter provide both natural and artificial illumination.



For the logs, the Andersons chose Kuhns Bros.' 6-by-8-inch white pine logs, kiln dried and milled to a "D" profile—flat on the inside, rounded outside. Although Letha loved the log look, she specified that the interior partition walls be finished with Sheetrock and textured to brighten the rooms. Additionally, four skylights, two in the great room and two in the loft, highlight the interior. "On winter days, you can feel the warmth from those skylights," Tom adds.

Besides the great room, the main level of the 3,400-square-foot home comprises the master bedroom suite with bath and walk-in closet, a family room, kitchen-dining room, pantry and powder room. Hickory flooring was installed in the first-floor living areas with Italian tile in the kitchen and baths.

The upper level contains two large bedrooms, one bath and a small study-sitting room. One of the major design

modifications to the standard plan that the couple used as their starting point was having solid logs extend the dormers in the bedrooms the entire width of the home. This feature not only increased the square footage of both of the bedrooms, but also allows guests a view of the lake. On this level, the Andersons opted for yellow pine flooring as it both accented the white pine walls and gave a more rustic look.

"Because of the high water table, most of the homes around the lake don't have basements," Tom says. "Since we built on the hillside, we were able to include the lower level, a walk-out basement opening on the lake side, a mere 150 feet away."

The floor plan of the lower level is essentially identical to the main level with the exception of the two-car garage area. It includes a workshop, workout room and pool table room. Instead of the traditional block and mortar generally









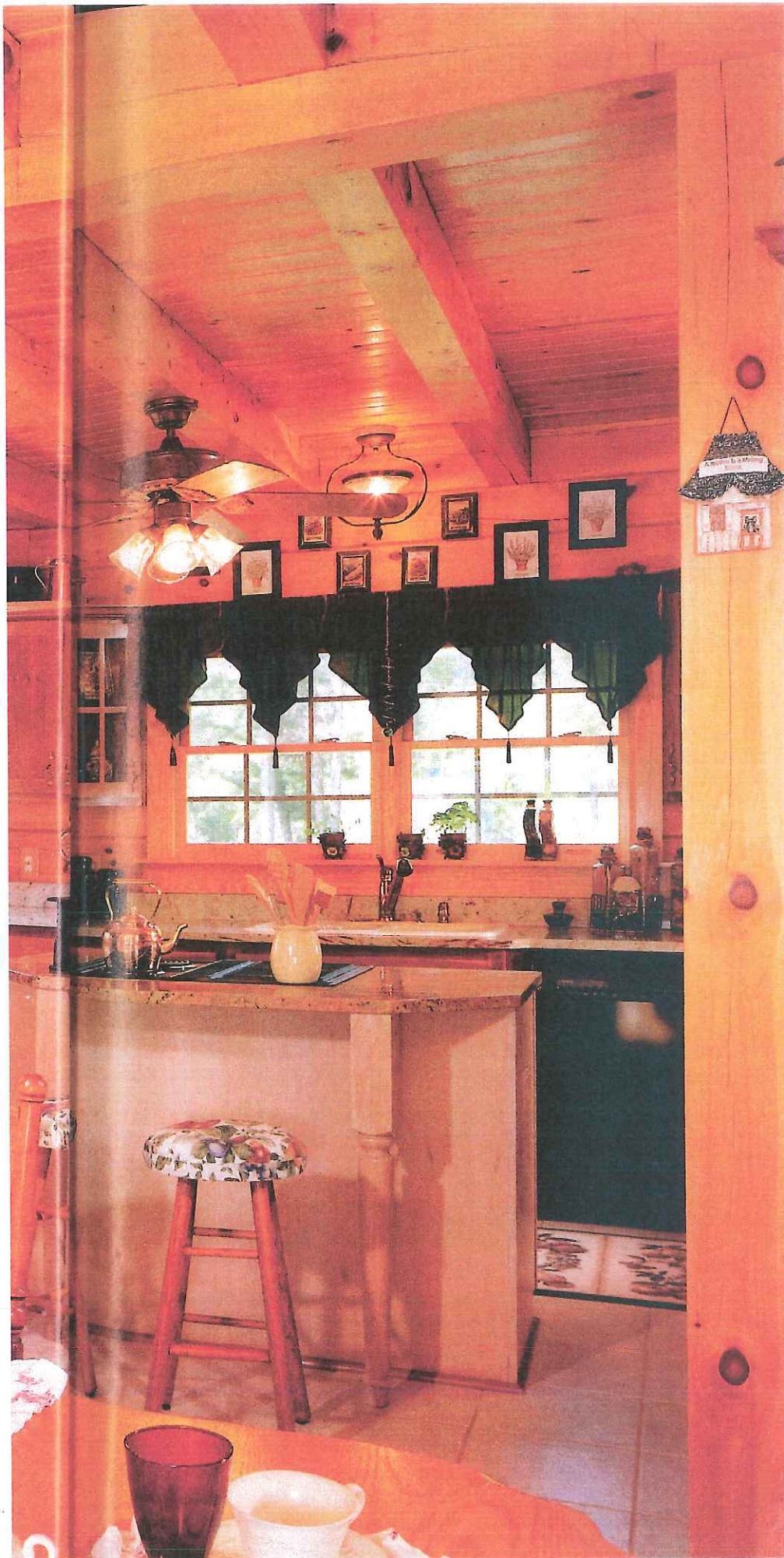
times the number of projects as he usually handled."

