

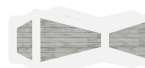
COUNTRY LIVING



D I G E S T

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1. LUXURY LOG HOMES - FOUR MYTHS TO DEBUNK

Luxury log homes are the object of lust for many. However, there are quite a few misconceptions about them, their required maintenance, their strength of construction, and so on, that may unfairly color the perceptions of those who might worry over whether or not to take the plunge and enjoy the life of owning a log cabin. Let's look over a few of these and shed a little light upon them, shall we?



Luxury Log Homes Myth #1;

It is often said that log cabins require tons of constant maintenance over many years, what with the settling of logs creating problems such as gaps and checks caused by settling. Now, if you are cutting down trees yourself to make your own hand-hewn logs, this may be the case. These days however, most log homes are built using well-seasoned, pre-kiln-shrunk logs that are pre-cut to shape before they even reach the construction site. Also, most professional providers of this type of log stock use fine, rot-resistant woods which stand up to the elements and insects, such as cedar.

Luxury Log Homes Myth #2;

A log cabin, so they say, can cost extraordinarily much to build. Well, that would all depend on what you are looking for. They pretty much cost however much money you care to dump into the project. With pre-cut, pre-shaped logs manufactured in a factory setting, it really doesn't cost all that much, unless you're looking to build a palatial mansion with them. With conventional homes, you have to buy materials in layers... framework, sheet rock, insulation, shielding, siding, and so on - with log homes, you just buy the logs and you have all of that - framework, insulation, siding and all. It pretty much equals out.

Luxury Log Homes Myth #3;

Log cabins are largely thought of as being difficult to finance. This may be partially true to an extent. Some banks see log homes as undesirable risks because they don't understand the way they are constructed, or feel skittish about someone building from

log home kits. However, there is no shortage of national lending companies or local banks that would be happy to finance them, most especially where log cabin homes are commonplace. These establishments are quite comfortable with the idea and are actually eager to lend money for just such a venture. Do some research into the subject and you'll see just what I mean here.

Luxury Log Homes Myth #4;

Log cabins are thought by some to be not very sturdy due to the simplicity of the construction. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Log cabin homes have even proven to be quite strong against earthquakes, due in fact to the simplicity of their construction. Heck, they've even proven to be somewhat fireproof. Conventional houses may burn to the ground, but solid, whole-log log cabins continue to stand. Those which have been built with cedar logs also are rot and insect damage free, due to the natural oils in the wood. If you are in the market for a good log cabin home of your very own, see to it that the company you choose deals in well-seasoned cedar logs.

The beauty of a log cabin is something that must be experienced first-hand - the beauty of rustic nature that can be observed in a log cabin built from a pre-cut log home kit is something that really must be seen to be appreciated.



2. SETTLING IN LOG HOMES

Settling in log homes has always been an issue, adding cost and complexity to log home construction. Using traditional methods of construction, logs are stacked horizontally one on top of the other (either scribed or chinked). Because logs tend to shrink and settle over time, the multiple layers of logs compound the effect of wood shrinkage. A traditional 10' log wall will settle upward of 6 to 8 inches depending upon the moisture content of the logs. Special construction methods must be employed to counter the effects of settling. The use of settling jacks, slip joints, and oversized trim and fascia are normal techniques used in traditional log home construction. In addition, constant maintenance is required until the logs have fully settled.

The Houseal Non-Settling System is the most significant innovation in log home construction since the invention of the chain saw. The Houseal Non-Settling (HNS) System prevents logs from settling and solves a host of potential problems for log home builders and homeowners.

The Houseal Non-Settling System is a patented method of constructing log homes that ensures logs will not settle. The HNS System was developed by Barry Houseal, a well known structural engineer and log home expert. The basic premise of the HNS System is fairly simple. Each log layer is held in place by a column of steel pipe and pins. The steel pipe prevents the logs from moving down with gravity. Each log layer and the roof members are supported by the steel pipe.

