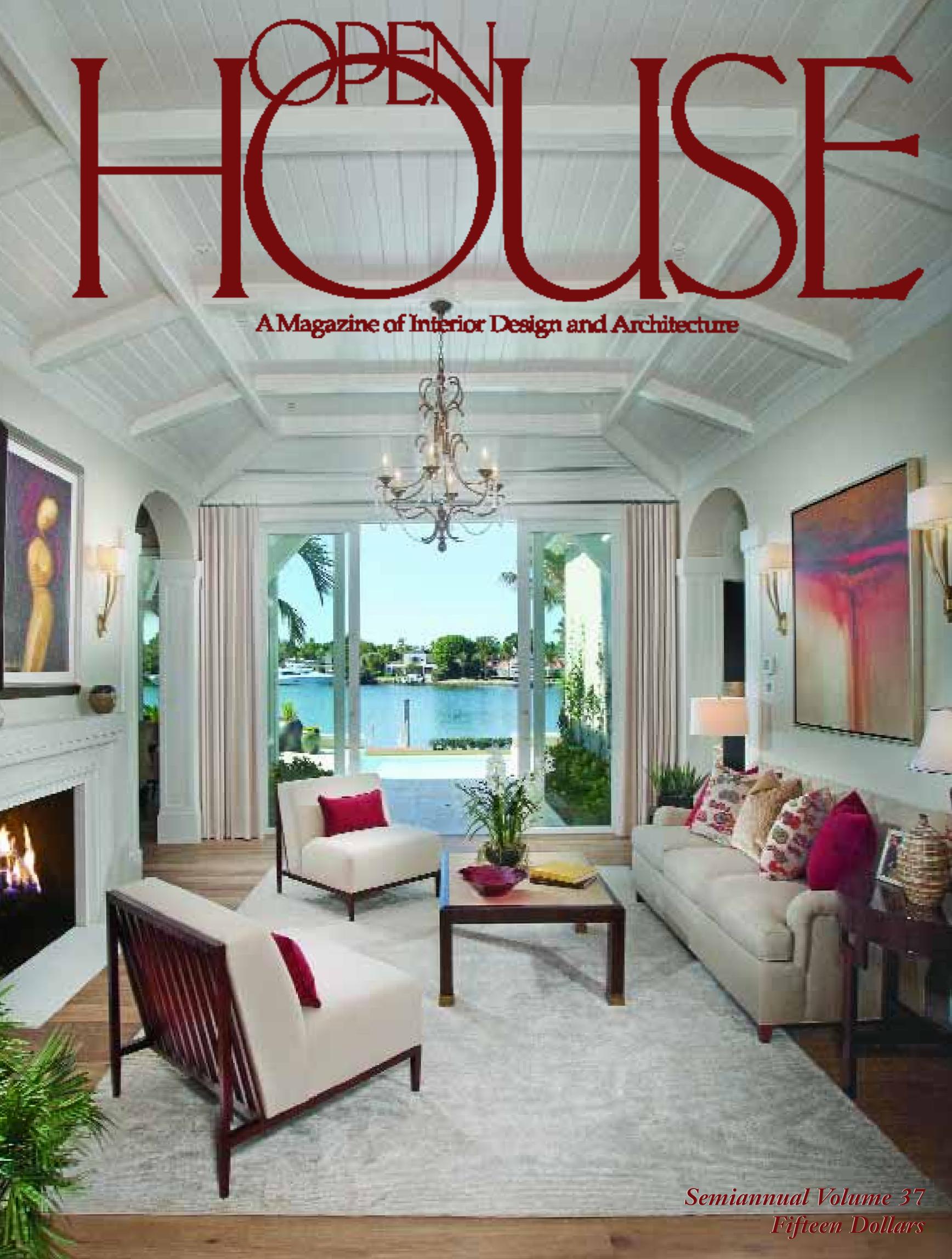


OPEN HOUSE

A Magazine of Interior Design and Architecture



*Semiannual Volume 37
Fifteen Dollars*



The use of large amounts of stone and heavy timbers helped to create the European-hunting-lodge look desired by the homeowners.

