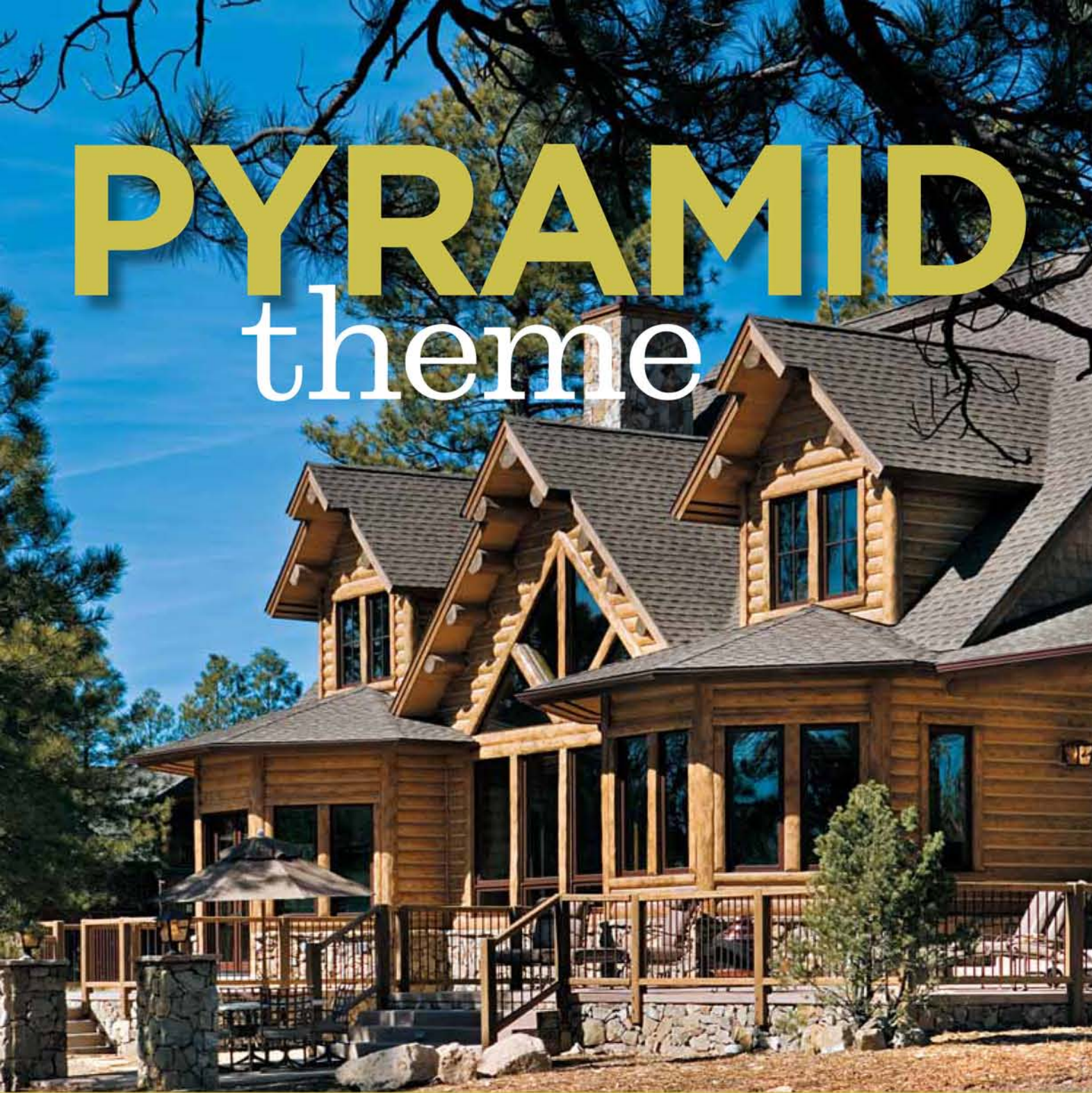


PYRAMID theme



Repeating triangular patterns make for a stunning yet natural-looking Arizona log retreat.

STORY BY CHERYL KENNY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROGER WADE
STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL | HOME BY TOWN & COUNTRY CEDAR HOMES

PRETTY PICTURE.

