

COUNTRY LIVING



D I G E S T

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1. LOG HOME BOOKS FOR BUILDING A LOG CABIN

Are you looking for a log home book? Having one or more of the best log home books handy can be an important part of creating and building a dream log cabin home original. It takes knowledge to design and build a log cabin home original. A quality log home design book can help make your home become a reality.

Your log home design book should provide you with information required to make your dream happen. Other criteria should be that the book should be a best-seller that is written by an industry professional. Here are two of the best books covering log home design and building:



Log Construction Manual: The Ultimate Guide to Building Handcrafted Log Homes by Robert Wood Chambers.

This log home book is an important guide for those who are going to build this type of structure. It covers the design and construction process to help you get organized. The author provides information on shopping for kits, finding your land, estimating how much construction will cost, obtaining financing, choosing a builder and overseeing construction. Numerous checklists and forms are provided for your personal use.

This book may be the best log home book ever. The illustrations are great and the text is objective and factual. The approach by the author is presented as the best way he found to do a particular job. If he finds someone doing it a better way in the future, he will begin doing it that way in the future.

The author explains how to build a log cabin home original. From planning for settling to the proper chainsaw stance when cutting a lateral groove in a log, he tells you how to do it correctly. If your goal is to learn the most practical information in one log home book, this is the book to select. It is the best written instruction guide for creating a log cabin home original that you will find.

The author is a writer who can explain complex tasks in everyday English. Even if you have little experience in log cabin home original building, you really do have a chance to be able to try the techniques on wood correctly after reading this book. No matter if you are hiring someone to build your log cabin home original, this is an informative construction book to have.

The other informative log home book is titled **Log Homes Made Easy: Contracting and Building Your Own Log Home** by Jim Cooper.

Cooper explains that these buildings are products of modern engineering and building methods and their rustic nature requires a combination of knowledge plus experience to build correctly. He knows what he is writing about as he has been both a log home builder and dealer. And yes, he lives in one that he built himself.

The author gives practical information on the steps for starting, organizing and comparing price quotes, using the internet, selecting an architect, planning the site, the well and septic systems, choosing and overseeing subcontractors, scheduling and controlling project costs. This guide to building a log cabin home original covers kits, financing and construction. The author also explains the myths and realities of living in these homes.

It does not matter whether you will be doing none of the work, some of it or all of it. The how-to approaches provided by these building guides are the best you will find. You absolutely want a log home book that is useful and practical.

Learn as much as you can before taking the plunge. Having a comfortable, attractive and functional log cabin home original that reflects your own style means you will have a very special place to enjoy for many years to come.

2. LOG HOME BUYING PROCESS - FROM DREAMING TO PLANNING

Millions of people every year dream of owning a log home. In fact, the popularity of log homes has been increasing over the past several years. However, the reality of it is that only a small percentage of people actually make the full transition from dreaming about owning a log home to actually owning one. Thirty years of experience in the log home industry tells me there are several primary reasons why there are roughly only 30,000 new log homes built each year (over the past several years).



I hope by sharing my knowledge and experience, more people will be able to go from dreaming to planning to building to living in a log home or log cabin of their own. The first piece of advice I offer is to do your homework upfront to get a good understanding of what is available, what you want, what you need, what you can afford and if necessary, what compromises you are willing to make.

There is a plethora of resources available for anyone who is serious about wanting to go from dreaming to planning. The Internet offers a wealth of information, ranging from species of logs to styles of logs, from planning checklists to information on hundreds of log home manufacturers, dealers, designers and builders. Subscribe to one or more of the leading log home industry publications; they too provide potential log home buyers with tips and ideas on how to make the process as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Attend a log home show and sit in on some of the educational classes offered by leading industry experts. Talk to the various log home company reps to find out what they specialize in and what they recommend. Take advantage of the first-hand opportunity to look at, feel and smell the different types and styles of logs and log home construction. Learn as much as you can about what your options are and then it's time to sit down and begin putting your wants and needs, likes and dislikes on paper.

Sketch out a rough plan of what you envision your perfect log home to be based on how you plan to use it. How many bedrooms do you want? How many bathrooms? One floor or two? How important are cooking and eating spaces? Porch or deck? What is the rough total living space (square footage) you need and want? For many people, looking at existing log home plans can provide ideas.

Once you have a rough floor plan concept, think about how you would like your log home appointed. Is rustic living more important than marble counter tops, a Hi-Fi, High Def entertainment room or wireless internet? Will a wood stove work or do you just have to have a field stone fireplace centerpiece? It is okay to dream big, but it is as important to be realistic as there is a cost associated with everything.