Architects and designers love the HNS System because it gives much more flexibility in the use of log elements. Builders love the HNS System because it eliminates settling jacks, trim boards and other construction techniques necessary to counter log settling. Engineers love the HNS System because the steel adds strength to the log walls.



3. OFF GRID LIVING - IS IT POSSIBLE?

More and more people are finding that you can still live a modern life while enjoying the independence and economy of off grid living. What is "off the grid?" It means no power lines, no electric bills, and being free of utility companies' demands, not to mention their ever-rising rates. It is environmentally friendly, cost effective, and if you own a home it is an option available to you right now.



Off grid living can be accomplished nearly anywhere in the world. Even those currently tied to a utility grid can have access. Solar panels, water-power and windmills are the main sources of home power, leading to a growing development of this type of living, and breaking free from electricity created by fossil fuel burning power plants. Technologies in the home power field have advanced because of growing demand, and the costs are now becoming substantially less now than before.

Even do-it-yourselfers can get into off grid living. There are kits, resources and manuals available for people like you and me. As energy demands increase globally, you can rest easy going off grid knowing that your energy costs are falling and your supply can be stable.

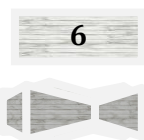
Even thinking of off grid living can be scary to some people. Who wants to give up "easy living with electricity" and live without electronic gadgetry to get free from old Mr. Utility? Not true, and you don't have to. Off grid living just leads to moderating your use of electricity -- like turning off lights that are not really in use -- Purchasing appliances that have "sleep modes" when not in use (like clocks on microwaves and stoves) -- Learning to unplug, not just turn off.

All of those electronics with the constant little green light always on steal precious energy which adds up on your bill. This new form living adventure doesn't mean giving up everything. It just means getting smarter about what you do have and how to use it.

High efficiency homes are being produced to meet the growing popularity of off grid living. Laid out like mobile homes and travel trailers and designed for one or two people, these homes use solar power, passive solar design and a small amount of natural gas to provide efficient living that moves with you. If you are interested in off grid living, but need more proof -- research the Internet. Great resources are available and great success stories tell of individuals who took the plunge.

Think back to the last blackout - searching for candles in the dark, stumbling around, and then going to bed because you can't see to do anything. Then imagine inviting the

neighbors over to watch their favorite shows during the next blackout. Off grid living is obtainable for anyone and you too can enjoy this life no matter where you make your home.



4. THE HOBBY OF WOODWORKING

Woodworking is the art or expertise of creating things out of wood. It is depicted in many earliest Egyptian drawings. It is now a broad designation covering a wide array of skills and techniques. And it is a craft that has evolved over centuries. Woodworking can be unsafe. Injuries are always a possibility in a woodworking center. And it can be Expensive. Good, high-featured tools are costly, but they are a long-lasting investment.

Woodworking is an admirable skill with a history that stretches back to antiquity. It is more than just building things with your hands; it becomes a means of expressing your creativity. Woodworking is a great way to introduce a child to new skills and new ways of thinking about the objects around them and how they were produced. It is an art, while it seems to come easy for carpenters to build other people's stuff, most people have a hard time building even a simple box-type cabinet. Woodworking is a great hobby that doesn't require a big set up, but it's always a good idea to take stock of your surroundings for safety and security.

The most important step in using a band saw in woodworking is the blade adjustment and tension. Another tip for using the band saw in woodworking is to use the widest blade workable for the cut you are making - this will lessen the possibility of rupture. The most important rule of woodworking is to always wear safety glasses, no matter what task you're performing in the workshop. If you like working with your hands, woodworking is a good hobby for you. One process to learn woodworking is to make the same project over and over until you are pleased with the outcome. Woodworking seems to be a lifestyle, not just a hobby. Today, woodworking is a popular hobby and an important industry.

