

By Suzanna Logan | Photography by Mark Sorenson

“Curb appeal was important to the owner,” says Coventry sales representative Deb Simano. “One of the biggest changes he made to the floor plan was to include two ‘fronts,’ — one that you could see from the road and one as you pull in and look at the home straight on.”

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mountain man

Building a log home proves to be one adventurer's greatest challenge.



It's been said that "Great things happen when men and mountains meet." Though penned by 18th-century poet William Blake, this phrase applies still to Terry Burton and his excursions into New Hampshire's White Mountains over the past three decades.

As a consultant to Fortune 500 companies, Terry traveled across 48 states and 24 countries, always returning to the towering natural formations of his home state, drawn by the challenge, the solitude and, of course, the scenery.

Turns out, that trifecta was what enticed him to put down roots in the area once and for all. Upon retirement, he left behind a 6,500-square-foot Colonial in a "keeping up with the Joneses" type of community and found solitude on a serene piece of land without a neighbor in sight. The scenery comes from the 300-degree views from his mountain-side perch. And the challenge? Well, that came in the form of a 3,600-square-foot log home.

During the two-year planning and building process, aided by locally headquartered Coventry Log Homes, Terry fine-tuned the

opposite Comfort and ease were at the forefront of owner Terry Burton's mind during the designing process — and when it came time to choose a fireplace. "The original plan was for a fireplace with a built-in pizza oven in the center of the house," he says. "But I decided I didn't want the cleanup anymore, so the gas fireplace fits where I'm at in this stage of my life."

above Seagrass-inspired dining chairs lend textural interest and balance the formality of the table in this sunny dining spot.



The granite on the kitchen countertop and island holds special appeal for Terry, and if you look closely, you can see why. “It looks exactly like what you’d see looking down from a plane over our local White Mountains – the boulders, forests, outlines of the rivers and streams,” he says.



left Half-round log stringers with log rails add light-and-air architectural interest to the staircase.

right The same granite used in the kitchen – which pulls green against the green-tiled backsplash – has a purple hue in the home’s master bath, thanks to the influence of the room’s lavender-colored walls. A painted detail over the light fixture adds a folksy, mountain vibe.

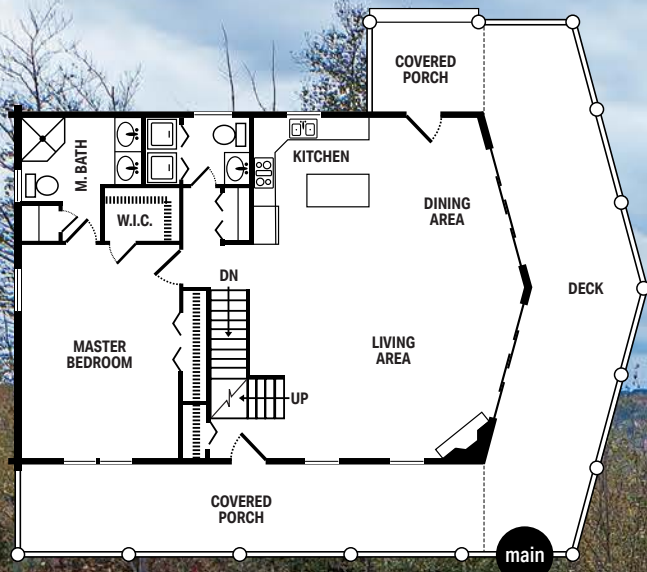
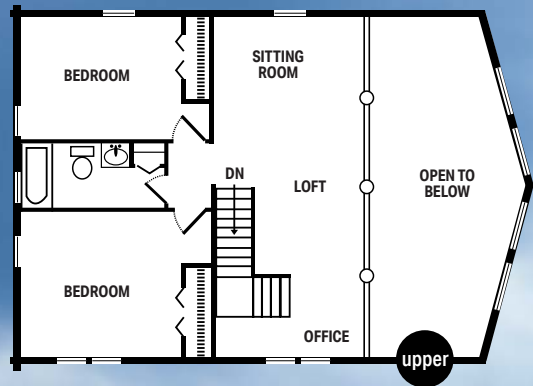
below Because the home doesn’t have central air conditioning, dual fans were included to keep the master bedroom comfortable year-round. “We throw open the windows and get a nice breeze,” he says.

plan again and again, eventually hitting the sweet spot with a three-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath floor plan with an open loft and separate wine and music room in the lower level. The chalet-style home, built with 6-by-8-inch eastern white pine D-style logs with butt-and-pass corners, features Craftsman details, exposed beams and drywall accents painted to pay homage to the area’s vibrant natural landscape.

Though it was the sixth custom home Terry had built over the years, he says this one was by far “the most difficult but the most rewarding.” (Apparently, that complication-to-thrill-ratio applies as much to homebuilding as it does to hiking. Terry’s favorite climb is nearby Mount Washington, which is the tallest peak in the northeastern United States and holds the record for the highest surface wind speed ever observed by man.) The challenges that presented themselves during the building process ranged from hitting granite during groundbreaking to discovering an active bear’s den adjacent to the home site.



Granite and ledge stone pulled from the ground during excavation figure heavily in the hardscape around the home, including in the front walkway which features a custom design of an infamous (though now-fallen) local rock formation known as “Man of the Mountain.” Manufactured veneer clads the lower level of the home.