Once you've compiled a preliminary idea of what you want, the next most important step is to talk to a mortgage consultant to ascertain how much money a bank will loan you to finance the project (unless of course you have sufficient resources at hand to pay cash for the materials and construction). Getting a log home construction loan pre-approval early on significantly reduces the amount of time and frustration you will have to spend finalizing your plan.

If you are ready to move the process forward at this point, it becomes beneficial to select a log home manufacturer who you are comfortable with to help guide you through the rest of the process. Select a partner that has demonstrated an interest in helping you; one that has helped inform you without putting a lot of "buy now" pressure on you. Someone who, even though they may have sold hundreds or thousands of log homes, treats you like your log home is the most important one they have ever been involved with. Someone who stands by their workmanship long after the sale is closed.

On average, this process takes between 6 months and a year before a deal is closed and the logs are delivered. So, if you're getting a lot of pressure to buy something this month or to settle for something that is not what you want, you might want to look for another relationship.

If you are serious about building a new log home or log cabin, heeding some of these recommendations may increase the likelihood that you will eventually become one of the few dreamers who actually made it through the process (sooner rather than later).

3. OFF GRID BATTERIES

Off grid batteries are becoming a hot topic. Unless you know how to make a sustainable off grid battery, you won't be able to become self-sufficient. Renewable energy only requires a little effort, so why not try? Pre-war off-grid batteries were commonplace but now they seem to have slipped out of our everyday parlance.



People with little money are always looking for ways to save, just like me. I decided to find out how to get the best out of my off-grid battery. I then made up my mind to source free batteries which I could rejuvenate. With a bit of good advice, it wasn't a big problem to find free batteries to rejuvenate. In actual fact, several businesses in my area were falling over themselves to get rid of their old batteries.

I got hold of old batteries to rejuvenate without paying a dime. I then had to find out how to give them an overhaul and make them work for another few years. You see, these guys were only getting rid of their old batteries and passing them on to me because they didn't want the expense of disposing of them themselves. Great for me, but I needed the requisite know-how.

So how could I rejuvenate these off grid batteries and make them into something I could work with on my renewable energy, off-grid drive?

Well, I just looked about on the web and found some off-grid sites which explained everything. Some were good and several others less than good.

One of these off grid sites explained how, like me, they hated to see waste and wanted to produce free energy. It also went into how to procure and rejuvenate off-grid batteries. That was enough for me, but let me relate to you what this type of site should explain to you.

If you want to go off-grid, you need to understand and get knowledge of your power supply (wind, water or solar), your generator and your off-grid batteries. These are the three essentials. To be honest, off-grid batteries are simple to get hold of and overhaul. A quick browse of the internet will give you more advice than you could dream of.

Have we dealt with off-grid batteries properly? Probably not. Let's assume I have.

If so, let's go on to your power source. Why not consider wind power? I don't want to push you down that road, but there are several advantages over solar power.

Solar power is, in fact, far more difficult to harness than wind power and batteries do feel that. Batteries need a fairly regular charge and wind power supplies this charge more consistently than trying to draw energy from the sun. Both systems need to be

positioned correctly, of course, but research has proven that wind requires less technical savvy than solar panels.

Basically, that means that setting up a wind system is cheaper and easier than a solar system which is always better for your off-grid battery system. A consistent charge to your battery is exactly what you want.

What do you want me to say? Go for wind rather than the sun to make your off-grid battery the best it can possibly be.

4. TEDS WOODWORKING REVIEW

One of the first things I noticed when starting to do my homework for my first Teds Woodworking review, was that the plans and blueprints of the program seem to be put together, along with the pictures and written descriptions, so that both brutal beginners in working with wood, as well as the very experienced woodworkers, can benefit from them, and successfully complete any of the 15,000 + projects the package contains.

During my subsequent Teds Woodworking review, I quickly realized that, for the more inexperienced woodworker, the plans seem to have just this little additional hint and tip along all projects, that explains the little details that often make the difference between a wrong cut and a great cut on wood, or e.g. a proper decision for cherry-wood as a material or knowing why pine-wood might be just the right material for your next outside-woodwork project.

The same holds true for the different woodworking techniques and also the appropriate woodworking tools that are available in this software package. However, is it really suitable for beginners, as well as for experts just as they advertise it for and so many reviews brag about? One thing that really frustrated me personally, when starting out with woodworking was the sheer indefinite amount of woodworking plans out there, and the so often extreme lack of in-depth explanations of any serious woodworking projects; to me -at least when I started out with this exiting hobby - it was almost like all of the woodworking plans and project - software would lure you into believing they deliver some sort of quality, by teaching you extremely simple woodworking projects like for example a plant - holder, but falling completely short on any kind of more involved woodworking project plans - and their explanations.