This home, which sits on two-thirds of an acre in the Pine Canyon community overlooking the Coconino National Forest, has cedar log siding. The couple was particular about the stain for the siding. "We didn't want an orange color to the logs, but more of a golden hue," owners note. They applaud Jim's creation of the custom blend of Weatherall products.



BUILT FOR COMFORT. The great room is furnished with cushy brown leather couches. They chose a coffee table comprised of heavy wood with an inlaid-slate top to encourage people to "put their feet up." The log stairs and ceiling beams are spruce.

Certainly, when you think of impressive triangular structures, those Egyptian pyramids spring to mind first. But that was before these owners fulfilled their dream and built a Flagstaff, Arizona, vacation home. When the couple considered design options for their rustic log getaway, they envisioned the shape of things to come: triangles.

Creating recurring king-post trusses—which have a bold, triangular form—“was an important feature for us,” owners say. So the couple not only chose dual king-post trusses for their great room, but also one for the front porch. All three are visible from their second-floor loft. To carry the theme further, the homeowners requested that the foyer and great room windows, as well as the opening to the loft, be three-sided.

Interesting patterns and angles—including dramatic dormer windows, steep roof overhangs, multiple bays and a dining room with a wagon-wheel-like ceiling—were integral to the owners’ vision of a vacation destination that would be “a 180-degree turn” from their desert-style, full-time home in Scottsdale. With the help of Jim Stults, a principal of High Country Custom Homes (now Hunter Custom Homes LLC), a representative of Petoskey, Michigan-based Town & Country Cedar Homes, the couple conceived a three-bedroom, log-and-stone sanctuary that harmonizes with its wooded setting.

The homeowners chose Town & Country after spending the night in one of the company’s model homes. “We felt like we were in paradise,” they enthuse. “The wood gave such a feeling of warmth and coziness; it was as if we were on a retreat.” Starting with the floorplan of that Town & Country model, “The Preserve,” the owners added features to make their vacation home uniquely theirs.

The house is constructed with chinked, white cedar log siding on the exterior and several interior walls. “The benefit of conventional framing is that while it looks like stacked log, you don’t have the same settling issues that you can have with full logs,” Jim notes. “And it’s easier to install mechanicals, like plumbing and electrical systems.”

Inside, the owners mixed wood species. Some walls, ceilings and trim are comprised of white

cedar; the log trusses and half-log stairs are spruce; doors and custom cabinetry are knotty alder; and wood floors are reclaimed oak. The interplay between the wood varieties creates interest, but posed a challenge in choosing stain colors that were harmonious. So Jim and his crew developed a customized, complementary palette of stains to finish the job.

The drama of the great room—which soars to a ceiling that’s 21 feet high and boasts oversized, structural log trusses ranging from 16 to 20 inches in diameter—is matched by the adjoining dining area that features a radial bay. The dining room’s 10-foot-high, paneled ceiling has cedar logs overlaid to mimic the spokes of a wagon wheel, punctuated by an iron chandelier poised in the center. Alongside the dining room is a granite-topped, wraparound wine bar that creates a functional and visual transition between the two rooms.

The owners said they “mentally lived, walked and dreamed this house” for the 13 months it took to build it, but experienced none of the stress often associated with home construction. “The builder was so patient and conscientious. He talked to us about our expectations and dreams,” she says, crediting Jim, project manager Chris Vallejos and their staff with making the process “a complete joy.”

The home, which overlooks the Coconino National Forest, is the owners’ retreat for as many weekends each month that they can get away. Jim confirms that the couple’s home offers a fine respite from everyday stresses. “After the house was done, we had a glass of wine on the owner’s back deck to celebrate,” he chuckles. “We could hear elk bugling in the distance.”

“We got what we always dreamed of, a timeless retreat that we hope will stay in the family for generations,” owners says. As timeless, you could say, as those *other* triangular wonders. ▶



DINING IN THE ROUND. A custom pedestal dining table from Lorts Furniture is the perfect accompaniment to the owners’ bayed dining room. The iron chandelier with globe lights provides uplighting that draws the eye to a stunning wagon-wheel ceiling.



COOKING ON CLOUD NINE. Granite-topped dual islands atop bases of Telluride stone provide perfect prep areas while an iron chandelier from Arte de Mexico featuring coyotes, deer, buffalo and elk lights up the room. "It's my favorite fixture in the house," owner says.