The builder promised the home would be completed in six months, but it actually dragged out for almost a year. Because the Andersons had planned their move from their city home to the rural area at the six-month mark, they ended up living in a neighbor's home. The last month, even though the home still wasn't finished, they moved in and camped out in the living room. "We ended up being at the site every day and did the clean up work, as the subcontractors didn't keep it as clean as we would

have liked," Tom says. "Though Kuhn's Bros. does not require you use one of their approved builders, my advice is always go with a builder you feel comfortable with and find a lending institution that will work with you on that very important detail."

The couple relates they really didn't intend to be involved in the actual hands-on piece of the project. However, in addition to the clean-up work, they also did all of their own landscaping, including the retaining walls, garden and some of the insulation and stonework.





used to construct basements, the home incorporates a poured concrete wall, which Tom believes is better insulated and stays warmer and drier.

Harris Bros. Masonry of Norlina, North Carolina, built the home's two fireplaces from Pennsylvania field-stone. Both the fireplaces and the chimneys in the great room and the pool table room are designed to be wood burning, but, for the time being, the Andersons installed propane-fueled gas logs.

**Solid logs extend the dormers in the bedrooms the entire width of the home.**

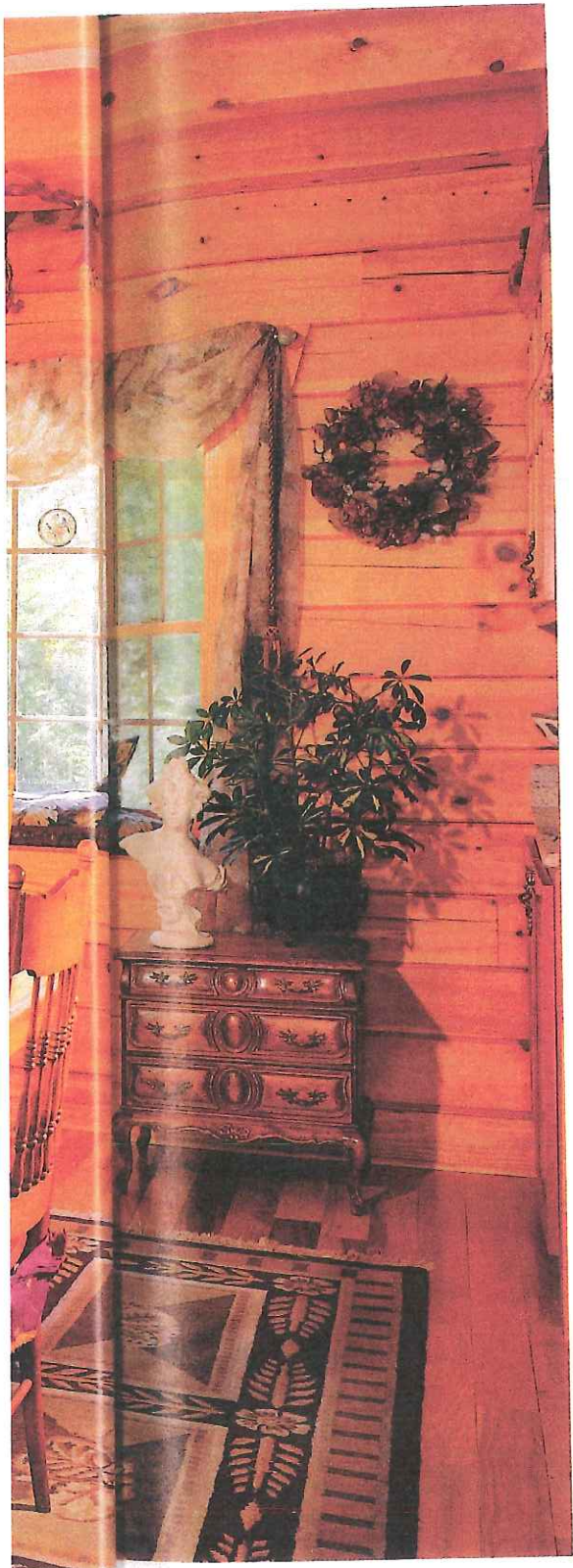
The home is equipped with electric heat with propane backup that kicks on if the exterior temperature falls below 32 degrees F. Because ice storms in the region can cause power outages, such as the five-day one the couple experienced last winter, the home also has a reserve propane powered generator.

Letha describes her decorating style as casual and relates that she was able to incorporate many pieces from their former, more traditional style home. As she continues finding more new furniture, her plan is to select those with more of a rustic look.

For the most part, the log home came together as the Andersons planned. "The only snag in the project was the selection of a builder." Tom explains. "We really didn't have control over whom we could hire. The bank told us they wouldn't approve our loan if we didn't use the builder they recommended as this particular one had a reputation for completing quality projects. However, by the time he began our home, he was involved in almost three

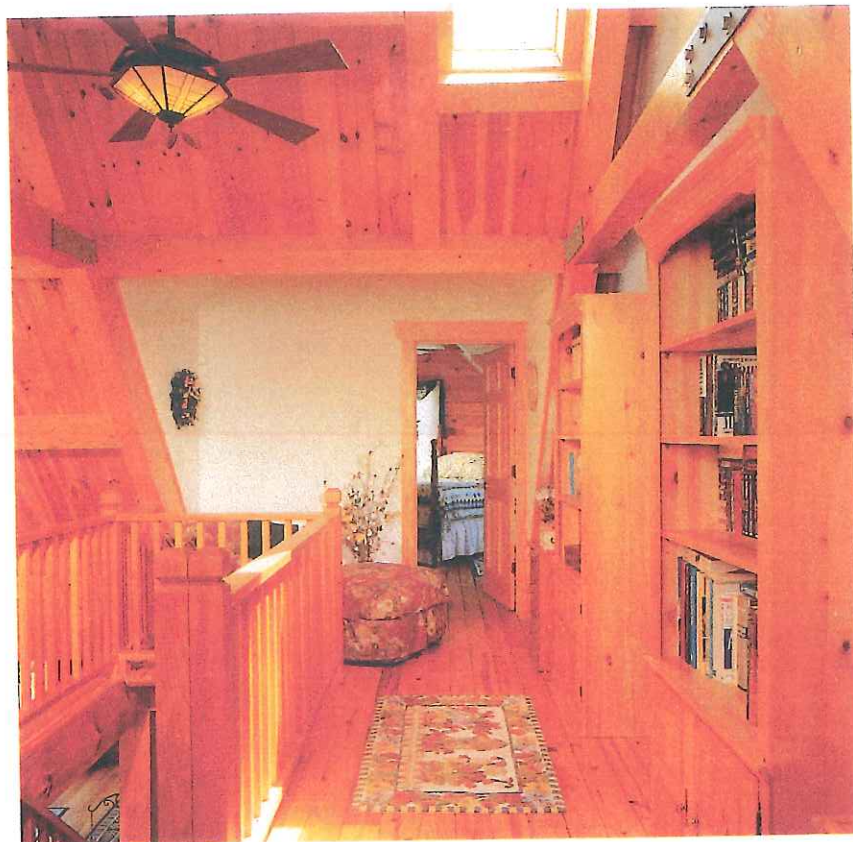
**Left: A cozy two-seat breakfast bar with granite top provides a relaxing place to enjoy informal meals in the kitchen. All of the cabinetry is custom made from natural cherry wood by Wood Butchers II in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. The built-in, glass-front cabinets on the dining room sides of the framed entryway offer additional storage space for china and glassware.**