Continuing to review Teds Woodworking, I also realized one other thing which was that some of the major woodworking packages did not really contain any major amount or number of woodworking projects; as a matter of fact, once I came across a woodworking plan project package that did not contain more than 25 plans in total, most of them where the same Chippendale style dining room wooden chair and table set. Of course, and very unfortunately, before you buy the software, you know only very little about its content, and if you end up buying a product with only very poor customer service support, you might end up never getting your money back after you really tried the product and realized you may not be really satisfied with it. Very often, these products come with a lot of "bonuses" for woodworking, be it any kind of woodworking e-books, or whatever software that relates to working with wood and manufacturers of these woodworking products really try to focus on the "add-ons", the "freebies" that you may get when buying their product - for the simple reason that the core -woodworking product itself is rather slim on insight on woodworking.

This, to me, was another reason why I really liked Ted's woodworking a lot; not only does the product give a lot of bonuses in addition to the core - woodworking product, for example the so called DWG/CAD Plan Viewer, which allows you to edit or even create from scratch your very own woodworking project (just in case you do not have enough with the already existing 14,000 + [plans and projects]), it also comes with tons

and tons (translates to over 150) videos related to any aspect of woodworking; at the same time, however, the program does NOT fall short on delivering its core premises which are just plainly very well laid out woodworking plans and projects for beginners to pro's in carpentry.

5. EXPLAINING HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

WHAT IS A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION?

A Homestead Exemption is a discount taken from the amount of property taxes you owe per year when the property is registered with the clerk's office as your primary residence. The Homestead Exemption is meant to help protect a homeowner from losing their home. The application for Homestead Exemption varies widely from state to state, however it almost always applies to the primary place of residence. When you are doing your research, make sure you ask the county officials if a Homestead Exemption exists in that county and if so what does it mean to the property owner?

You also need to know how you can tell when you are looking at a property record where Homestead Exemption is applied.

Here are some common examples of what the Homestead Exemption can mean in different states.

IT COULD ALLOW THE HOMEOWNER TO PAY LESS TAXES - Oklahoma is a state where a homeowner with a homestead exemption pays less income taxes. In Tulsa County, the homeowner's age and income determines how much of a tax reduction the homeowner will qualify for.

IT COULD LENGTHEN THE REDEMPTION PERIOD - This is the case in Texas. If a property in Texas has a homestead exemption on it, the redemption period after the tax deed auction is extended from 180 days to as much as two years.

IT COULD PROTECT THE PROPERTIES VALUE - Florida uses Homestead Exemption to protect the value of the property. When a property having a Homestead Exemption, goes into a tax auction, the minimum bid must start at 50% of the property's assessed value plus any back taxes owed. The Homestead Exemption does not affect a Florida Tax Lien auction, only the tax deed auction.

6. HOMESTEAD SITEBUILDER REVIEW

Homestead Site builder is much like any other website builder in that they allow practically anyone to be able to design their own website without having to know a thing about website design. This means that you can effectively and relatively easily build a website that you can have online and running in a matter of minutes, not months.

Homestead Site builder has 2,000 templates that were designed by professional website builders that you can choose from to use for your own website. Think of the template as the frame of a house. You pick the style and the design of the frame and fill up the inside later. Once you have chosen what you want the website frame to look like the rest is simply a fill in the blank process.

Homestead Site builder takes you through the step by step process of building your website and all it really entails is having to add whatever text you want and placing your company logo and pictures where you want them as well. This is all completed with a few simple clicks of the mouse and some dragging and dropping also using your trusty mouse.

Once your website is completed the way you like it all you have to do is one last step and your website will go live. That last step is the simple click of a button and your website is then live for the entire world to see. Because Homestead Site builder hosts your website for you that means that you don't have to worry about loading your user name and password to any other website hosting service.

Best of all, the price that you pay is only around five bucks a month. When you compare that to other services around you really do end up with a good deal. However the good deal doesn't stop there. Right now Homestead Site builder is offering a 30-day free trial. To take advantage of their offer simply go to their website and read more about it.

Homestead Site builder is an Intuit company which is one of the most reputable names in the website design industry. Because they have the backing of such a big name, you can feel a little more confident as you will know they are not just another fly by night website builder that won't be around next month.

Now it is possible for anyone to be able to have a professional looking website that they can create themselves. Gone are the days where you had to know all sorts of special website building code such as HTML. Now with companies like Homestead Site builder your website is closer that you think.

With the ease of use and a free trail offer, you too may want to consider using Homestead Site builder for your website needs. For the price you will pay, and what you will get, it sure beats the alternative of hiring someone to build your website for you and chagrin you tons of money in the process. You can build your own website yourself and Homestead Site builder may be the solution you have been looking for that allows you to do so.

7. DIY CONSERVATORIES - WHAT STYLE IS MOST DESIRABLE?

When choosing a DIY conservatory, there is a myriad of designs and options, this really is pretty daunting. Whilst you are making a huge saving over the price of an ordinary conservatory it is still a significant purchase, so you'll want to make the right choice.



