

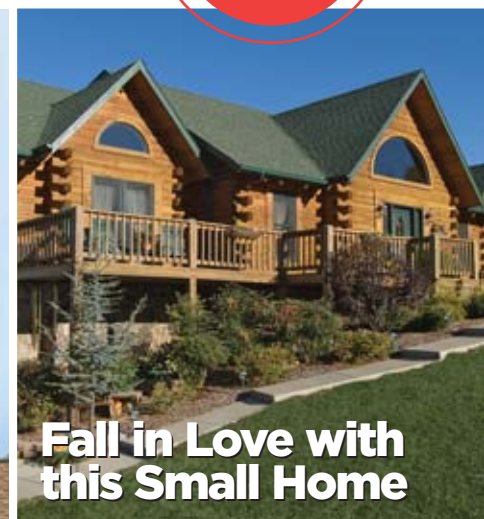
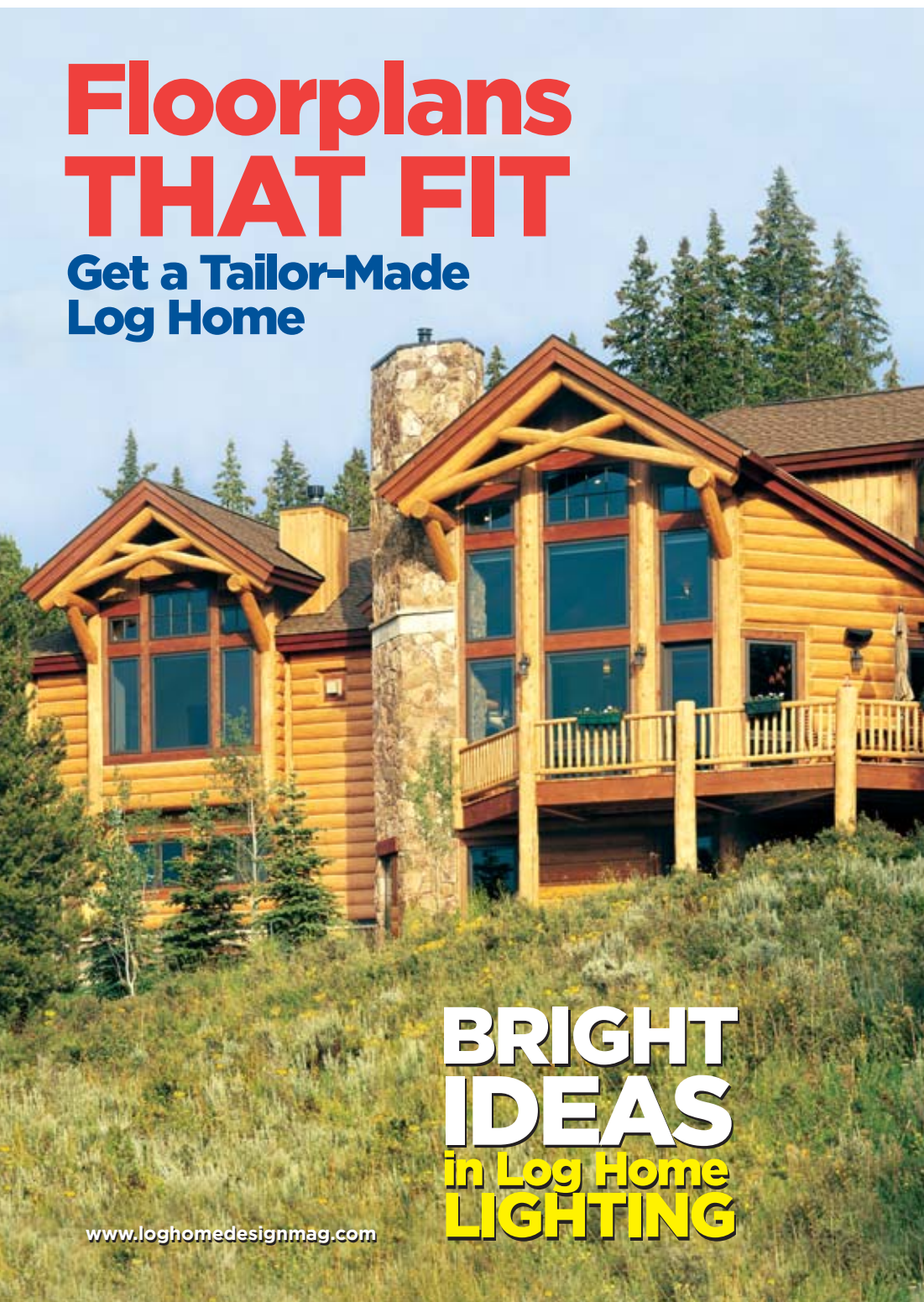
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picture PERFECT

