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All in the Family

A secluded North Carolina log home is an open and inviting retreat where family gatherings begin and happiness reigns.

story by Billy Fox | photography by Rick Lee

The front view of Pete and Becky Perniciaro's home highlights the circular rock wall that borders the driveway. The expansive porch was designed to accommodate large gatherings of family and friends.



The great room's three sets of French doors open to the deck and yield unobstructed views of the water. Peaked ceilings mix log, timber and drywall to enhance the windows and lighting.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The dining area features a custom walnut table with inlaid granite, which seats four to six—ideal for intimate dinner parties.

A handcrafted oak-and-wrought-iron staircase curves down to the foyer and creates a spot for a console table and a couple of armchairs.

The "White Family" (Snow, Lilly and their kids, Ron, Bright and Vanna) calls the Perniciaros' pond home.

Pete and Becky Perniciaro's log home offers all the privacy anyone could want. It's surrounded by forested land that's home to deer, turkey, foxes and other critters, and the immediate grounds boast thousands of hostas and hundreds of azaleas. But while this Spring Hope, North Carolina, home is secluded, it's far from reclusive—rather, it entices family and friends from all over the country to visit again and again.

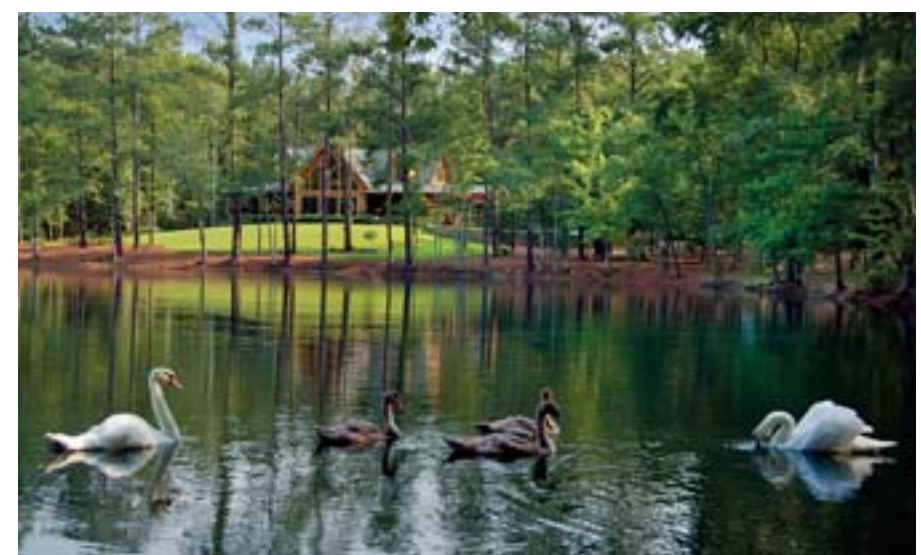
"Becky's parents always provided the gathering place on holidays and other special occasions, and we wanted our home to extend this tradition," Pete says. "On Thanksgiving, Christmas and birthdays, we've had as many as 100 guests in our home."

Pete, who is the vice president of sales for Harvatek International (an LED producer), and Becky, a retired assistant attorney general for North Carolina, knew

they would build a home on the 22 acres of rural land they inherited from her parents. And they knew it would be log: "We were most impressed with the thermal mass and large, open spaces of our friend's log home," notes Pete. Finding a log company

was simple after they struck up a friendship with the local dealer for Appalachian Log Structures, which ultimately supplied the Eastern white pine logs.

For the floor plan, every detail was conceived to accommodate the Perniciaros'





CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE: The kitchen—where everyone loves to congregate during get-togethers—has a sophisticated edge thanks to custom cabinetry with a cranberry-cabinet lacquer and absolute-black granite counters.

The rustic master bedroom opens onto a private screened-in porch—the perfect spot to enjoy a morning cup of coffee.

After a day spent cutting firewood or doing yard work, the Japanese-style onsen soaking tub is the place to unwind.



epic gatherings. The couple started with a standard plan from Appalachian, but once the tweaking and customizing were complete, they ended up with a new design all their own, which is now offered in Appalachian's standard catalog as the Spring Hope model. Open spaces are the rule, and interior sightlines flow without obstruction between rooms. Ceilings begin at 12 feet, and even the finished basement has clear spans with no posts to obscure views. Also accommodating large gatherings is the wide porch that wraps around three sides of the home and allows guests to feel like they're outdoors while still keeping them protected from the elements. (As a bonus, it also shields the exterior logs to reduce maintenance concerns.)

The great room more than lives up to its name, with Western hemlock beams supporting a 35-foot ceiling. "If we're going to have a great room, it needs to be truly *great*," insisted Becky from the outset. This central space is fronted by a massive span of low-E glass that offers views of the 4-acre pond populated with swans, ducks and game fish. The triangular glass is capped by a distinctive diamond-shaped window, a decorative motif that's repeated in the porcelain tile on the main level. The

Just Ducky

The Perniciaros' spirit of hospitality extends to furry and feathered friends, too. Even though Pete and Becky love skeet and target shooting, they're not hunters, and Becky is dedicated to animal adoption and rehabilitation. Wild animals and songbirds roam about, pet swans pester for treats, and mixed-breed dogs Sammy, Jake and Buster enjoy a cozy home in the basement kennel. But the most remarkable critters are the flock of mallard ducks. One Easter Sunday, one of the dogs appeared with an egg cradled in its mouth. The Perniciaros placed it in an incubator, and on Mother's Day, Lucky Duck was born. She stayed until reaching maturity, flew around the pond a few times as if to say farewell, then headed off for unknown adventures. A year later she returned (she'd been banded) with a mate. Mr. and Mrs. Duck still like to travel, but always pay a visit each year, bringing with them a whole flock of lucky ducks to frolic in the Perniciaros' pond. —B.F.



