

**32 BEST-SELLING  
LOG HOME FLOORPLANS**

**FREE PULL-OUT:  
LAND BUYING CHECKLIST**

**7 SECRETS FOR  
SUCCESSFUL BUILDING**

# LOG HOME LIVING®

*Beautiful  
Handcrafted  
Homes*

*Expert Tips To  
Add Character  
To Your Home*





ABOVE: This log home sits in an area where there are peaks in excess of 14,000 feet. OPPOSITE: The generous use of glass takes advantage of the views and lends brightness to all rooms.





# The Echo of Old Mining Towns

**THEY SAY** that God is in the details.

Whether or not this is true, Jim Bewley is decidedly in the details of the log home he brought to life in the mountains

of Colorado. He carefully chose every item—from fun to functional—with painstaking research, hours of investiga-

**CAREFULLY CHOSEN  
DETAILS AND INNOVATIVE  
CONSTRUCTION CRAFT A  
COLORADO LOG HOME.**

tion and prudent procurement. Then

with the help of father-and-son team

Bill and Eric Williams at GreatLand

Log Homes, who provided construc-

tion expertise and inventiveness, Jim saw the realization

of what he says is “really, truly a dream home.”

**STORY BY Paulette Dague • PHOTOGRAPHY BY James Ray Spahn**



Tongue-and-groove ceiling treatments, natural oak floors and custom-made knotty pine cabinets work together in the huge living-dining area to provide a warm, inviting gathering space.







Jim, who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and owns auto dealerships in Santa Fe, grew up in Colorado and always loved its mining history and natural beauty. This getaway home is located near Salida, Colorado, on about 3 acres and is surrounded by national forest. No less than five trout ponds border the property, as does a running stream. The site is part of an old mining claim from the 1800s and offers views of the Sangre de Cristo Range, part of the Rocky Mountains.

### The Particular

It was the echo of old mining towns that inspired Jim when choosing the many specifics that make his home unique. And he spent a lot of time studying log homes for architectural and design direction. "I tried to keep everything turn-of-the-century," he notes. "I wanted a modern home, but with features that were preva-

lent in Colorado in the late 1800s."

Jim is especially proud of a bar he created in the lower level. "I wanted it to look like an authentic bar—a place where I could entertain," he says, and goes on to list the many elements that make it so. Of particular note is a tin ceiling, which faithfully reproduces those found in bars in old mining towns, such as Cripple Creek and Black Hawk in Colorado. He also has working slot machines—some antique, some not—including one from 1910 from the famous Golden Nugget bar. Real neon signs came from friends who own bars or from actual breweries. And the easy-care oak floors are intended to give the feeling that when you walk in you could throw peanut shells on the floor.

Furnishings in the bar are the same as those used in a national restaurant chain. To give the bar truly authentic

**The lower-level bar closely resembles a real commercial bar with its swivel bar stools and neon signs.**

ambiance, Jim visited a local restaurant in Albuquerque where he was given a corporate contact who directed him to their supplier of bar tables and chairs. Additional elements, such as two TVs (one big screen) and glass-block windows for natural light, make the area very comfortable.

The remainder of the home shows further evidence of Jim's design directives, which tend toward a hunting and fishing theme. Doorknobs throughout the home are porcelain and sport images of deer, elk or trout in keeping with the natural, outdoor theme. Manufactured stone accents behind the wood-burning stove in the living room, at the kitchen counter, in the master bedroom and in the bar simulate river rock found in the





stream and trout ponds near the property. The stone in the lower level conceals vertical steel beams that support the structure of the home.

Furniture is comfortable and country—but not rustic. Jim purchased some of the furnishings from a custom manufacturer after he saw an article about a home built for Barbara Mandrel. He mentions in particular a bunk bed handcrafted to accommodate an area under a sloped ceiling. “There’s a king-sized bed for the bottom bunk and a queen-sized bed on the top,” Eric says, “which perfectly fits the space.”

One exceptionally fun detail in the home is a deluxe spa-type shower and tub that Jim included in the master bath. He picked up that idea from the *Robb Report*, and lists the various features of this luxury ad-

dition: a built-in TV, a DVD/VCR player with four stereo speakers, a steam unit, various body sprays and a whirlpool tub.