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RETREAT

BARNA LOG HOMES, DESIGN/BUILD
CABIN OUTFITTERS, INTERIORS
CELLARMAKER, CUSTOM WINE CELLARS
TOM HARPER, PHOTOGRAPHY

Reprinted from **OPEN HOUSE** Magazine - Volume 37
www.openhousemagazineinc.com

During the design process of this spectacular getaway in the Blue Ridge mountains of northwestern Georgia, the owners conveyed that they desired something of a European hunting lodge look. That alone demanded heavy timbers and an extraordinary amount of stone on the exterior, along with a roofline of varied heights and detailed visual interest. On the interior, this would require, for instance, using full logs to trim the wall of windows in the great room, as well as incorporating arched collar ties and beautiful corbels. Adding to the European lodge look would be varied interior ceiling heights with some of them higher, some lower, and some of them vaulted. Ultimately, the design of this 8,500-square-foot-under-cover mountain retreat would

also incorporate some darker color tones and design characteristics seen in log homes of the American West, as well as some of the design elements such as rhododendron rails seen in cabin design of the East. With the addition of these eclectic touches, the design also sought to capture the gorgeous unspoiled mountain views while protecting a maximum number of trees. Upon entering the home, one steps into the foyer and immediately sees the breathtaking panorama of views through the wall of glass windows framed by those huge logs in the great room. Wood flooring is “grandpa flooring” which was reclaimed from old factories. The coloration is stunning with lighter and darker streaks accenting the different characteristics of



A massive stone fireplace provides warmth while full logs frame the window wall of unspoiled mountain views in the great room.



each piece. The massive fireplace in ashlar-pattern Tennessee fieldstone sets an inviting tone of grandeur and warmth. The homeowners wanted the interior spaces to be sophisticated but also very warm and comfortable with a “been there forever” feel to the pieces. Seating is all in bomber leather with that well-worn look. End tables on either side of the sofa are covered in hair-on-hide which is where the hair has been left on the hide instead of removing it for a smooth piece of leather. The two area rugs are made of hides which have been pieced together to create different designs. The lady of the house loves antlers,

*Seating is in bomber leather
for a comfortable, well-worn look.*

continued



The main kitchen features rustic, cherry cabinets which, with their texture and knots, give a "been there for generations" look.

so they are seen throughout the house. The table behind the sofa incorporates antlers, the sconces on the fireplace are antlers, the table lamp to the side of the fireplace has an antler base, the table lamps on either side of the sofa have antler bases, and there is a deer head above the fireplace. There also is an antler chandelier that was custom designed for the homeowners. Quite large at 6' x 6', the chandelier was designed with antlers turned both upwards and downwards to give a better perspective of the antlers to anyone who is directly underneath. If all of the antlers were turned upwards away from one's eye, the piece would lose the dimension and feel of the antlers. The same magnificent views seen from the great room also are enjoyed from the main kitchen. One of two kitchens, the main kitchen features rustic, cherry

cabinets which, with their texture and knots, give a "been there for generations" look. The island is two tiered with a breakfast bar height as well as a counter height with prep area. The marble top has rich reds and browns running through it. The front of the island bar, as well as on either side of the windows at the main sink, incorporates mushroom board. Mushroom board is wood that comes out of Canadian mushroom caves. The mushrooms have grown on these boards for 30 or 40 years, and now the wood is being reclaimed and used in construction. There are layers in the wood because the mushrooms have grown on it over the years and the decay of the mushrooms leaves an unbelievably gorgeous texture on the wood. Flooring here is a continuation of the "grandpa flooring" with its beautiful variations in color and characteristics. Rustic,

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RETREAT



With beautiful beams and ceiling, the upstairs loft living room provides a cozy space for conversation or quiet spot for reading.

tin lighting in the kitchen embodies clean lines but also suggests some age. The texture is similar to that of the lighting on the outside of the house, and is seen again in several places throughout the home, including the kitchen. In keeping with the antler motif, there are authentic antlers used as pulls on the cabinets. While the home was designed, and outfitted to go, relax, enjoy, renew, and entertain family and friends, a favorite “quiet” spot in the house is the large, upstairs loft living room with its beautiful beams and ceiling. Flooring progressively becomes lighter as one goes upward in the house, so on the lowest terrace level there is dark oak flooring, then there is the grandpa floor and, finally, there is pine in the loft. The

