

POETRY
IN
WOOD

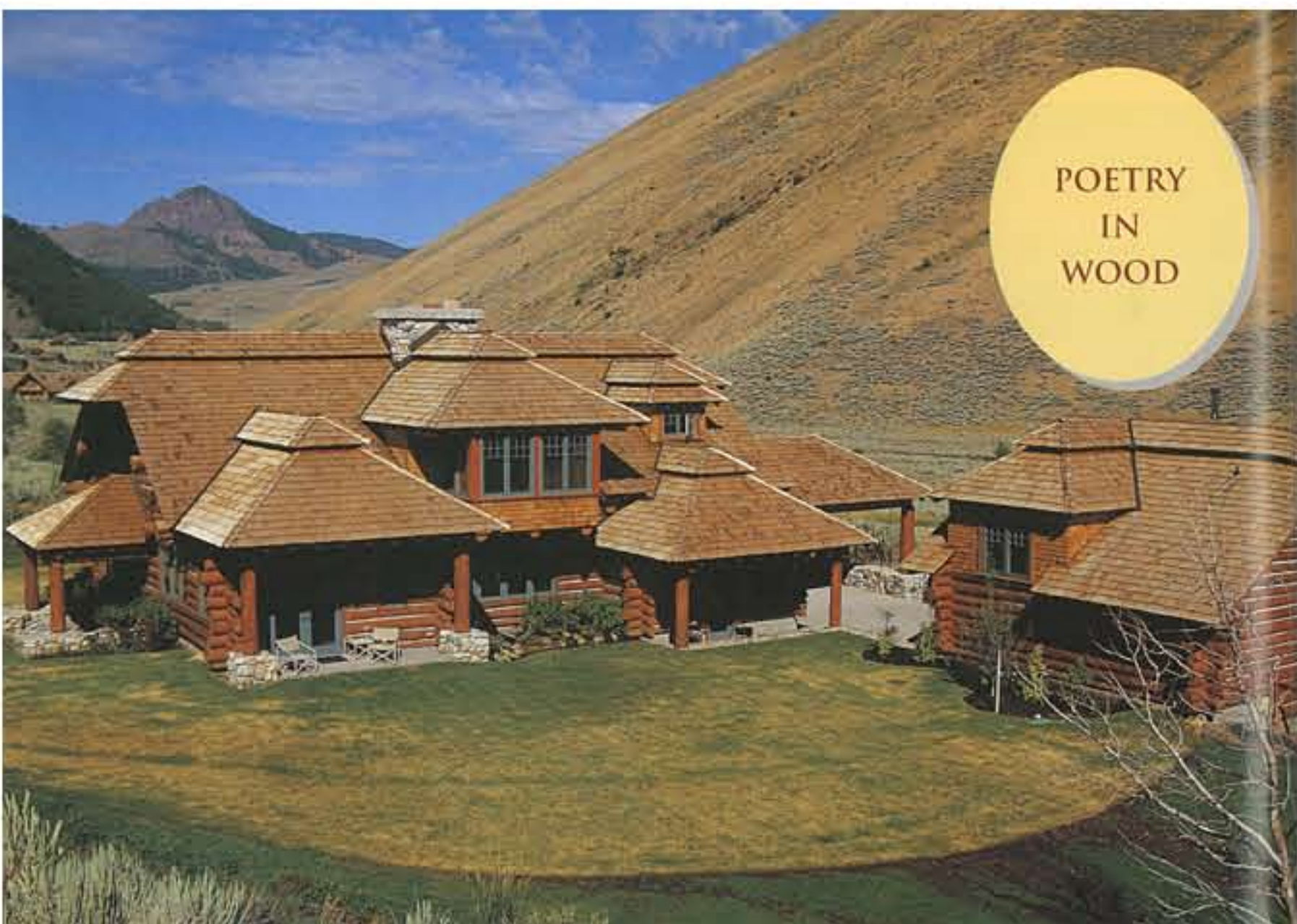


PHOTO: RICHARD FISHER

Architect Richard Fisher was not a log-home veteran when he set out to design this home. Knowing that logs presented different challenges and opportunities from conventional architecture, he chose to work closely with Jack McNamara, an experienced log building contractor. Along with the owner, they spent time poring over ideas, revisiting pages from various books, and inventing the theme that would be carried throughout the house. Richard likens the design that evolved to a "mountain bungalow." The distinctive shake roof with its hips and dormers calls to mind Adirondack great camps, national-park lodges, and even Japanese pagodas. Fisher chose a cold-roof design engineered to hold the heavy snowfall characteristic of this mountain environment.

PHOTOS: CINDY THIEDE AND JONATHAN STOKE

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SIZE: 3,100 sq. ft. plus optional basement
MAIN FLOOR: 1,800 sq. ft.
SECOND FLOOR: 1,300 sq. ft.
LOG PRODUCER: Art Thiede and Norin Borke
BUILDER: Jack McNamara
ARCHITECT: Richard A. Fisher, AIA
INTERIOR DESIGNER: Susan Niven

AROUND THE TURN of the twentieth century, as the developing world embraced gadgetry and machines, certain architects and builders rose up in defense of handcrafted art. Young American architects like Frank Lloyd Wright, Gustav Stickley, and the Greene brothers eventually rose to fame with warm, livable house designs that have since become synonymous with the Arts & Crafts movement. In many ways, America's return to log home living represents similar desires to stay close to nature.

Both rustic and sophisticated, this log house incorporates the feel of a mountain lodge with the warmth and craftsmanship inherent in those early Craftsman-style bungalows. Logs coupled with hip roofs, shingled dormers, and transom-style windows are telltale signs of this amicable marriage. Inside, much of the cabinetry and woodwork received the same kind of artful attention that once led scholars to describe Craftsman style as "poetry in wood."

A Craftsman-style home was built on the premise that "wooden members should not be forced but shaped and fit together like pieces in a puzzle." The woven stairway is a classic example of this notion. Likewise, there is a common theme carried throughout the woodwork and interior finishes, from the light fixtures right on down to the fireplace screen.