### The Practical

Behind all the charm and beauty of Jim’s home lies technical innovation and structural soundness. Eric and Bill were able to include many ideas that help to make the home aesthetically pleasing as well as efficient. Logs are lightly stained full-round Engelmann spruce that are approximately 12 to 14 inches in diameter and are hand-scribed with saddle-notch corners. Purlins are approximately 18 inches mid-span with butt ends of 20 to 24 inches.

Because the bottom level is set about halfway into the ground, Eric and Bill used structural insulated panels for the

foundation. The forms are fashioned of Styrofoam, wired together, then filled with concrete and reinforced with rebar. This makes for a strong base and provides great insulation. The forms were then concealed with manufactured stone on the outside and rough-sawn pine paneling on the inside.

The team integrated some noteworthy structural components that help to mitigate some of the settling issues inherent with log homes. The vertical beams in the home, for example, have jacks underneath them, so that when the logs shrink—and things go out of square—they can tighten the jacks to put everything back into proper alignment. Long pins extending down the vertical length of the corner joints keep the right pressure on the logs as they dry out and begin to settle.





**OPPOSITE:** The master bedroom is one of the few rooms with carpeting, a hedge against cold feet on winter nights. The large California king-sized bed was made specifically for the room. **LEFT:** Drywall was used in the home's bathrooms and bedrooms for architectural interest and relief from the abundance of wood. An amazingly well-appointed shower system offers a relaxing respite.

Though snow is not a huge problem in his area, Jim points out that Eric and Bill took into account snow and ice on the roof. They included heating coils there that, with the flip of an inside switch, will melt any buildup. Snow-stops along the roof edge by the gutters keep snow and ice from sticking to the roof. "Eric even included an electric heater on the satellite TV dish to keep snow from accumulating there," says Jim.

Chinking was used both on the outside and the inside, which, according to Jim, was both a decorative and a practical addition. "At an elevation of 9,300 feet, we have intense sun in the summer with temperatures in the 80s and extreme cold in the winter," he says. "Expansion and contraction of the logs are big considerations, so the chinking does aid in insulation. This home is so well-built and weathertight that oftentimes when we have the furnace on in the winter, we open a window for fresh air." Though the home has radiant heat with a propane boiler, Jim claims that he can literally heat the home comfortably using only the wood-burning stove.

### A Living Thing

Perhaps one of the most important factors in the development of a wonderful home is finding team players that appre-

ciate, respect and understand one another. Both the Williamses and Jim agree on the compatibility they shared during the project. "I really researched the Williamses and GreatLand Log Homes," Jim notes. He is highly complimentary of Eric and Bill's expertise and loved working with them on this project. Eric points to his father, Bill, as a key component in building the home. "He was hugely responsible for the overall project success and the majority of the onsite coordination and supervision," Eric says.

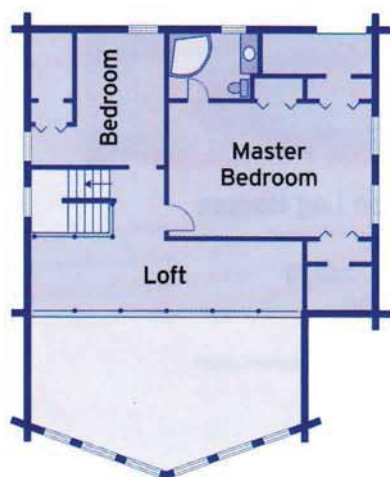
One other thing both parties agree on is the beauty of the logs. Jim especially likes the fact that, in a sense, a log home is still a living thing even after it is built. "The logs are still turning and reacting to pressure and the environment," he says. Jim's appreciation of his own log home is evidenced in the meticulous way he developed each detail into a grand scheme. ■