Having the proper tools is the key whether your woodworking is for hobby or your profession. However, woodworking is a collection of skills that are refined by practice. The type of dimensioning that will be most applicable to woodworking is known as Basic Dimensioning. A good example of tolerances useful to woodworking is in dimensioning an assembly and panel door. Woodworking is involved in the creation of fine wood products.

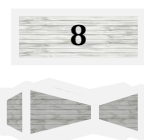
One of the intriguing aspects of woodworking is the diversity of technique that can be applied to virtually any project. As always, the true common ground in woodworking is producing good work and doing it safely. Quiet woodworking is done with hand tools, calmly and thoughtfully at your own speed.

For some, woodworking is still a means of making a living, but for many, it is a fun and rewarding hobby. In addition, taking on projects that are too complex or trying to work with inadequate tools can also start beginners to choose that woodworking is not for them.

There are at least three forms of measuring and math understanding required: for example carbide is measured in cubic millimeters of material removed in making cutting tools; stone and concrete cutting and sanding in terms of inches per minute feed

rates. Woodworking is discussed in terms of cubic yards per minute of material removed and thousands of feet per minute feed rates using saw tables lathes and other tools. These technical terms appear more complicated than they really are. Yet these applications are necessary to woodworking and are not simple matters.

If you are still in the contemplation phase, wondering if woodworking is something that might be of interest to you, then browse online for sites related to this interesting hobby that often becomes a way of life for those who partake in it. For many people, woodworking is a hobby, but it is a hobby that can even turn into a business. We all know that woodworking is a continual education experience, and that the best way to advance is to perform. It's a love, an art, and a skill developed over time. Start small. Keep listening to what other people who have been at it for a while have to communicate. Guidance and schooling in woodworking is crucial.



5. APARTMENT HOMESTEADING: TOP 4 WAYS TO HOMESTEAD IN THE CITY!



You live in the city, and you LIKE your urban lifestyle. Yet you like the idea of being self-sufficient, eating organic produce, making homemade food, paying less for groceries, being more independent...

The basic tenets of homesteading and self-sufficiency definitely appeal to you.

I have good news for you! Even if you have NO balcony, rooftop or even patio space; there are still many urban homesteading ideas you can put into practice right now in your apartment. Let's get started!

Top 4 Apartment Homesteading Ideas:

1. Grow your own vegetables. You may not have a yard, but you can certainly start planting vegetables in pots! Otherwise known as container vegetable gardening. Even if you don't have a balcony or patio, you can start growing veggies INDOORS. Really!

Vegetables that grow in the shade (such as lettuce, spinach, mixed greens, carrots, radishes, and certain berry varieties) are good first choices for indoor vegetable gardening.

If you have aspirations to grow larger, fruiting plants, such as peppers and tomatoes, you can use fluorescent, HID or LED grow lights to provide the necessary light for plants to grow. With a little creativity and modern technology there's practically no limit to what you can grow indoors!

2. Plant a medicinal herb indoor garden. Indoor herb gardens are an excellent choice for the urban homesteader. In terms of what they require vs. the benefits they bring, herbs may have the highest return on investment of any plant you could grow. Not only do they add delicious aromas and flavors to our dishes, most herbs have multiple beneficial medicinal qualities.

The best part is that it is actually easy to grow herbs indoors. They require less space, light and care than other edible plants. Any window with a few hours of sunshine is perfect for a window sill herb garden.

3. Compost your own food. Long called "black gold" by gardeners for the invaluable nutrients it provides to plants, compost is something you can start making from what you are already throwing away. And now that you've decided to grow indoors (see idea #1), why not turn your discarded food scraps into the valuable resource that they really are?

You may not have enough room for a huge compost tumbler in your apartment, but I bet you could find room for a small kitchen composter. There are even composters available for smaller spaces, such as countertops and under sinks.