"program." Take a good look in the mirror first, then get down to the particulars later. Beware of preconceived notions about what design should be.

The study, like the kitchen, is three stairs up from the main part of the home. One can enter through French doors on either side of the river-rock fireplace. This centrally located chimney services a second fireplace in the study and a third one upstairs in the master bedroom. Early on, there was talk of using full-round log walls to separate interior spaces. The concept was abandoned since both the architect and builder were after a lighter feel inside the house, along with a reasonable amount of flat wall space to accommodate artwork.



At the heart of this home is an elevated kitchen that overlooks the dining area and great room. A friendly breakfast bar accommodates the cook's family and friends, while the counter in front serves to separate the kitchen from the living area below. It hides the clutter without hiding the cook. When viewed from the dining room, the counter functions as a display case for the family's dishes and collectibles.



Timber-frame trusses frame the ceiling over the living room. For fun, the builders carved the home's birthday into one of the beams. Not wanting to overpower their beautiful wood with busy furnishings, the owners and interior decorator, Susan Niven, selected simple contemporary furnishings that complement the Craftsman theme running throughout the home.

WHAT'S SO HOT ABOUT COLD ROOFS?

In cold environments, ice dams that build up on roof eaves can damage shingles, tear off gutters and lead to leaks in the roof. They occur when warm air escapes from the roof and melts the snow on top. Water runs down to the uninsulated eaves and refreezes. The cycle repeats itself and the ice builds up. To prevent this destructive phenomenon, cold-climate homes frequently get topped with "cold roofs." These well-insulated roofs include venting systems that pull cool air in at the eaves and exhaust warm air through the ridge of the roof. While false ridges and Boston ridges are common, cupolas provide another stylish way to vent roofs.

—ART THIEDE,
WOODY'S LOG HOMES