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Smoky Mountain High

STORY BY TERESA L. WOLFE
PHOTOS BY ROGER WADY
STYLING BY DEBRA GRANT

A NORTH CAROLINA
VACATION HOME EMBRACES
THE APPALACHIAN LOG
TRADITION

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Above: Carolina granite forms the intricate pattern of the floor-to-ceiling fireplace chimney with a reclaimed yellow poplar mantel in the great room. Marsha paired plaid barrel chairs with her leaf-patterned sofa.

Previous: Set in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina, this Appalachian-style home is built of air-dried, hand-hewn white pine logs and features dovetail corners to give the feel of a vintage structure. Marsha selected only those colors found on the bark of a tree as the exterior palette for her log home. Steve Cagle extended the native granite used as the exterior finish on the two-car garage into the retaining wall running the length of the lot.

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Having enjoyed vacationing at the Cataloochee Ranch in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina for many years, Marsha Madorsky welcomed the opportunity to purchase property there to build her own summer home. The 2-acre parcel was part of the original ranch and on a steep mountainside at 5,700 feet elevation.

Marsha was drawn to Appalachian-style log homes because she felt one would fit in with the ranch's historical structures. She admired the rough look of the hand-hewn logs and the signature dovetail corners. Choosing a builder was easy, as she had visited several homes built by J. Scott Campbell Construction Company of Clyde, North Carolina, and admired the craftsmanship. Scott in turn recommended Top Notch Log Homes of Waynesville, North Carolina, to produce her logs.

Although Marsha initially engaged an architect and maintained his basic footprint design, she redesigned the interior, assisted by her



Right: The vaulted tongue-and-groove pine ceiling flows seamlessly from the hewn white pine logs. Jack Jaynes's elaborate pattern of branches with maple leaves fills the wrought-

her primary residence in Coconut Grove, Florida. For the next 18 months, the pair traveled back and forth to the building site. "On one of our trips, we encountered a problem with the placement of the stove," Marsha recalls. "As the crew was preparing to install the exhaust hood, they realized the duct work would run right through my daughter's upstairs bedroom. We simply had them switch the placement of the stove with the sink and the problem was solved."

Even though the home totals 6,000 square feet on three levels, Marsha wanted it to appear much smaller. This illusion was achieved by using a cross-gable roof design and extra large dormers to mini-



Top: Upholstered chairs encircle the round wood pedestal table in the dining area. The wrought-iron chandelier with antique gold shades is suspended from the tongue-and-groove lodgepole pine ceiling.

Above: Brass tiles are inset alongside muted slate to form the backsplash behind the Thermador range. Marsha's teapot collection lines the tops of the custom knotty-alder cabinets, which she fitted with whimsical brass door pulls in the shapes of acorns, pinecones and twigs. Up lighting heightens the extra rough texture that Marsha admires in the planed white pine floor joists, while under-cabinet lighting illuminates the perimeter granite workspace.



A portion of Marsha's collection of glass squashes resides in the "pumpkin patch" on top an antique-finished side table next to the fireplace. Bare trees visible through half-moon architectural window form the ideal backdrop for Duncan McClellan's leaf-etched yellow glass plate.



mize the length of the view side of the home.

Looking to the day she might bid adieu to practicing law and retire to her North Carolina home, Marsha planned it with all of the necessary amenities on the 2,500-square-foot main level. Here, the great room includes a conversation area, complete with game table, and space for the dining-room table

adjacent to the open kitchen. The powder room lies to the left of the entry. Her master bedroom suite is down the hallway to the right of the entry.

For daughters Whitney and Amy, Marsha integrated two bedroom retreats, each with a full bath, on the second level. One is located above the kitchen-dining area, the other above the two-car attached



garage. She included an additional three-quarter bath just off the loft sitting area.

Marsha also finished the walkout basement for overnight guests. It features a fourth bedroom with a full bath and adjacent desk area, as well as a bunkroom fitted out with double beds with

A fainting couch adds to the "Early Brothel" décor in the master bedroom and is ideal for relaxing in front of the wood-burning fireplace. Room-darkening drapes are suspended from wooden rods by wrought-iron holders. Patio doors open to the deck overlooking the Great Mountains.



machines, which she enjoys playing herself.

To ward off the cold, damp winter weather common to the Smokies, Marsha included four wood-burning fireplaces, which supplement the home's propane-fired, forced-air heating and cooling system. These are found in the great room, master bedroom, bunkroom and playroom.