There are a lot of options when it comes to the materials you decide on for your DIY conservatory, various kinds of glass, different materials for the frame and of course the style of your conservatory. While your taste is going to dictate your selection to a great extent, you'll need to take various practicalities into consideration.

Each neighbourhood and every house has its own special style. You should take this into consideration when selecting the design of your DIY conservatory. Certainly if you get it right, a DIY conservatory can definitely enhance the look of the rear of your house.

Victorian style DIY Conservatories

Victorian design DIY conservatories are among the enduring classic styles that have proved in demand for countless years. It needs less square footage, but will also provide you with a traditional beautiful finish.

Edwardian design DIY Conservatories

The crucial trait of the Edwardian design conservatory is its square form which gives maximum living area for the least loss of garden area.

Edwardian design DIY conservatories are classic like the Victorian design, they're airy and roomy.

A DIY Edwardian conservatory offers the best of both worlds. Exactly like lean to or hipped lean to DIY conservatories, it maximises the room available. Simultaneously it gives the same traditional Edwardian look having a distinctive cresting and finial, as the Victorian conservatory.

You might be thinking about building a brick structure instead of an Edwardian DIY conservatory, after all the square shape means it is just like every other room, right? Well in our view it does not, indeed you could use bi-fold doors to open up the room, but an Edwardian style conservatory provides you with a far brighter space that seems like a part of the garden.

Lean-to diy conservatories

Much like the Edwardian style DIY conservatories the lean-to conservatory style is rectangular and is a great solution to add additional square footage to your downstairs living area. These kinds of rooms make perfect playrooms, dining rooms, home offices or sitting areas to soak up the sun's rays and take pleasure in the garden.

Lots of people think that a lean-to diy conservatory will have a flat roof, but that's not the case, many come with a pitched roof that will help channel rain water properly, stopping leaking and damp problems that you get with traditional felt flat roofs.

Lean-to conservatories are fantastic for bungalows, their lower roof profile mean that they are often attached underneath the guttering and fascia and will not look out of proportion with even the most compact of buildings.

P-Shaped DIY Conservatories

For those who have a bigger budget and are searching for that multipurpose room, such as a dining area along with a sitting area, then the P-shaped diy conservatory is the option for you. The P-shaped conservatory will take up additional space, but for those who have that space to spare you'll get in return a fantastic looking conservatory with acres of space.

You can think of the P-shaped conservatory like a marriage between the Victorian style DIY conservatory as well as the Edwardian style DIY conservatory. Imagine eating an excellent dinner in one area then retiring to the other space to take an after dinner drink and take advantage of the garden views.

In Summary

It is very important to plan ahead of time to get the conservatory that's perfect for your house and the space you have to build on. Speak to at the very least three DIY conservatory companies to get ideas of just what could be achieved for what price. When you have quite a small budget then a lean-to conservatory is a fantastic option, for people with more to spend then an Edwardian or Victorian style DIY conservatory can give you a terrific building that you will benefit from for countless years.

In this article we've discussed the fundamental styles, however it doesn't finish there. It is possible to have any style of DIY conservatory to fit just about any space, from grand multi space units to amazing classic gable ended potting shed designs.

8. THE CHALLENGES FACING THE ECOLOGICAL TINY HOUSE

The "tiny house" has become more popular over the last few years. These are small houses often under 100 square feet and sometimes a bit larger that provide the basic micro sized living space for an individual. These houses have great efficiency and are very practical. There are some serious problems that these houses are facing making them difficult to be a replacement for the masses.

One of the challenges is the legal issue. In most areas there are zoning and codes that buildings must meet up to. These tiny houses are so small that they don't really fit into a proper legal category. Much of the time the law doesn't know what to do with them so many times they are just not allowed. There will have to be some acceptance of this type of lifestyle choice on the legal level for it to work out for the masses.

The other issue is cost. Most of these homes are not mass produced by any means. They are built by hand with high quality and efficient parts. This makes the cost per square foot of these houses extremely high compared to other homes. For many the idea of paying a high price for something so small puts them off when the same money could buy something that is quite a bit larger. It's hard to sell the advantages of efficiency and low impact on resources when there are larger which tends to mean better deals out there in many people's minds.

Even if the tiny house is a niche market it does show a practical example of how people could live much simpler in today's modern context. Whether this lifestyle becomes one for the masses or not, it does prove a point. At this point in time, these challenges are real and the biggest hurdle that many have to face is wanting to use a home like this.