From the pages of magazines to the home of their dreams, one Ohio couple builds a log abode that's a perfect fit.

STORY BY LEAH KERKMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK LEE

HOME BY APPALACHIAN LOG STRUCTURES

LOT IN LIFE. June and Dan own 12 acres, four of which are clear. In the background, you can spy their wooded land, while their cleared lot features native plantings by Hillcrest Landscaping in Ona, West Virginia.

FLORAL FANTASY. June found a couch from Clayton Marcus that has a slight curve to it, which works beautifully in the living room since they weren't placing the sofa against a wall. The Lesters then had it custom-upholstered to match the rest of the decor.




ROCK ON. June and Dan browsed stone possibilities for their hearth separately, but they both came up with the same first choice: Tennessee fieldstone, which graces their two-story, gas-log fireplace. A ceiling fan from Hunter Fan keeps the air circulating in the room.







A rustic kitchen with a vaulted wooden ceiling and exposed beams. A large wooden saw is mounted on the wall. The kitchen features light-colored wooden cabinets and a central island with a black granite countertop. Two stained-glass pendant lights hang over the island. On the island, there is a large wooden rooster figurine and a red wicker basket. The background wall is decorated with various signs, including one for 'HAMBURGERS' and another for 'RED TEA'. A tall wooden hutch with glass doors is on the right side of the kitchen.

TOP CHEF. Since June loves to cook and bake, her favorite room is the kitchen, which includes a 6-by-6-foot granite-topped island. "It's perfect for company," June explains. "You can have a buffet and serve everything there." To bring some color into the cuisine, the couple chose stained-glass light fixtures from Quoizel.

DINING DELIGHT. Since the Lesters chose to use sweeping window treatments (made by a friend of June's) to create privacy, the half-moon window above is not only beautiful, but it bathes the room in light. A new, dark-wood dining suit complements the honey tones of the pine walls while a built-in corner china cabinet provides storage yet keeps out of the way of traffic.





QUITE A COLLECTION. June had the trunk under the window refinished. This heirloom is where her father stored his clothes when he was a boy. Above the window, you'll see a portion of June's collection of Cat's Meow Village wooden houses and Longaberger baskets to the side. The Lesters' bed quilt, which June changes seasonally, bears a weeping cherry tree.

[THE HOMEOWNERS' STORY]

June Lester has been poring over home magazines for as long as she's been mentally planning her log home. Whenever she came across an item or a design in a magazine that she craved, she simply clipped it and added it to her stash. Fast forward several years, and she and her husband, Dan, are finally enjoying her perseverance.

When it came time for the newly married couple to make a nest of their own, you could say that June had a few ideas in mind. And all of those years of dreaming paid off handsomely in the form of Dan and June's perfectly

planned, 2,382-square-foot log home in Willow Wood, Ohio.

The couple chose Ripley, West Virginia-based Appalachian Log Structures to create their home's design and, most importantly, to provide the 6-inch, white pine, D-shaped logs. "We have friends who built a log home with Appalachian," says June. "We made several trips down there and attended one of their log home seminars. We looked at several other companies, but we liked them best."

Dan and June chose a standard plan, "The Richmond," making a few alterations along the way. On the main

level, the couple added a utility room off the kitchen for a washer and dryer and a powder room for visitors. An added bonus? That addition carved out space for June's telephone nook (pictured on page 136).

Dan points out that a perk of building with logs is the flexibility of the design. "With other construction, you have to go with what's on the plan. But Appalachian was great about being flexible," he says. "Log homes are just so adaptable."

