







*We just took our time, and it came out better than we thought it would because of that. We had a great team of people who were just into the concept of the project, making a little jewel box of a cabin.*

— THE HOMEOWNER

In 2010, the homeowners — along with a design/build team that included Steamboat Springs, Colorado-based AxialArts Architecture and Vail, Colorado-based Beck Building Company — completed construction on a 2,500-square-foot home that at once stands out from the crowd and blends into its picturesque surroundings.

“We wanted to have the place look like it had been there a long time,” says the homeowner.

With this directive in mind, along with guidance and ample reference pictures from the homeowners, the husband-and-wife team that constitutes AxialArts Architecture, Kevin and Wendy Lind, got to work on creating a suitable design for the 35-acre parcel on the ranch’s active hay meadow.

“Right from the beginning, [the homeowners] identified the need for three essential function pods: the main house for gathering, the bedroom pod and the garage, each with easy access to the outdoors,” the architects recall. “This basic request revealed design

consideration for a compound of three connected structures.”

**Dark-stained beams contrast perfectly with the light stain on the floors and tongue-and-groove ceiling. Reclaimed wood cabinets, a rough-cut stone countertop and plaster interior walls add depth to the color and texture throughout the interior.**

The end result was a main log structure and two “add-ons” — a bunkhouse and a garage — each with a distinct look and feel.

“We established the main log cabin as central, the beetle-kill pine-sided bunkhouse set on the creek side and the more agrarian, utilitarian shed building as a garage on the roadside,” the architects explain. “Each building is well-defined, as if built at different times, then eventually joined with small passage connectors.”

### Old Made New

Although the homeowners aimed to give their new home a historic look and feel, they also wanted to use old materials in new, inventive ways.

“One of the key things about the property was to try to be green and try to make a new thing out of old things,” says the homeowner. “We liked the idea of a log home, and when the beetle kill deforested that area pretty substantially, we got interested in the possibility of building a home out of that wood and recycling it back to a new use.”

The team at Beck Building Company was immediately on board with the idea of using the pines, killed by the mountain pine beetle and harvested to reduce the fire danger they pose to the area.

“As a company, we had been looking for a way to make use of the abundant pine that was coming out of the local forests,” says Kevin O’Donnell, president of Beck Building Company.





**ABOVE:** Both the master and guest bedrooms are housed in the bunkhouse east of the main log box. The homeowners wanted to make the cabin appear as if it had been added onto over the years. **BELOW:** A true statement piece, the custom bathroom vanity comprises an industrial two-person sink set into a stained wood countertop. "It's rough. You don't get splinters, but it's not polished or sealed. It's just stained wood," says the homeowner.



"It made sense from a sustainable standpoint. It also made sense from a cost standpoint."

The efficient use of materials didn't stop with the logs. Both the homeowners and the build team sought out eco-friendly options, such as reclaimed barn wood and brick, and stone from local quarries.

The build team also set a personal goal to attain LEED certification for the buildings.

