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An antler chandelier hangs above the great room, an open space that enables family and guests to enjoy this area while still being able to see other rooms.





Windham GLORY

Timeless craftsmanship and creative design pay dividends on an architectural gem in upstate New York.

STORY BY BRIDGET MCCREA • PHOTOGRAPHY RICH FRUTCHEY



Exposed beams, hand-woven carpets and ornate furniture make the home's family room complete.

Long-time builder Dick Jordan lives for details. Whether it's a massive natural-stone fireplace that warms guests on chilly evenings or a copper country sink in the master bath, he knows it's the little things that add depth, provide timeless style and make a home complete.

Such is the case with a gem he built for a family in Windham, New York. Like many couples, they envisioned a masterpiece that combined elements of simplicity, craftsmanship and architectural panache.

They got what they wanted—and more. Indeed, the home's exterior looks large, yet simply stated. Come a little closer, and the attention to detail becomes clear in the form of copper-clad roof-eave braces, natural-stone columns and other elaborate features that make this 6,000-square-foot home a true timber beauty.

"This home definitely has all of the bells and whistles," says Dick, owner of Brainard Ridge Associates in Windham. He enjoyed the challenge of working with meticulous home owners who wanted quality to shine through in their ski-getaway home.

Design Perfection

The couple chose Mansfield, Pennsylvania-based Woodhouse, The Timber Frame Company, to design their home and provide the timber package. Steve Keller, founder and CEO at Woodhouse, says the home boasts a "subdued presence" nestled on a mountain. "I marvel at the home owners' vision for the house—they really wanted us to create a masterpiece, a classic.

"The street-side elevation of the home conveys that it's a nice place, but you don't really get to see how nice until you get inside," says Steve. "While it may not have an alarming presence on the mountain, the interior is all about architectural finesse."

Based on a complete, custom package from Woodhouse, the home was designed in-house with the help of an outside architect. Customizations included detailing of the exterior timber-frame elements and copper-cap purlins that extend onto the porches and past the roof line.

The Washington State Douglas fir timbers were pre-cut for window openings, stained a caramel brown and finished with oil. "The home's finishing touches are gor-

Adjacent to the kitchen and breakfast bar, a dining room table beckons guests to long, spirited meals.





Moose TV

You never know what you're going to get while working with a home owner who spares no expense when building a vacation home at a popular upstate New York ski resort.

Dick Jordan discovered this firsthand when he was asked to insert into the living room a 60-inch plasma television that, with the press of a button, is replaced by a moose head.

The solution: The moose head was positioned on a birch panel that's situated just above the fireplace. When the time comes to watch television, the home owners press the button and wait a few seconds as the moose head moves upward to reveal the television screen.

"This is a unique feature that took time to design," says Dick. "It's just another example of how detail-oriented the owners were when incorporating their own tastes and style into the home."

A loft office provides a quiet space to relax or slip away to get a little extra work done.



geous," says Steve, who adds that the attention to detail moved inside once the home was constructed, starting with carpeting that was designed and woven specifically for the house. A tin ceiling was installed above the kitchen and between the timbers.

Built on a site where a previous home once stood, the house required additional site work to accommodate the foundation and the dwelling's lower level, which includes a walkout basement that's finished with decorative timber framing. The level allows the home owners and their guests easy access to the ski-in and ski-out of Ski Windham resort. Situated on a poured-concrete foundation, the home features toasty radiant-floor heating and radiant heat snow-melt sidewalks to avoid winter slipping and sliding.

Building a Legacy

Working exclusively with Woodhouse on Windham Mountain, Dick smiles with pride when he remembers the 24 months it took to build the home. With

about 20 completed timber homes under his belt, Dick says initial work on the site was fairly simple, based on the fact that the previous home was already hooked into water and sewer lines.

The rest of the project, on the other hand, was anything but easy. That's because the details that the owners sought made nearly every nook and cranny of the home a "special project" for Dick's building crew, who even constructed the natural-stone fireplace in the great room. A craftsman at heart, Dick says everything from the pine staircase to the tin ceiling required special attention.