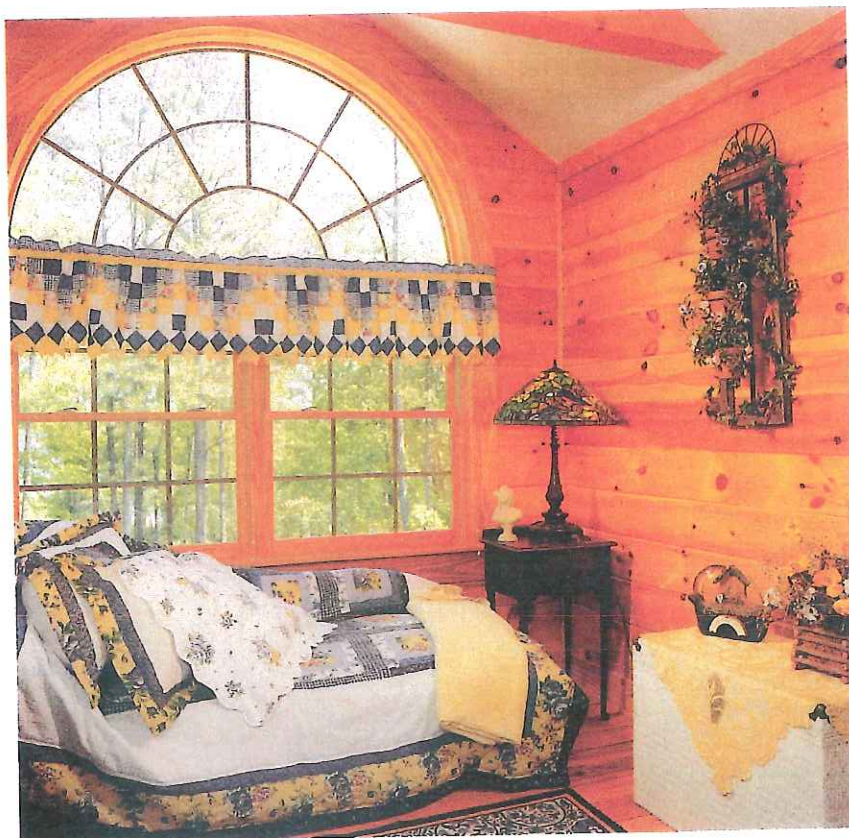
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**Above:** An oak table and wheat sheath-backed chairs sit atop a wool rug and keep company with an antique oak wash stand in the Andersons' dining room. Letha selected Croscill scarf valances for window treatments above the windows and patio doors. The D-style logs provide a smooth surface, allowing a variety of decorating options.