One of the master suites includes a large dormer and drawers built into the half wall.

home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 6,000

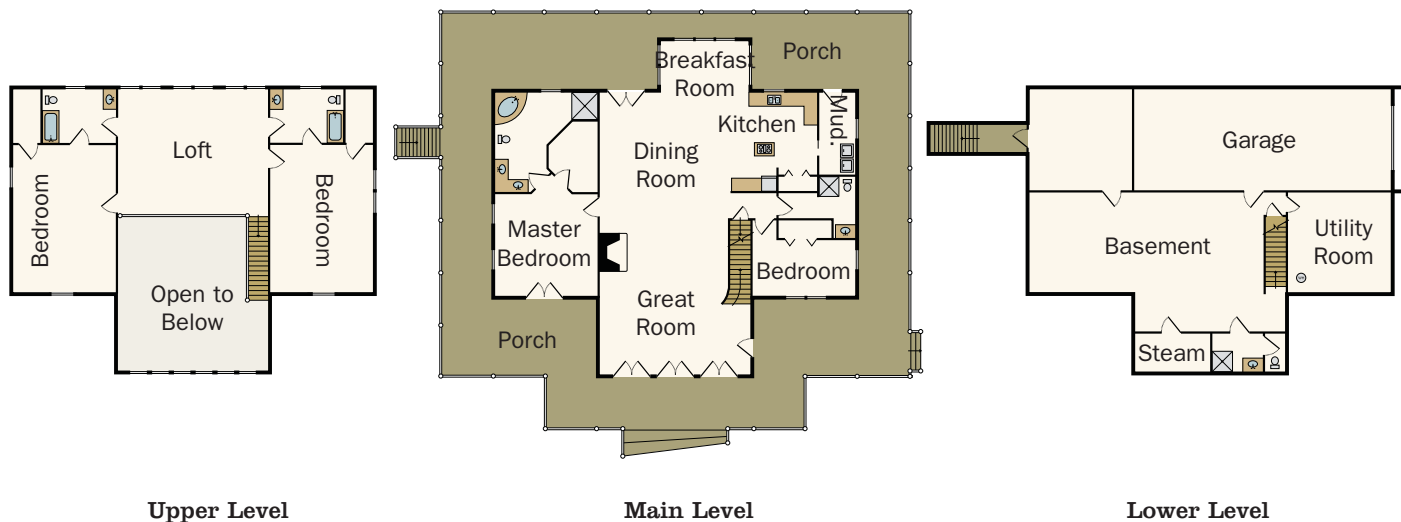
LOG COMPANY: APPALACHIAN LOG STRUCTURES

angular lines of the windows are offset by a curving oak staircase and balcony with wrought-iron railings.

Attention to detail is also evident in home's engineering elements, such as the geothermal heat pump that services all of the home's heating and cooling needs, electrical meters positioned away from the house to preserve the integrity of the exterior logs, and a safe room in the basement that's able to withstand the collapse of the

house—eastern North Carolina suffers more than its share of hurricanes—but also comfortable enough to accommodate overnight guests.

By lavishing meticulous care upon every facet of their design, the Perniciaros achieved their vision of a home that promises to welcome family and friends for years to come...and perhaps inspire guests to create their own nurturing traditions. 🏡

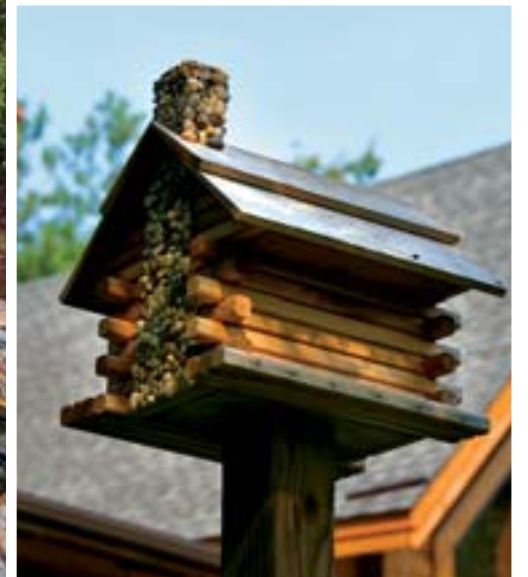


Upper Level

Main Level

Lower Level

design details



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

The backyard koi pond and waterfall add to the tranquility of the home's surroundings; a birdhouse made of logs is the ultimate in architectural consistency; the covered dining area on one side of the wraparound porch is equally suited to summer dinner parties and winter oyster roasts; the state-of-the-art mechanical room is the home's green-technology center, controlling the geothermal heat pump, solar hot water system, electrical monitor and control systems, and standby generator.

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