

THIS PAGE: Timber posts grounded by a stone foundation on the back patio create a look in keeping with the home's mountain locale.

OPPOSITE: Joyce Oster went for a simple, sophisticated interior in order to showcase the home's views and structural timbers as artistic elements.

Art By NATURE



HOME OF THE MONTH

WHY WE LOVE IT:

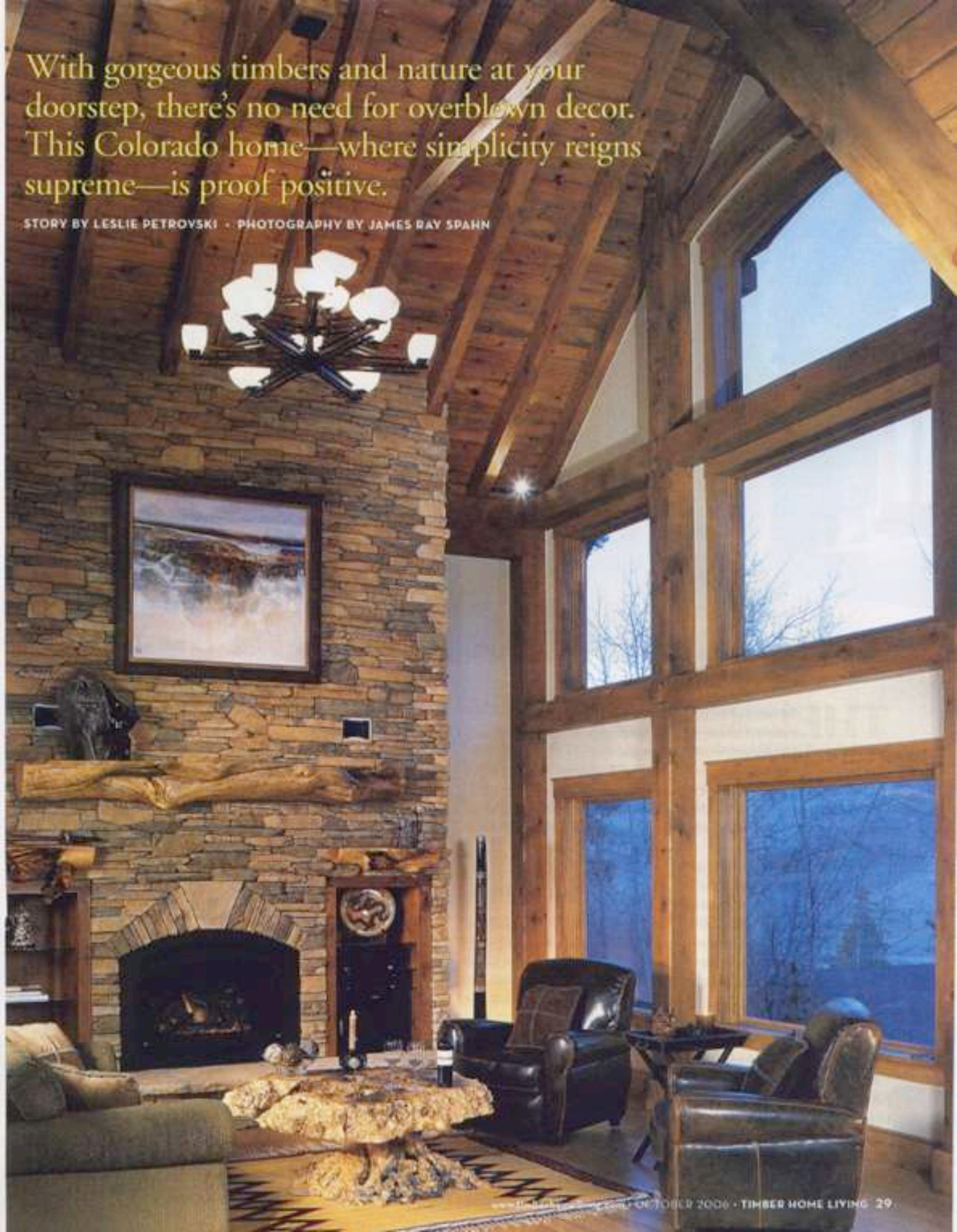
When it comes to design in timber homes, all too often we see a heavy reliance on trusses, posts and beams. For this home, the wood work is center stage, but the trimmings don't fade into the background. Rather, they assert themselves through luxurious feature and the muted shades of nature.

FAVORITE FEATURE:

The trusses. Okay, so maybe this seems too obvious. But once you take a look at the rhythm of the honey-combed white pine high in the ceiling (p. 56), you'll forgive us for being so banal.