9. EASY COUNTRY LIVING

The idea of leaving everything behind and moving to the middle of nowhere sounds appealing sometimes. Separating one's self from the occasionally deafening noise of city living and busy schedules can be quite an enticing idea, but then there are certain realities that must a person must bear in mind. Along



with the ease of country living comes the added difficulty of getting the things a person needs. A person cannot simply walk to the corner store when the closest town is 100 miles away. Satellite internet is one of the technological developments that help people sidestep another potential difficulty, internet access.

If a person chooses to truly live in the sticks then there is very little chance that there will be a cable or DSL connection available. Back in the day a person's only option for internet connection in rural areas was dial-up. For anyone who has ever used high speed internet to then have to switch to dial-up, the transition is beyond painful. If a person is in serious need of high speed internet then they now have an option in the form of satellite internet broadband. While this connection is not quite the same speed as DSL or cable, it is light years faster than dial-up and allows someone to do all of the same things on the internet that they would if they lived in a city.

Speed is not the main issue that people should be concerned about if they are entertaining the idea of using satellite to connect to the internet. The bigger items that people should pay attention to are cost and reliability. While the convenience of being able to bring the internet to wherever a person moves is great, there is a hefty price for such a luxury. Purchasing the equipment, having it installed, and paying the monthly fees for the service all add up to a pretty penny, but it is worth the cost for people who need high speed satellite internet in their home.

There is also the problem of reliability. The strength of the signal between the terrestrial dish and the satellite in space can be negatively affected by bad weather. A lot of rain, clouds, or strong wind can disrupt the signal, thereby drastically slowing down or dropping a person's internet connection. There are certain tools that a person can use in order to lower the chances of bad weather interrupting their satellite internet connection. The broader the dish is, the better the chances are that signals will be successfully transmitted and received.

Another way to combat bad weather interference is to install a signal amplifier that will make it more resistant to external issues. Getting a signal locator is another good idea if a person regularly has a problem establishing a connection. While cost and reliability should be areas of concern for subscribers, the convenience and speed of using satellite

internet broadband is worth the hassle if having an internet connection in the home is of great importance.

10. COOKING IDEAS THAT WILL SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY

The saying, "time is money" certainly applies in the business world, but it applies in the kitchen, too. Saving time and money in the kitchen really helps with family time and the family budget. So it works in our favor when we come up with cooking ideas that save time and money in the kitchen. There are a lot of kitchen shortcuts out there, but no matter which way you cut the roast, cooking is still cooking. So what are some cooking ideas that will save you time and money?



Easy cooking is a great place to start. We all like to think of ourselves as good cooks, but not everything has to be complicated. It's hard to save time and money if you aren't organized. So get organized by focusing on what to cook and when to cook. Write your cooking ideas down and put them in your own personal cooking book. Along with planning what to cook, you should plan when to cook. Most people assume they have to cook dinner between the hours of 4 pm and 7 pm. As the norm this is great, but make sure you are using easy recipes for dinner.

Here is another one we found works in our house. Cook dinner at breakfast. No, most would not classify this as a normal habit. Think of it this way. By cooking your dinner in the morning, you will not have the evening rush of "what to cook" which regularly translates into "where can I order out" because you don't have the time or energy to make a home cooked meal. Prepare your dinner meal while you are fixing breakfast, and then put it in the refrigerator. When you get home, you will only have to reheat and a home cooked meal is on the table in a jiffy. This is especially good when you are cooking for kids.

Here is another one from the cooking book. Dig out the crock pot. We do this a lot on Sundays. There are healthy and great tasting dishes that you can make in a crock pot. In the morning, all your ingredients get added to the pot. By dinner, it's ready to serve. How much prep time do you have when you get home? Just long enough to set the table. Talk about easy cooking! To us, this is as close as it comes to having someone cook your dinner for you. Shop around. There are some great crock pot recipes available that will tantalize your taste bud. Along with those quick and easy recipes, try this. Plan a kitchen table picnic. What does that mean? It means you use paper plates and plastic ware. Does that beat washing the dishes or what?! Even the kids can get involved with throwing out the plates when they are done eating. If you do this when you do crock pot cooking, then you have only one dish to wash, the crock pot!

This one needs prep time, but offers you a real break on a day to day basis. We do this about five or six times a year. We cook for a whole month a one time. Everything goes in the freezer. When we are done, there are 30 dinners in the freezer. It takes two days to

get it all done, but for a month, dinner is on the table about 20 minutes after we get home. If a month seems overwhelming, start with doing meals for a week or two. Every night then has easy recipes for dinner!

Save time. Save money. It's a great way to run a kitchen. The more easy cooking and cost effective cooking you can do, the better off your kitchen is!

11. DIY BED WITH STORAGE CUBBIES OR DRAWERS

Regular old Ikea furniture or other warehouse stores have generic furniture that does serve its purpose well, but lacks that unique style that makes for a truly tailored room.