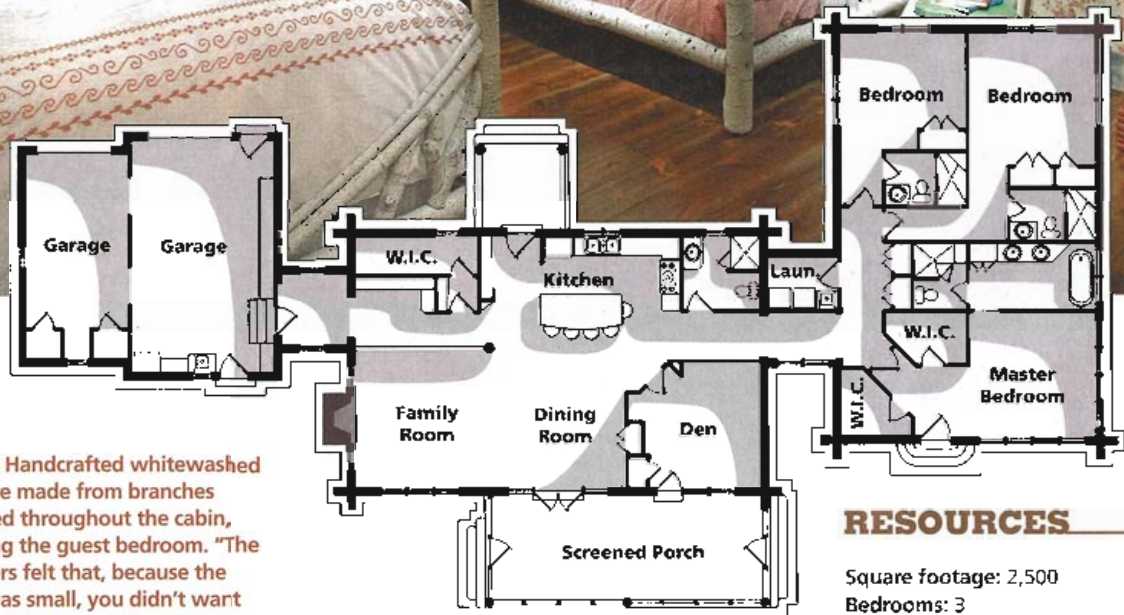
"They took that on at their expense, some of the extra details that had to be done," the homeowner notes. "They wanted to make an investment on their own to try to achieve it."

The cabin ultimately achieved LEED-Silver Certification — not always an easy task for a log home.

"Logs actually make our job harder," the builder states. "There is no hard data on the R-value of logs, and the joints between the logs are a natural place for air infiltration and leakage. We used a standard chinking product to fill the gap between the logs but were extra careful in its application. When we passed our blower-door test with flying colors, the testing company was amazed at how well we did, given the log construction."

Other attributes that helped with both LEED certification and ultimate energy efficiency include a high-efficiency boiler, spray-foam insulation, an energy-recovery ventilation





**ABOVE:** Handcrafted whitewashed furniture made from branches is echoed throughout the cabin, including the guest bedroom. "The designers felt that, because the cabin was small, you didn't want to have a different thing in every room," says the homeowner.

(ERV) system used to cycle fresh air into the home and even the orientation of the cabin itself.

"[We] positioned the house to gain maximum advantage of the views and also the movement of the sun during the day," says the homeowner.

Now, as the homeowners and their three children spend time enjoying their ranch retreat — and all the outdoor activities that come along with it — they have no regrets about waiting to build.

"We really got a feel for the place," says the homeowner. "We just took our time, we weren't in a rush, and it came out better than we thought it would because of that. We had a great team of people who were just into the concept of the project, making a little jewel box of a cabin."

## RESOURCES

Square footage: 2,500  
Bedrooms: 3  
Bathrooms: 4

**Architect; landscape designer:** AxialArts Architecture (970-276-7295; axialarts.com)  
**Builder:** Beck Building Company (970-949-1800; beckbuilds.com)  
**Cabinetry:** Artisan Designs (970-766-7444; vailcabinets.com)  
**Chinking; sealants; stain:** Thomas Mason Company (888-258-6688; tamason.com)  
**Countertops:** European Marble and Granite (801-974-0333; europeanmarbleandgranite.net)  
**Doors:** Genesis Innovations (888-635-2500; genesis-innovations.com)  
**Flooring:** Arrigoni Woods (888-423-6668; arrigoniwood.com)  
**Interior decorator:** Interior Motives by M&N (847-234-4950)  
**Knobs/hardware:** Ashley Norton Architectural Hardware (800-393-1098; ashleynorton.com)  
**Log provider; mantels:** Handcrafted Log & Timber (970-376-0991; handcraftedlogandtimber.com)  
**Masonry; stairs:** JD Masonry (970-949-0176; jdmasonryllc.com)  
**Railings:** Morales Custom Woodwork (970-524-3812)  
**Roofing:** Owens Corning (800-438-7465; owenscorning.com)  
**Windows:** Jeld-Wen (800-535-3936; jeld-wen.com)