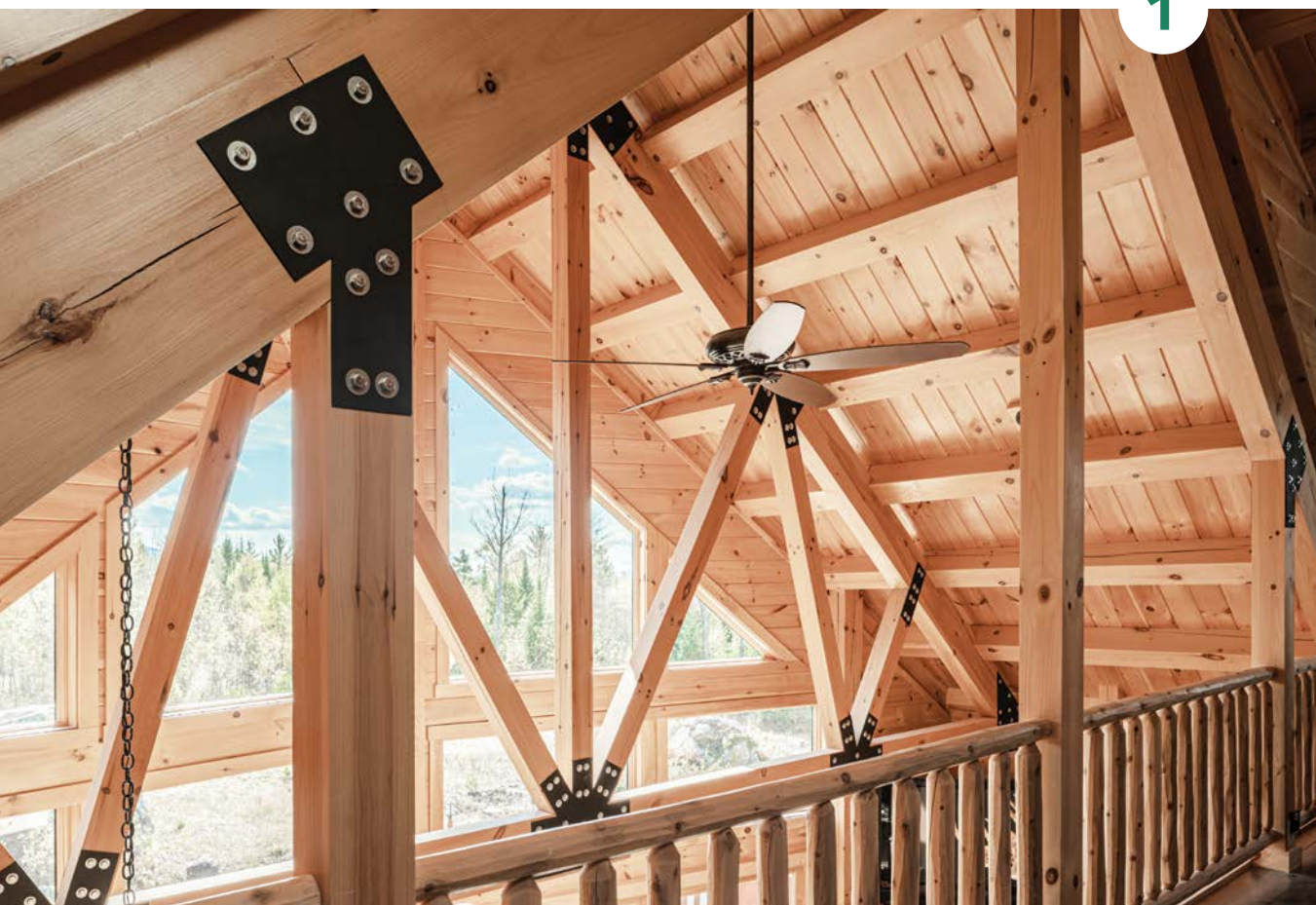
HOME DETAILS

SQUARE FOOTAGE
3,600 *including lower level, not shown*

BEDROOMS **BATHS**
3 4 full, 1 half

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TERRY'S
special
spaces



1



2



3



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1 “I wanted a truss spanning across the great room, and I wanted it to look a little industrial since that is my professional background,” says Terry. To reach this end, Coventry joined the timbers with steel brackets, which stand out against the natural timbers sealed with clear polyurethane.

2 “I wanted to break up the wood, so we used a bit of drywall in every room,” explains Terry. “Also, I wanted it to feel like I was outside, so we painted it colors you would see in the forest here: yellow for the birch trees, a vibrant green for the moss-covered boulders, red for the maple trees in the fall, blue for the cloudless skies.”

3 A music area in the lower level is a favorite spot for Terry to enjoy a jam session with his fellow musician friends. Everything goes, from classic rock to blues to jazz. The space also features an office and a full bath.

4 The lower level also houses Terry’s wine collection and includes a redwood tasting table, seats made of wine barrels and grape-themed tiles inset into the staircase.

In both cases, he made the most of each situation. In the former, raising the house to create a lower level — which incidentally resulted in better views and additional room for hobby spaces — and in the latter, establishing a mutually respectful relationship with his furry neighbors.

Surprisingly, Terry says he’s ventured upon far more animals since moving into the home than he ever did during his 30 years of hiking the trails. “I’ve seen

moose, deer, coyotes, wolves, bobcats — even three mountain lions,” he says. “As you sit and watch, they just wander by.”

Of course, having walls of glass from nearly every vantage point helps. While designing the house, oversized windows were at the top of Terry’s must-have list and are now one of his favorite features. “In the family room, I can see Cannon Mountain. In the master bedroom, it’s Mount Lafayette, from another bedroom Franconia Heights and in another area

the views are to the hills of Easton and Sugar Hill,” he shares.

Like any onlooker, Terry marvels at the beauty of the peaks as they rise into the deep blue sky, but he also stirs with a sense of accomplishment and well-earned pride — first, for having scaled the heights once upon a time and now for having created the perfect home from which to sit back and enjoy the views. “It wasn’t easy,” he says. “But it was well worth the effort.”