The finished home embodies the Appalachian log-building tradition. "One of our goals for this home was to use as much of the native products as possible," Scott says. "Several years ago, one of the old log cabins on the ranch burned down and was dismantled. We salvaged the wood and converted two of the yellow poplar logs into mantels. In this way, at least a part of the old cabin continues to reside on the mountain."

Scott adds that the home would not have been possible without the talents of



Above: Neutral Berber carpeting adds warmth to the loft sitting area. Marsha selected velvet upholstery for the sleeper sofa and coordinating overstuffed chair, a leather recliner and an antique rocker for a comfortable and cozy space.

Left: Pewter sinks and hardware set off the raised-panel alder cabinets and granite countertops in the master bathroom, which basks in the golden glow of the white pine logs and tongue-and-groove ceiling.

Opposite: Leaves intertwine in both the chandelier and the staircase railing. Arched transoms over windows increase the natural illumination.



the local artisans who reside in the Appalachian Mountains, notably blacksmith Jack Jaynes, cabinetmaker Darrell Mathis of Pines Custom Cabinets and fourth-generation rock mason Steve Cagle.

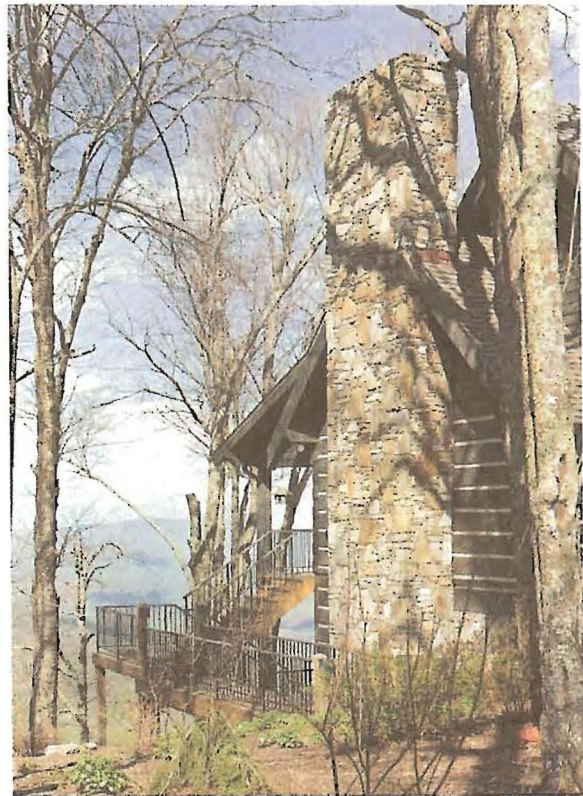
Decorating the home began the moment Marsha bought her land and continued until the day she moved in. She again recruited Tom Bendt to accompany her on several buying trips through western North Carolina. Before the home was completed, they stored their purchases in a warehouse. When the time came to move into the log home, they were delighted and relieved that most fit the intended spaces. "One of my first purchases was a see-through glass sink with leaves embedded in the sides. This set the tone for decorating the home," she says. "Leaf and branch patterns abound on furniture, tapestries, draperies and accessories, such as the drawer and door pulls in the kitchen. And, as you look around the home, you will see plenty of reds and oranges—the colors of leaves in autumn."

Marsha loves to cook and welcomes company in the kitchen. She finds the granite countertop especially suited for baking, as

she doesn't have to worry about burning a laminated top with hot pans directly from the oven. For her cabin, she installed all stainless-steel appliances.

Because the terrain is so steep and the growing season relatively short at the high altitude, Marsha finds growing flowers is a challenge. She has been endeavoring to establish a wildflower garden and periodically throws seeds off her balcony onto the steep slope below, but she suspects the squirrels and birds are having a picnic at her expense. She has had success growing perennials, which she adds to each year, in the front of her home.

When Whitney and Amy join their mother at the mountain cabin, she invites them to join her on an outdoor adventure. Often, they politely decline, stating they would prefer just to stay in the house and take in the ambience of the log construction. Marsha finds it hard to argue with them. "This is the most wonderful place; this is my retreat," she says. "I love to spend time in the kitchen or just sitting on the porch. The world just goes away and I never want to leave." |LHI



Top: From her deck, Marsha has a panoramic view of the Smoky Mountains.

Above: Marsha finds the rustic feel of her pressure-treated deck with the forged wrought-iron railing is ideal for entertaining.

Opposite: White pine logs, wormy chestnut paneling, a twig mirror and hickory floor augment the all-wood feel in the guest bathroom. Finished half logs form the countertop for a see-through green glass vessel sink with maple leaves.

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