With gorgeous timbers and nature at your doorstep, there's no need for overblown decor. This Colorado home—where simplicity reigns supreme—is proof positive.

STORY BY LESLIE PETROVSKI • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES RAY SPAHN





ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: Wrought-iron balusters and an open-to-below staircase make for open viewing throughout the house. These artful design elements certainly don't take a backseat to the timbers, though it's clear that the rhythmic truss system (and view beyond) are the stars of this show.

THE decision to build a second home is usually based on a lifelong dream of at least one party involved. In the case of John Caserta and Joyce Oster's game-time decision, the Federal Reserve Chairman was the driving force.

"Things weren't going to get any cheaper," John says of their choice to build their Rocky Mountain dream home in 2004 rather than 2006. "It's not very romantic," agrees his wife Joyce, "but interest rates had a lot to do with it."

The house in question is a 3,800-square-foot timber home tucked into a cul-de-sac at the Three Peaks golf community in Silverthorne, Colorado. Abutting the Eagle's Nest Wilderness Area, the back of the house opens onto the forest and show-

cases soaring views of three rugged peaks of the Gore Range—Buffalo Mountain, Red Peak and Willow Peak. "I kept envisioning myself at that kitchen window chopping vegetables and looking out at those mountains," Joyce says.

Inspiration Points

The couple lives full-time in Wichita, Kansas, where Joyce is a radiologist and John runs a marketing business, that has him traveling all over the world; they have two teenage daughters who live at home. For years, the family has visited Silverthorne to ski and take advantage of John's condo there, a predominately "male" retreat that Joyce reports is littered with hunting trophies. In building this home where they will eventually

live year round, the couple wanted to strike the perfect balance between traditional western style and the Craftsman touch of Frank Lloyd Wright. The dramatic post-and-beam Raven Golf clubhouse at Three Peaks impressed them, so they sought out the same builder.

With a distributor in nearby Dillon, the Gormley, Ontario-based Normerica Authentic Timber Frame Homes made for a serendipitous choice. Not only had the company built the Raven's breathtaking clubhouse, John and Joyce also felt at home with Normerica's services and flexibility. Over the course of a year, the couple worked with Jeff Bowes, Colorado business development manager, to refine and adjust the design of one of the company's model homes.

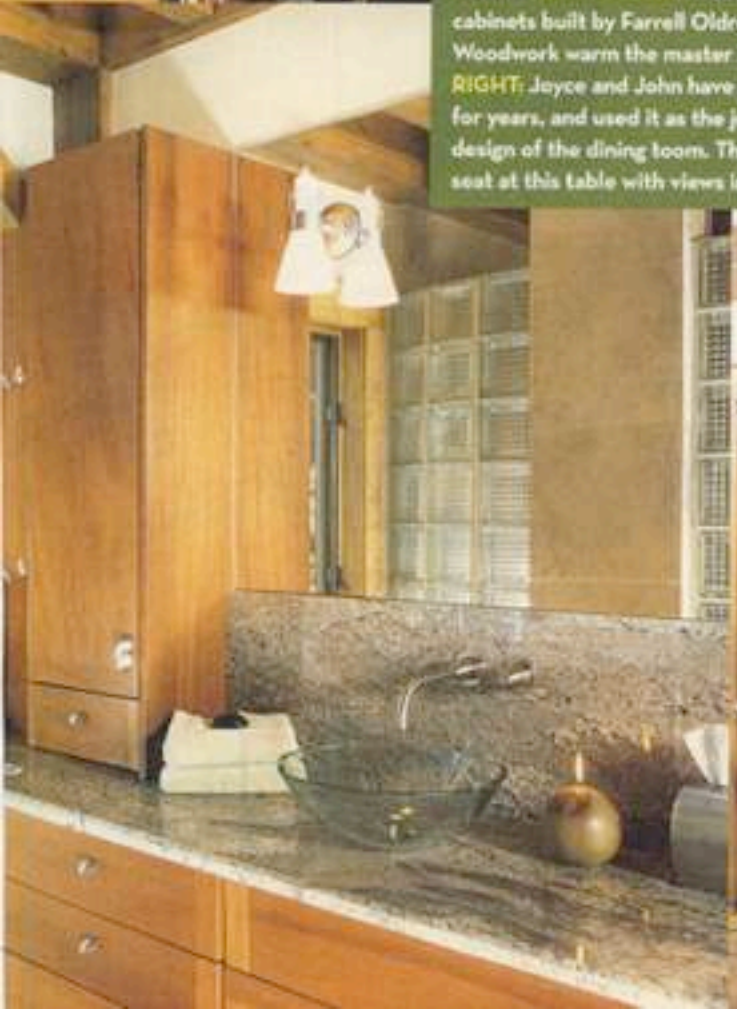
With interest rates at historic lows and their daughters growing up, the Oster-Casertas divvied into the project.

