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Big Logs Suit



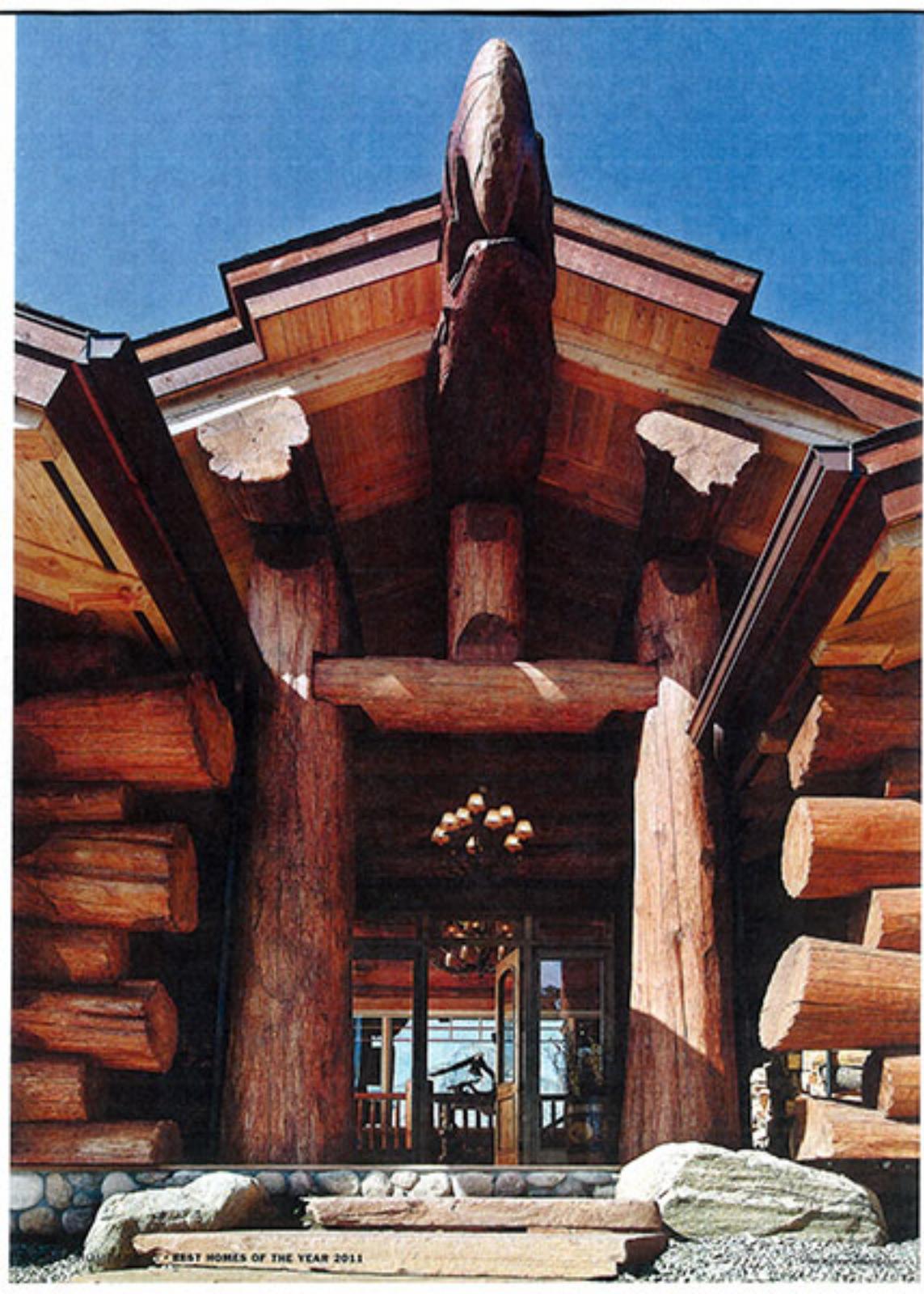
Big, handcrafted logs create a dramatic setting in the kitchen, where the owners eliminated some upper cabinets to make room for a picture window with a view of Wilson Peak in Montana's Madison Range. The prominent kitchen island is built of distressed pecan and topped by a thick log slab.

Big Sky Country

*A roomy retreat is designed for bold looks
on the outside and openness inside.*

PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE







People planning their log home sometimes forget that walls do more than just enclose square footage; they also constitute it. The owners of this handcrafted showplace in Montana preferred a smallish home but insisted on building with western red cedar logs as large as three feet in diameter. The designers at Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia, which supplied the logs, informed the owners that to keep the home from looking like a tunnel, they had two choices: a bigger place or smaller logs. They

bumped it up to 4,000 square feet so they could keep the big logs.

The outside still looks like a fortress because the flared butts of the wall logs jut out to form irregular corners. Inside, the logs are more even.

The roomy retreat embraces openness on the main level, which is divided into the great room to the left of the entry and, on the right, a spacious master suite with a bedroom fireplace and its own deck, featuring a hot tub. The only interior doors are the ornately carved ones to the master

OPPOSITE: Fluted western red cedar logs frame the front door and support the roof overhangs that protect the logs from the sun, which is a harsh constant at the home's 8,500-foot elevation. A massive carved eagle's head tops the logs.

ABOVE: A prominent American bison head graces the faux-stone fireplace in the great room. A western red cedar log forms the mantel, while a slab of Colorado red stone is the ideal hearth bench. The matching leather chairs and ottomans are not only comfortable, but also big enough to match the scale of the logs and the fireplace.



RIGHT: In the foyer, a pebble stone border around the travertine tile creates a floor that looks like an area rug. The raised ceiling keeps the space from seeming confined by the big logs.

LEFT: The carved archway in the master bedroom leads to the master bath. The owners wanted as much openness as possible, so they avoided interior doors.

suite, one separating the commode from the rest of the master bath and another for the half-bath off the kitchen. "Otherwise," the homeowner notes, "we were able to delineate spaces by extending the logs slightly to create demarcation points."

Perched on a 20-acre site at 8,500 feet elevation amid Montana's soaring Gallatin and Madison mountain ranges, the home enjoys panoramic views, thanks to picture windows and roomy decks. Wide roof overhangs protect the wall logs from harsh sunlight. But the logs aren't all about function. In addition to their grandeur, they display touches of artistry. The entry columns, for example, use a shouldered mortise to hold the fluted beam and intersecting post that supports a giant carving of an eagle's head.

home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 4,000

LOG PROVIDER: Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia

BUILDER: Blue Ribbon Builders