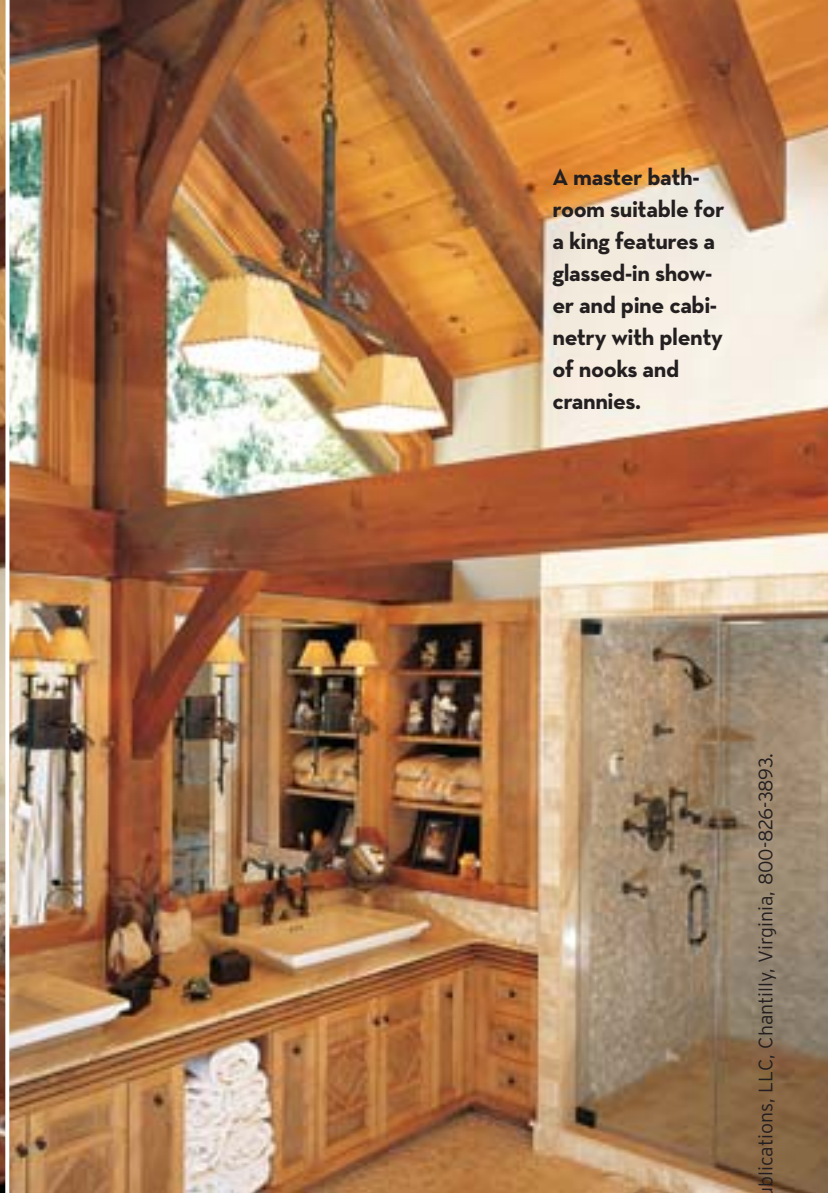
While Brainard Ridge rolled up its sleeves for nearly two years to work on the house, Steve says that the home owners visited frequently to check on progress and offer encouragement. Special customizations included pre-wiring for a security system, providing for the installation of central vacuums and laying high-speed Internet cables throughout the home.

The home owners also opted for house-wide sound and lighting systems that are wired to central

The home's master bedroom boasts windows that usher in plenty of natural light.



A master bathroom suitable for a king features a glassed-in shower and pine cabinetry with plenty of nooks and crannies.



control panels. And the payoff—especially with the lights—is breathtaking. The latter can showcase special features, including the great room's antler chandelier, with just the flip of a switch.

Warmth pervades the home's design and decor, which was central to the home owners' all-encompassing vision. Dick is particularly proud of his team's work on two additional fireplaces crafted from natural stone and wood panels.

Success followed a pretty simple formula, according to Dick. Pay attention to details. Abide by the time-honored timber-home traditions of craftsmanship. And add elegance and warmth to interior spaces. "Our clients did everything the right way," he says. ■

Home Details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 6,000
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TIMBER PRODUCER: Woodhouse, The Timber Frame Company, 800-227-4311; www.woodhouse-pb.com