What other way to make a special addition to your home, than to make something with your own two hands with love and care that can't be replicated by a mass produced company? If you or someone you know is a handy woman or man, then consider taking on this project to take yours or your kid's room to the next level.



This is a DIY bed with storage cubbies or drawers underneath; the project was originally inspired by Ana White, who featured two separate plans, the Farmhouse King Bed plan, and the Farmhouse Storage Bed. This lady from impatiently crafty merged these two plans to make a beautiful bed with ample amounts of storage, and the classic farmhouse style look without the hefty price tag that comes with the store bought versions. She spent a total of about \$750 on the materials and the work involved, but the results are beautiful. First she went ahead and made the storage boxes, then she glued together the headboard pieces and foot board. She then stained those two pieces and made the bed a two-toned, natural wood combined with an off white color to finish the look. Then she went ahead and put the bed together and finished the piece by adding the slats.

Go ahead and check out her site for the step by step instructions and pictures to guide you along the way. In addition, there are floor plans available for download if you're interested in making these pieces yourself. She has a lot of other DIY tutorials on the site, so if this one doesn't suit you, check out one of the other ones. The pictures are clear, and the end results are amazing!

Please visit the 'Impatiently Crafty' website below for details.

Source: [Impatiently Crafty](http://impatientlycrafty.com)

12. 44 RECLAIMED WOOD RUSTIC COUNTERTOP IDEAS

Now-a-days, people are significantly aware of the "3 R's" - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Why shouldn't home decor/design adopt this trend? It could even have its own "3 R's" - Recycle, Repurpose, and Reclaim. Thankfully, people all over are finding ways to use "reclaimed elements" when decorating/designing their homes.



Salvaged/reclaimed wood furniture is sturdy and built to be passed down for generations (eliminating waste and cheap "disposable" furniture in landfills). Using reclaimed wood in the building/design process of your home creates beautiful repurposed applications - like for a counter-top, flooring, exposed beams or staircase. Reclaimed wood lends history, character and warmth to any room. The best part is you have a unique - bespoke actually - rustic item in your home. Not only is this an environmentally friendly option, the wood is salvaged from places like century old deconstructed buildings and barns so it's also Sustainable! There are even dining room tables made of reclaimed wood from old railway ties. All works are one of a kind, original so the designs are personal and not made for the masses. The possibilities for recycled and reclaimed wood in your home are endless!

You may be surprised at the ways you can re-purpose reclaimed lumber: doors, stair railings, room dividers - These are only a few ideas for the construction of your home. If you don't want to do such a "permanent installation" you can always opt for reclaimed furniture ideas. Furniture using reclaimed wood (or salvaged wood) is more affordable, and there are plenty of "do-it-yourself" ideas online that would be fun and family friendly.

If you like the idea of lowering your "environmental footprint" and want to incorporate some ideas into the design of your home, click the 'Decoholic' website below to see 44 of our favorites from around the web.

Source: [Decoholic](#)

13. THE COOLEST RUSTIC LOG HOME PLAN IDEAS

Since 2013, rustic designs for homes and other functional spaces have become quite a trend. The attention to details to capture such ambiance in the space is essential. Should you want to have this kind of feel in your home, we recommend that you add some rustic accessories and even change your traditional furniture to rustic styles. But why just settle for the feel when you can live inside an authentic rustic log home? There is a lot of inspiration you can get online nowadays, from the construction to even just doing a minimal rustic design in your room.



Hiring the right people to design your space is a wise decision if you want to get your money's worth. Only trust the experts who have been in the industry for a long time and their clients could vouch for the quality of their work. Gabberts Design Studio can provide fresh versions of rustic designs in your space, as they use reclaimed woods and other natural elements partnered with some of your original modern materials. Your space will soon achieve the rustic design that you have been aiming for with the help of this company's award winning team.

Whether you want a contemporary or traditional design, this team will help you obtain the right rustic theme for your room or even your entire house. You will see handcrafted materials if you go for the traditional design. Your house will gain that classic and sophisticated look when they include pine for your walls, flooring and even furniture. The designers working for this firm will even shop from global markets just to give you the finest that the world can offer in terms of furniture and other things that will accessorize your home to get in with the rustic theme.

See more information and other related facts on rustic log homes and design when you visit the site [Canadian Log Homes](#) below.

Source: [Canadian Log Homes](#)

14. GREAT TREE SINK!

So just where are we going to find this handcrafted wood sink? Well, read on. On the northern tip of France, bordering the beautiful Atlantic ocean nestled in the province of Pas de Calais in the city of Nouvelle Eglise is a fascinating little gypsy caravan available for rent. Who needs a five star luxury hotel or a Paris adventure when you can go somewhere a little more remote and full of character? It's suited for 4 people (two adults and two kids) and has one bedroom, so essentially the perfect amount of space for a mini vacation.