Sounds like a winning combination for a couple looking to turn their paper plans into log perfection.



TRANQUIL TUB. The couple used drywall for some interior walls to provide color, but this bathroom remains white and serene, perfectly inviting for a soak in the Jacuzzi tub with marble ledge. In the background, a separate shower stands across from the water closet, or as Dan calls it, “the reading room.”

THE LOG HOME COMPANY’S STORY

Not every sales representative calls his customers his friends. But then again, Rob Romine from Appalachian Log Structures isn’t just any sales rep and the Lesters aren’t just clients.

“If you’re ever going to work with someone on a project of this magnitude, it helps to share common interests,” Rob says. And over the yearlong design process, Rob became close to the Lesters, bonding over a shared love of Marshall football.

The process itself went swimmingly

for the trio, since Dan and June came with a lot of ideas but still remained flexible. “They were open to my suggestions, but they already had a vision of what they were looking for when they came in, both of which rarely happen,” Rob says.

One point for discussion was the placement of the stairs. Rob tried out a couple different drafts before everyone was happy with where the staircase ended up, separating the dining room from the living room. Other modifica-

tions, like lowering the two-story ceiling over the master bedroom to make room for Dan’s home office on the second floor, were instant hits all around.

Even though Dan and June acted as their own general contractors, Rob continued to visit the site even after the building crew, Crewdson Construction from St. Albans, West Virginia, finished the log shell. In fact, Rob’s been out to visit the Lesters a few times since the house was finished. As Rob might say, that’s what friends are for.

FRONT AND CENTER. Dark green accents provide a nice contrast to the white pine log courses, stained and sealed with WOODguard products. A forest-colored roof from GAF Materials Corporation and hunter green-accented windows and doors from Hurd echo the natural colors of the surrounding woods.



HOMESPECS

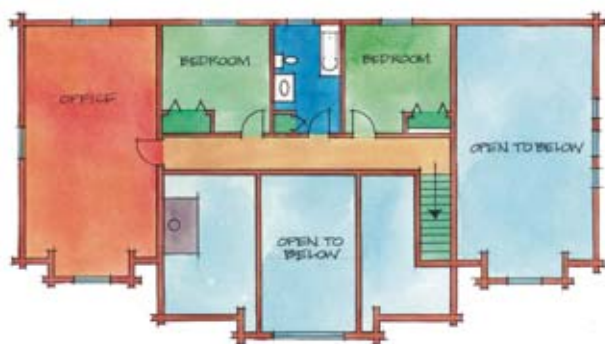
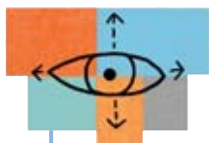
Square footage:
2,382

Log provider:
Appalachian Log Structures

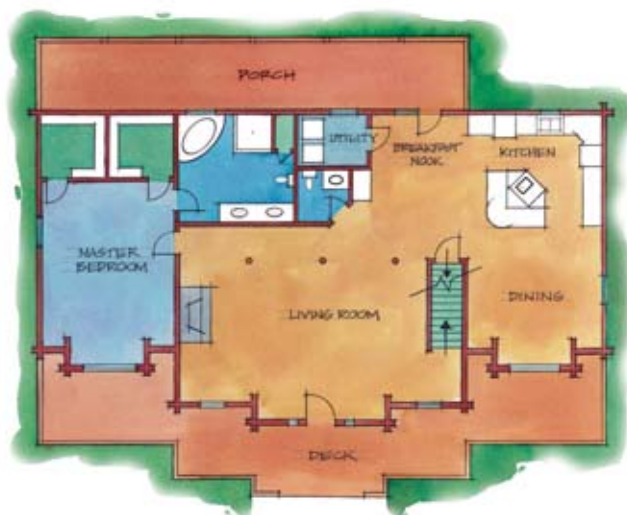
Builder:
Crewdson Construction (shell) and
Frederick Construction Co. (interior)

EYE ON DESIGN

A two-story kitchen and dining room create a sense of awe, but a standard-height breakfast nook provides a cozier eating spot.



Upper Level



Main Level

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