daughters’ bedrooms are on either side of the loft, so there is seating for the girls - or anyone - to talk or play cards, or have a quiet place to read. There is a mix of hickory and barn wood with some of the furniture made by a grandparent when the girls were young. Artifacts as well as other old and interesting pieces add warmth to the room. One of the rooms that sees livelier activity is the “oak room.” So-named during construction, it also is dubbed the “club room.” With something of a gentleman’s club feel, the room includes a vintage billiards table, seating and standing areas, a library, fireplace, wet bar, and kitchen. Reclaimed paneling dating to the turn of the 20th century adds to the club-like ambiance as does the

continued



With the unique woods being older than the wine itself, this magnificent wine cellar, custom-made by CellarMaker, features wormy chestnut walls, mushroom board beams, and black walnut wine racks that truly make this a one-of-a-kind wine cellar.

English-style seating. Arched doors to one side lead into a climate-controlled, world-class wine cellar which is richly paneled with reclaimed wormy chestnut. There is a clean side to the wood, and a dirty side, and it was the dirty side that was used to give the space a dark, aged feel as though it had been there for 200 years. Wood beams in the ceiling add to the aged effect, as does the dark oak flooring. Interesting touches include details such as the wall behind the sink. Sections of wine bottle crates make up the wall with some sticking out more than others to give textured dimension and visual interest. The sink itself is a canoe-shaped vessel made of one piece of stone. The feel of the room is

The climate-controlled, world-class wine cellar carries an aged feel.



BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RETREAT



Old West in flavor, this guest bedroom includes a saddle lamp, an old plow harness above the door, and many other western pieces.

enhanced by an old grape truss, an antique wine cask, a grape gathering basket, and other wine-related accessories. As Old World as the wine cellar might feel, and as much as the home carries a “been there forever” ambiance, the entire residence was designed with state-of-the-art electronics and automation systems. Lighting and temperature control can be programmed from another house, or office, or even a cell phone. This conveniently allows lights or heating to be turned on from another location in advance of arriving there, ensuring a comfortable arrival. The media room contains the finest acoustic and optical systems available. Additionally, there is a golf simulation room in which any number of major golf courses from around the world can be dialed up on a screen. Throughout the house, every room has its own character with no two rooms sharing identical

materials or decor. There are four bedrooms and they, too, are different in materials and decor. Embodying more of an Old West theme is the “treehouse bedroom,” located above the garage. It is a guest suite, and because it is above the tree line, there is a full view of the mountain with absolutely nothing obstructing the view. This bedroom features log siding with chinking. Chinking is the material in the space between the logs. In times past, it filled in the space to keep out the weather. Today, logs are notched much better and chinking is not necessary other than to create a look of yesteryear. The bed is made from reclaimed wood with cross hatches at the foot of it, bringing to mind a barn door look. Cowhide is seen in the area rug as well as in the hair-on-hide chair. Adding to the Western flavor is an old plow harness above the door, stirrups on either side of the mirror, a lamp made from an authentic

continued



Tone-on-tone browns prevail in the master bedroom. To one side, the room opens to an outside sitting deck; to the other, a study.



Pecky cypress and a stone fireplace create warmth in the master study. The Ambrosia maple fireplace mantel and flanking countertops, provided by CellarMaker, enhance the richness of the inviting space.

saddle, another lamp made from horseshoes, and other touches of the Old West. The master bedroom retains a heavy Western flavor but without the cowboy touches. Tone-on-tone browns prevail. To one side, the master bedroom opens to an outside sitting deck; to the other side, it opens through pocketing glass doors to a study with a fireplace and ample seating. Pecky cypress with accents of mushroom board was used in the master suite. In fact, fourteen different types of wood were used in the home including wormy chestnut, pecky cypress, poplar bark, peeled hemlock, blue pine, white pine, reclaimed oak barn wood, and

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RETREAT

the mushroom board. This served to create a different character in each different space. The ample use of stone also complements both the inside and outside. While this getaway retreat is very spacious with a lot of variation in room sizes and ceiling heights, there never is a feeling of being overwhelmed by the space. It is extraordinarily warm and comfortable, inviting its lucky occupants to relax or play.



On top of the mountain, above the tree line, are spectacular, uninterrupted views.



Off the kitchen and dining area of the main level is this outdoor entertainment area where great views and breezes are enjoyed.