## HOME DETAILS

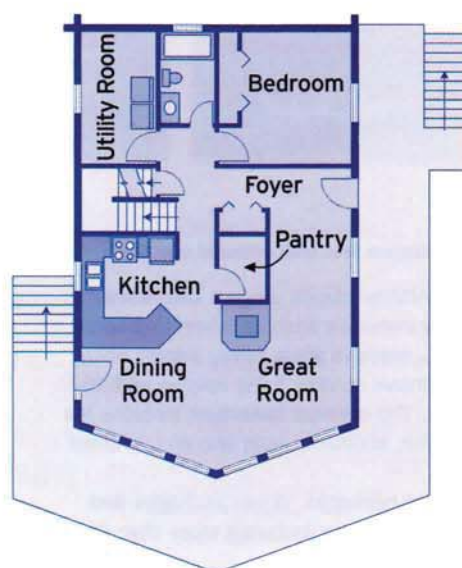
■ Square footage: 2,170

■ Package price: \$86,671

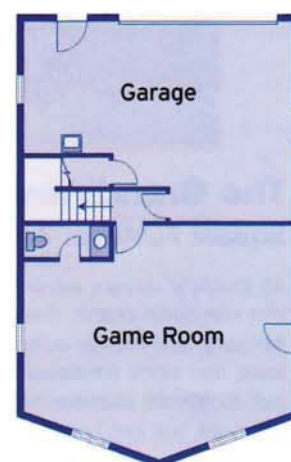
■ Log producer: GreatLand Log Homes



Upper Level



Main Level



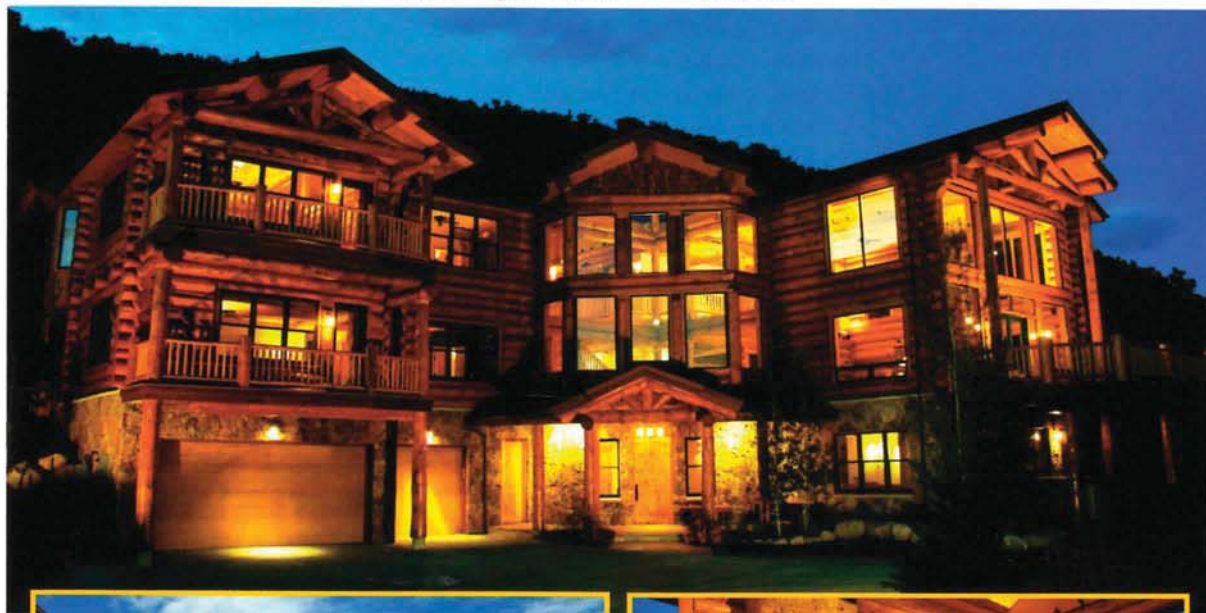
Lower Level





**"Building Dreams is Our Business"**

*"By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established." - Proverbs 24:3*



## **The GrandView**

**Square Footage: 7,118** (11,438 square feet with optional basement)

An exquisite design, the breathtaking GrandView blends elegant sophistication with rustic charm. The home features immense spaces, seven bedrooms including dual master suites, seven baths, massive great room, 3-story open foyer, four stone fireplaces, elevator, expansive outdoor living spaces and 16-inch to 30-inch diameter handcrafted logs. The optional basement includes the rec room, wet bar, home theater, wine cellar, additional bath and an oversized 3-bay garage and shop.

GreatLand Log Homes offers design, log packages, dry-in packages and turn-key construction. Visit our informative web site featuring more than fifty standard plans, or call us to get your project started.

## **GreatLand Log Homes**

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