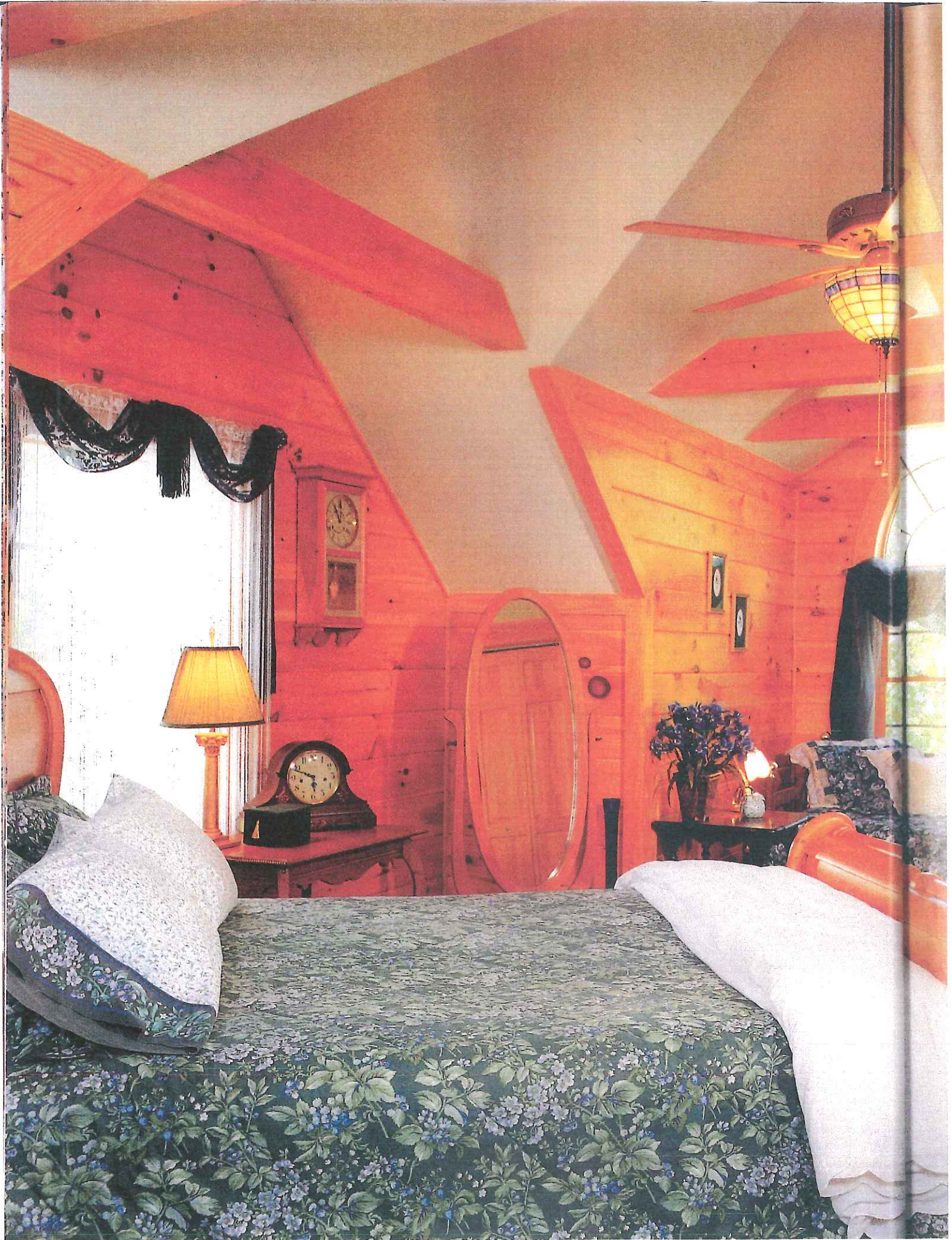


**Above:** One of the home's four skylights naturally lightens the loft bookcases. Drywall forms the interior wall between the study area and dormer guest bedrooms, which are located on either end of the walkway. Robert Parker built the red cedar staircase railings. An added plus is the plentiful storage space in the nooks among the loft and dormers.