PLUSH PLEASURES (clockwise from opposite left). "I absolutely love our master bedroom," owner says, noting she chose thick, plush carpeting in the bedrooms to keep the rooms quiet and luxurious underfoot. The bay window, which mimics the one in the dining room, leads to the backyard patio and allows for plenty of sunlight to spill into the room. She furnished her master suite to look like a modern cabin, complete with a pinecone-carved headboard topped with Ralph Lauren bedding alongside a black leather rocking chair.

BATHING BEAUTY. This second-floor bath highlights the craftsmanship of Flagstaff cabinetmaker Gary Anderson. The knotty-alder double vanity includes twig accents on the drawer pulls and a privacy-enhancing shelf between the two sinks. Framing the mirrors with the same trim as the cabinets creates the illusion that the system is all one piece. Fabricator Mark Brooks worked with Gary to add granite tops with rough edges for a rustic look.

GIDDY UP. Guest rooms in the home are decorated around central themes; this one's dubbed the "Western room." With a bandana-inspired bedding ensemble, cowboy-boot lamps and a lone star on the wall, guests staying in this room get a taste of the Old West.

HEIRLOOM ROOM. They furnished this aptly named "antique room" as if it were one of the inns they enjoy visiting. The unusual sleigh bed is topped with an antique gold-and-burgundy comforter. It's complemented by the warm, adobe gold wall color and the chocolate brown chenille armchair. Leopard-print cushions cap the window seat—with storage drawers beneath—and add a touch of the unexpected.

A TOUCH OF GLASS. The master bathroom shower sports a hand-crafted glass door that depicts Mount Humphrey, one of the San Francisco peaks the owners see from their home. The door was created by one of their builder's fabricators.





HOMESPECS

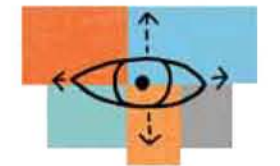
Square footage:
4,416

Builder:
High Country Custom Homes
(now Hunter Custom Homes LLC)

Log provider:
Town & Country Cedar Homes

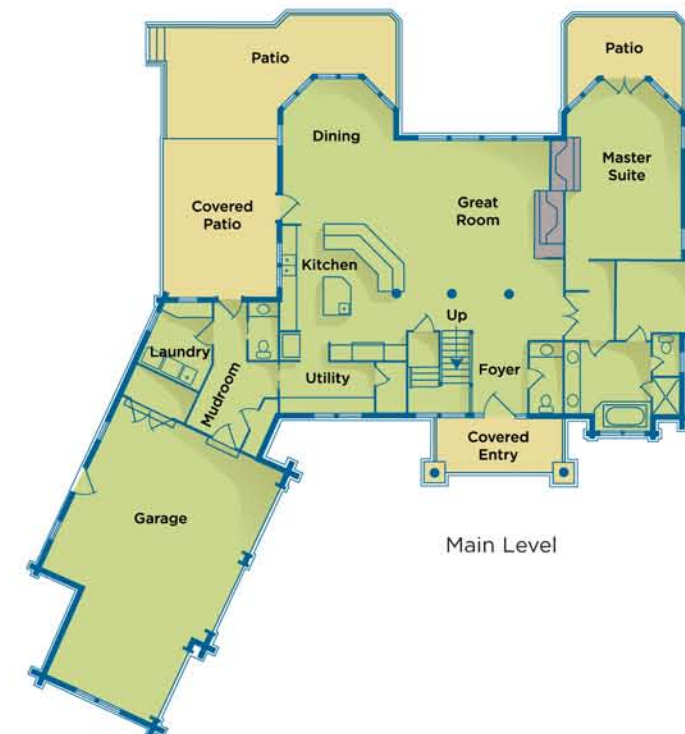
HALLWAY MONITOR (above). The trusses of the great room and the front porch are all visible from the open catwalk hallway. The railings are hand-hewn white cedar made by Town & Country.

TIMELESS RETREAT (opposite). Stone-and-log columns welcome visitors to the beautiful vacation retreat. The 4-by-8-foot knotty-alder front door was custom designed and features 2-inch-diameter black nailheads along the top and bottom. The door's sidelights are seeded tempered glass and the foundations is encased in Telluride stone. Above the three-car garage is a large game area that connects to the second level of the house.



EYE ON DESIGN

In mountainous settings heavy with evergreens, triangular design elements echo the natural shape of the landscape to create a home that fits in perfectly with its surroundings.



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