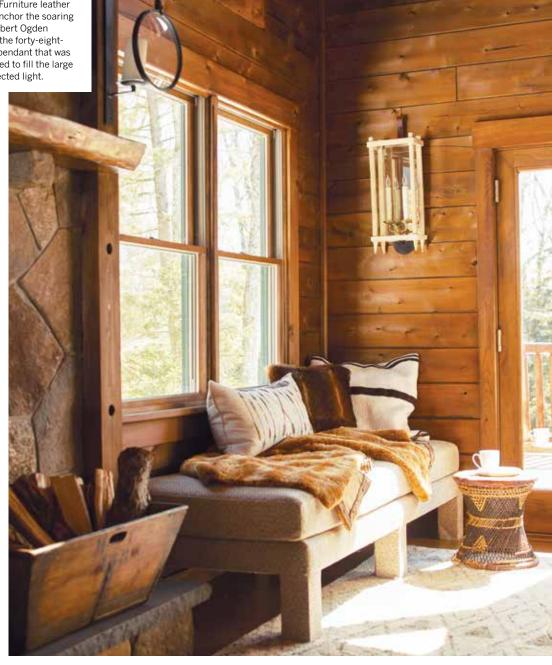




A vintage woven side table and a daybed topped with embroidered Coral & Tusk pillows offer a cozy spot to read in the great room.

FACING PAGE: Annie Selke's
Masinissa wool rug and a pair of Wesley Hall Furniture leather swivel chairs anchor the soaring great room. Robert Ogden Studio crafted the forty-eightinch mirrored pendant that was custom designed to fill the large room with reflected light.



e call it our ski house, but it's so much more than that," says Kristie Smith as she explains how she and her husband, Kevin, decided to build a three-story timber-frame home in Wilmington, Vermont. "It's really our second home. Our retreat. Or, as we often say, our 'happy place.'"



The timber-frame house is nestled snugly into the sloping lot; the basement level is clad with stone veneer. FACING PAGE: A game room, the children's favorite space, in the ten-foot-high basement features a counterheight bar table surrounded by Wisteria barstools with a Currey & Company Fainlight chandelier above. The designer sourced the vintage iron-framed mirror from Stamford, Connecticut's Avery & a classic touch.



The New Canaan, Connecticut, couple and their five children fell in love with this ski and recreational area in the southern part of the state during regular pilgrimages and finally decided to take the next step. "We didn't want a condo," says Kristie. "We wanted something more permanent and hoped to feel part of a neighborhood."

With the aid of local builder Ryan Holton, the Smiths found a tucked-away, gently sloping, two-and-a-half-acre lot that even boasted a small river running through it. Holton, owner of Moosehead Cedar Log Homes and RH Log Works, also helped them customize the six-bedroom, log-cabinstyle house that blends nicely with the heavily wooded lot.

"Ryan was an excellent collaborator," says Kristie. "He and Kevin worked together to tweak the design until we got everything we were hoping for." Changes included extra and enlarged windows to take full





advantage of the lot's views, a ten-foot-high, light-filled basement level, and an enlarged kitchen. "We reconfigured the layout to give the Smiths more kitchen space, so they were able to add an oversized island," says Holton.

New Canaan-based interior designer
Lisa Hilderbrand joined the team just as
the home was being framed and helped
Kristie create the interior. "Both Kristie and
Kevin told me they didn't want the typical
yellowish log cabin tone inside the home,"
she recalls. The couple wanted something
warmer—more restful—that would not
compete with the views outdoors. Adds
Hilderbrand, "We worked together, with
very patient painters, to come up with just
the right color—not too light, not too dark
of a stain—for the oak logs in the great
room. Upstairs, we whitewashed the [main]
bedroom walls. Others were wallpapered."

Hilderbrand selected a color palette for the interior that complemented the views outside. "We went with a lot of neutral colors such as ivory, gray, khaki, and black



while taking advantage of the views.

"We were going for a cozy, calm, welcoming look—one that didn't clash with the beautiful woodland views."

—INTERIOR DESIGNER LISA HILDERBRAND

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and white," she explains. "I also chose texture more than a lot of bold patterns, but nothing too precious. Again, we were going for a cozy, calm, welcoming look—one that didn't clash with the beautiful woodland views." Floors are radiant heated and comprised of quarter-sawn, random-width oak.

The aforementioned kitchen, which now opens to the rest of the main floor, has become the heart of the home. "The owners can be working in the kitchen and still be part of the action," says Hilderbrand. The focal point of the space is a five-foot-long, eight-burner, red-enameled Lacanche gas range from France. "We dubbed it 'the Ferrari,'" says the designer. Kevin was so taken with it that he asked Hilderbrand to custom design a burnished-steel and rubbed-brass hood to complement his new toy.

Kristie confesses that the most frequent comment she hears from guests is, "We see why you love it up here." She explains, "We got exactly the home we were hoping for. It is as cozy as it is comfortable."

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ABOVE: An upstairs cement-tiled bathroom showcases a double vanity paired with Soho mirrors from Ballard Designs and a trio of Hudson Valley Lighting Cortland sconces. RIGHT: The light-filled main bedroom features whitewashed walls and a modern washed-oak four-poster bed from cFc. FACING PAGE: Hilderbrand added an antique English mahogany chest and armchair to, as she explains, "add a lived-in, cozy feel to the [main] bedroom."



BUILDER: Ryan Holton, Moosehead Cedar Log Homes and RH Log Works