A Custom Stamp

Not only did John and Joyce purchase their timber pack from Normerica, they also hired the company to serve as general contractor for the project. This streamlined the process and offered some flexi-



TOP LEFT: Custom cherry cabinets lend Shaker simplicity to this professional-quality kitchen. **TOP RIGHT:** A quiet mantel display over the master bedroom fireplace is in keeping with the home's toned-down decor scheme. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Custom Honduran mahogany cabinets built by Farrell Oldroyd of Oldroyd Custom Woodwork warm the master bathroom. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Joyce and John have had this dining room set for years, and used it as the jumping-off point for the design of the dining room. The result? There isn't a bad seat at this table with views in every direction.





A Different Angle

At 3,800 square feet, Joyce Oster and John Caserta's timber home is certainly no leviathan—but it's large by most standards. You'd never guess its size, though, just looking at it from the front. Tucked into the trees and curled like a sleeping cat on its 2-acre site, it defies scale and achieves cozy curb appeal, much like a quaint summer bungalow.

To take advantage of the spectacular, sloping site, the design called for an angled two-and-a-half-car garage, which bends slightly toward the front of the house.

Likewise, the house doesn't face the drive head on, but curves in on itself, creating a courtyard effect. "We maxed out the building envelope," explains Jeff Bowes of Normerica Building Systems (a distributor for Normerica Authentic Timber Frame Homes) in Dillon, Colorado. "The two sides of the building aren't parallel."

Joyce and John also took care to paint the house so it would blend into the environment. "When you look into the forest," John says, "you see greens, blacks and browns. So we chose outside house colors to emulate the forest." —L.P.

ity for sourcing certain finishes themselves. This legwork allowed them to save money and put their personal imprint on the house.

So over time, they bought fixtures and hardware for the house and stockpiled them in a storage shed for easy access and installation. "At one point, we had five toilets in storage," John says. "In the end, it was a bit of a choreographed dance. Everything needed to be done in sequence, so that when the house was ready, we were ready." Because Joyce and John did their own mini contracting, they were able to make on-site design decisions based on how they wanted to live.

The room they were most eager to mark with a custom stamp: the kitchen. The Oster-Casertas are both avid cooks, and love making meals together. To accommodate two chefs in the kitchen, they installed two sinks "so we don't have to be too together," Joyce explains. She also hired cabinetmaker (and friend) Farrell Oldroyd of Morgan, Utah, to build their cabinets. "By this time, we'd visited so many homes," Joyce says, "and seen so many alder cabinets that we decided we wanted something different."

The resulting cherry cabinets, which are stained a rich, dark red, provide a colorful accompaniment to the natural wood hues of the posts and beams. Granite countertops and backsplashes that Joyce

found through contacts in Wichita make for easy cleanup. A Blue Star commercial-grade stove throws enough BTUs for high-altitude cooking, and a high-tech Icebox entertainment center makes it possible for them to watch cooking shows and surf for recipes in a flash.

Back to Basics

Calling their aesthetic "mountain contemporary," John and Joyce were mindful of the drama created by the stained white pine timbers and soaring windows that dominate their home. So they relied on simple trimmings, such as durable bamboo flooring and uncomplicated, modern light fixtures, to avoid detracting from the outdoor views and the beauty of the frame. "We had to decide

if the timbers or the fixtures would be the focal point," Joyce recalls. "We chose to make the house the center of attention. Why do all this post-and-beam work, if we were going to over-furnish the place?"

The great room serves as a grand testament to this philosophy. A manufactured ledge stone fireplace is punctuated by a mantel made from a reclaimed log that survived the Yellowstone fire in 1988, and wrought-iron balusters ensure open and airy views throughout the interior. And though the house showcases artwork culled from the couple's world travels, it's the giant windows framing the mountains and forest that mean, in this space, nature is the greatest work of art. And when you're building a timber home, that's exactly the point. ■



Banks of window reflect the view of the Eagle's Nest Wilderness Area, and the radiant-heated patio makes outdoor living possible year round.

Home Details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 3,800

TIMBER PRODUCER: Normerica Authentic Timber Frame Homes

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE FIND IT HERE ON PAGE 67