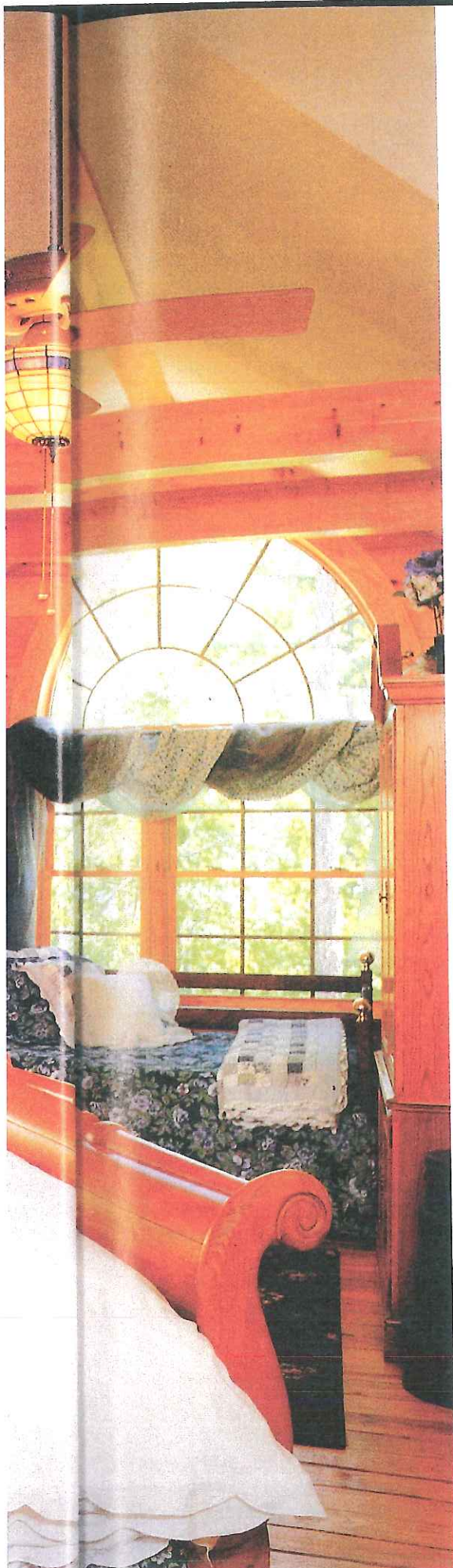
**Below:** The gable ends of the guestrooms are 9 feet wide, allowing more than adequate space for this day bed to nestle beneath half-moon accent windows. Letha selected old-fashioned quilts and string curtains to add rustic charm.











Kerr Lake is home to a wide variety of wildlife, such as blue heron and ducks, which find shelter and food among the many native trees, including oak, maple, dogwoods and birch, on the Andersons' acreage. To complement the natural surroundings, Letha planned the landscaping to fit with the contour of the land, and added shrubs and a stone path between the lower level patio and outdoor swimming pool. They built a 9-by-12-foot pergola, which is covered with climbing roses and is the perfect place to sit in the swing and view the lake. A man-made pond rounds off the exterior of the home.

Now that their home is complete, the Andersons are looking toward the future and the possibility of opening a log combination bait &

tackle and general store. They currently are working with Kuhn's Bros. on the design. "We like Kuhn's Bros. so much, that we have listed ourselves as a contact for the company. Anyone interested in seeing the type of craftsmanship that goes into a Kuhn's Bros. Log Home is welcome to come and view ours," Tom reports. "Now that we are in our home and have seen the sun come up over the lake, we feel we are almost in heaven." **LHI**

#### RESOURCES

**Log Producer:** Kuhns Bros.  
Log Homes, 390 Swartz Road,  
Lewisburg PA 17837,  
(800) 326-9614.  
E-mail: [kblh@kuhnsbros.com](mailto:kblh@kuhnsbros.com).  
Website: [www.kuhnsbros.com](http://www.kuhnsbros.com).

**Left:** The combination of drywall and D-profile logs forms a geometric design in one of the dormer ends in the loft guestroom. The exposed collar ties and decorative ceiling beam add to the room's architectural interest. Both ends of the dormers are finished identically with accent windows, providing a view of Kerr Lake on one side and the wooded landscape on the other.

**Below:** Just by stepping through the patio doors leading from the master bedroom to the rear deck, the couple can enjoy a view of Kerr Lake in North Carolina. The Nadika chest by Lexington came with the family from their more traditional home in Washington, D.C. The window treatments are more for style than privacy in this rather secluded woodland home.