It's on an enclosed and private property, with horseback riding available for leisure. So after a day of hiking and exploring the surrounding area, you can come back to your log cabin caravan retreat for some extended peace and quiet - especially once the kids are sleeping! If you travel just a bit further from the site you can reach an abundance of other options for recreational activities too from canoeing, to windsurfing, mountain biking, parachuting, some mini golfing, paintball, hunting, only to name a few. You are sure to find something you like with all the activities available to try. In addition to the physical activities, some more culturally inclined fun is also just around the corner. Antique shows, zoos, movie theaters, restaurants, a bio farm, and historical sites are waiting to be discovered. If you're planning your next family vacation, why not consider ditching the generic trip and hotel experience for something more unique, lively, and sure to be a memorable time for the entire family?

The charming and unusual Gite has a great tree sink and other interesting and quirky additions that will be sure to make a lasting impression. The going rates to rent this pad are all featured on the site, so you can go ahead and check it out to see if this is something that interests you. Even if it's not, it's a neat little caravan to take a look at!

Please visit the 'IHA' website below for details.

Source: [IHA](#)

15. RUSTIC STYLE BED



This rustic style bed is a beautiful piece of log furniture. Hand-crafted, it is really a very unique piece. These types of beds can run anywhere between a couple of thousand dollars all the way up to five and ten thousand dollars, depending on the type of wood used and the builder that you find. It can be easier to have a beautiful log bed like this, crafted in areas of the pacific North West where log home and log furniture craft is more common.

You certainly won't find a piece like this in busy cities; this is a true rustic piece of gorgeous hand-crafted log furniture, ideally suited to the country living lifestyle.

Source: [Style Room](#)

16. BUILD A LOG CABIN WITHOUT SPENDING A FORTUNE

We all love stories where someone's dream comes true. It feels good to see people happy and it also inspires us to believe in our own dreams and their potential. Like, our builder in this story, many of us have a dream of own our own home one day, and even perhaps building our own home. There is something empowering about becoming self reliant and capable, and owning a home make ones feel this way. Building a home takes this to an entirely new level.



If you also dream of building your own cabin, in this story, you may be inspired to start keeping your eyes open to good deals on equipment and tools. It also might encourage you to start browsing books on building or how to use specific tools. Such a huge part of building your own cabin is in the planning phase, so keep in mind that if you do not have the finances, the land or the skill to build just yet, use this time for learning and for planning your dream.

As you will read, there are some larger tools that will be needed in order to get this building started, and perhaps you might find it easier to rent than to buy a sawmill. Often times you can go down to your local sawmill and spend a bit of money to have them do the work for you.

For more on this interesting and inspiring story, check out the link to the 'Mother Earth News' website linked below.

Source: [Mother Earth News](#)

17. 47 FANTASTIC FREE LOG CABIN PLANS THAT ARE REALLY

Montana Log Homes are log homes with a difference, a handcrafted difference. Unlike milled or 'kit' homes, our log shells are individually crafted by skilled log smiths using chainsaws and traditional tools. Each full length log is cut, carved and then assembled together into the finished structure right here at our construction yard in Kalispell. By hand fitting each log separately we maintain a high degree of quality control throughout the entire log construction process.

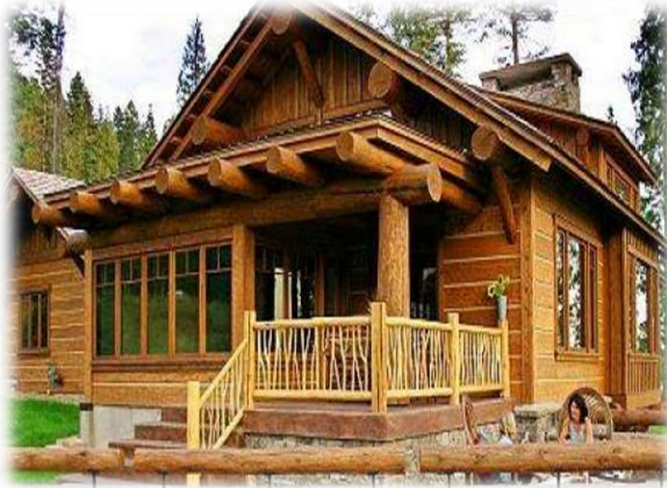


Montana Log Homes also offers design and blueprint services to enable you to achieve the custom details that you want built into your home. From the planning stage to final reconstruction on your site, the experienced team at Montana Log Homes will give your project the attention you expect. Please take some time to browse through some of our floor plans.

Source: [Montana Log Homes](#)

18. WESTERN STYLE LOG CABIN WITH MUST SEE INTERIOR

At Great Northern Log Homes, we proudly build log homes of distinction in the beautiful Flathead Valley of Northwest Montana. Over the last 20 years, we have specialized in creating innovative, elegant custom log homes with designs that dovetail originality and practicality in some of the finest locations around Whitefish, including



Whitefish Lake, Big Mountain Ski Resort, Iron Horse of Whitefish, Whitefish Hills and Grouse Mountain Estates.

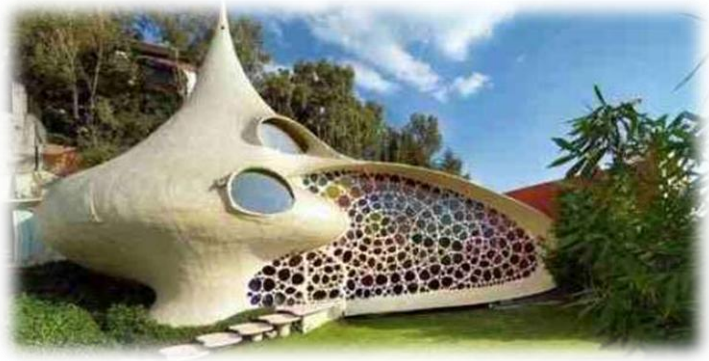
We believe that the finest custom log homes are built by people with integrity, whose values and principles are reflected not only in the building process but throughout their own lives. Our company blends experienced project management with skilled

craftsmanship creating a lasting reflection of your personality and taste. We share a common commitment to create unique log homes that enhance your quality of life and become the centerpiece of your family where memories are made and traditions established.

Source: [Great Northern Homes](#)

19. THE NAUTILUS SEASHELL TINY HOME

Most plans for tiny homes that you find on the web are generic rectangular spaces with some quirks and cool features that make them unique, but for the most part they're still very similar to one another. It's rare that you find one that totally blows your mind, but just



wait until you see this nautilus seashell tiny home, it will blow you away with how unique and beautiful it is. When you see the pictures of the outside decor, it looks stunning, with rounded spaces and a unique peaked top, and an interesting focal point of a multi-colored glass wall. The design is courtesy of the brilliant Javier Senosiain of Arquitectura Orgànica based in Mexico who did a great job at creating a home with unique features that are also incredibly versatile and practical at the same time. While this is considered a tiny home there's still plenty of space to enjoy all your usual family activities.

When you walk in the entrance way and descend the first set of steps, you enter a hobbit like but modern cave sanctuary with lush ferns growing in abundance around a circular seating area to enjoy drinks and food with company. Its set amidst the beautiful glass panes mentioned earlier, that from the inside are reminiscent of stained glass with all sorts of colors radiating in through the house. At the other end past this enchanting area, is the kitchen space which is cleaning cut and minimal but still breathtaking in its simplicity.

Then there's the awesome seating area for the TV room which looks incredibly comfortable. And last but not least, the perfect feng shui bedroom area to retire for the night after spending the day enjoying your beautiful and earthy surroundings. Of course you'll want to see all the pictures for yourself, so go ahead and find them on the "Tiny House Talk" website by clicking the link below.

Source: [Tiny House Talk](#)

20. SOLAR POWERED GYPSY WAGON WITH GORGEOUS INTERIOR

This 60 sq. ft. Solar Gypsy Wagon packs a punch, and while its exterior may not show it, it comes with an amazing set of features that can impress even the gaudiest of homeowners.

At 60 square feet, this gypsy wagon made of reclaimed wood may not look much externally, but its features and interior will surely leave you impressed and interested in owning one for yourself. Gypsy wagons, as these trailers are called, are basically tiny homes, but they are designed with wheels so you can move to any location and take them with you. Gypsy wagons are named after the same trailers or mobile homes that gypsies and vagabonds are known to live in, but even if you are not a gypsy yourself, this 60 square foot wagon makes for the perfect moving tiny home.



The 60 square feet solar gypsy wagon, as its name suggests, is solar powered and was designed with one bedroom. It has ample storage space, has some seats and tables for eating and doing work on. Although small, it is actually perfect for off-the-grid and eco-friendly living. If that's the lifestyle you live, this 60 square foot gypsy wagon powered solely by the sun is the best investment for you to make.

According to its designer, Marcus Sisk, this tiny home and gypsy wagon features cypress siding and interior made of cedar wood, stained glass window, operable side windows with hand-made screened window inserts, and a solid bamboo flooring. It may be fastened onto a utility trailer using some Simpson hurricane clips. It is powered by a 100-watt solar power panel with a deep cycle battery. The electrical wiring in this gypsy wagon is prepared for 12 volts DC, but it may also be modified for AC. Indeed, only a genius could design an interesting tiny home and wagon, in one, like this.

For more information, please visit the 'Tiny House Listings' website just below

Source: [Tiny House Listings](#)