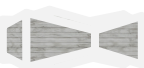
4. Ferment your own foods. Ah the world of fermented foods. Do you know of their many health benefits? Do you know how easy they are to make at home?

Humans have fermented foods for thousands of years. Not only is fermentation a natural form of preservation that keeps food safe for consumption longer, it generates billions of probiotics that are highly beneficial for our intestines and digestive systems. In fact, probiotics have been proven to render dairy safe for the lactose intolerant, reduce cavities in children, protect against colon cancer, aid with IBS (inflammatory bowel syndrome), and more.

A few of the most commonly fermented foods are: Yogurt, kefir, sauerkraut, wine, vinegar, aged cheese and kombucha (a delicious Japanese fizzy drink), all of which you can learn to make at home.

So there you have 4 ideas to get you started with apartment homesteading and self-sufficient living in the city. Other ideas include canning your own food, making nut butters, sprouting, making bread, and more!

Don't get overwhelmed - start with just one thing. Arguably the most rewarding practice of urban homesteading is to start growing your own food, whether it be in a balcony-patio- or indoor vegetable garden. With the satisfaction of eating your own delicious organic produce, you will soon be inspired to learn other self-sufficient living techniques.



6. DIY RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR FREE ELECTRICITY

It almost sounds too good to be true - diy renewable energy for your home, your business, and/or your RV, free to get AND good for the planet AND you can easily install it DIY!

The good news is that it is not only possible but 100% TRUE!

Renewable energy comes directly from nature - wind, sun, wave and water.

Most of us don't live beside the sea or by a stream or river and this rules out wave and water power for all but a few, but we can still have DIY renewable energy from the sun or from the wind all in our own backyard and other than for the initial outlay it is all for free.

Whether you opt for wind power or solar power, or a combination of the two will depend on where you live. If you live in an area that has a regular wind blowing, a good wind turbine system capable of delivering 500+ Watts of power is a huge energy saver.

Wind power is probably the oldest method of getting free energy - we have all seen Western movies with an old windmill pumping water from the well. Happily things have moved on a long way since those days and today wind turbines, a turbine being a hugely efficient windmill, and provided the wind speed is around 10mph, or above, you should pretty much get enough power to meet most, if not all, of your electricity needs.

Clearly different turbines have different power outputs and do depend on the wind speed but you should still on average save up to around 80% on the electricity costs that you currently pay to the utility company.

Industrially manufactured and custom installed wind turbine units can cost thousands of dollars but doing it yourself can cost well under \$200.

How much do you pay every year to the power company?

Stop throwing away so much money - a minimal investment of less \$200 and you start getting power for free day after windy day using DIY renewable energy AND it helps save the planet!

It should be noted though that it does need a bit of space and if you only have small yard or flat area of roof you might have to install a smaller unit which will deliver less energy will still do the business if combined with a DIY solar energy system.

The other money saving way to reduce your energy costs is DIY solar power.

There are 2 systems for getting free energy from the sun - traditional heating (direct heating from the heat of the sun) or electricity generation (uses solar cells).

Both systems are well within the budget of everyone and are easy enough to put together to be well within the capabilities of DIY'ers everywhere.



For around \$200 it is possible to have an electrical generation DIY solar system that will provide sufficient power for your fridge, washing machine, computer, TVs, lights etc. The great thing about this is its size which means it can also be used in RV's. The more panels you can together the more power you can get.

The other DIY renewable energy system is capturing heat by using water or liquid filled panels. These are very efficient in providing heat for central heating or hot water. Dollar for dollar these systems give the quickest payback against outlay as the energy heat saving gains is substantial.

Stop wasting money today and instead start helping to save the environment and get plugged into DIY renewable energy.

Most people do not realise that it is possible to use DIY Renewable Energy such as solar energy and wind power to generate enough electricity so that you could save as much as 80% of your normal electricity costs, in fact in some cases it is even possible to generate so much electricity that you are able to sell it back to the power company. Find out how DIY Renewable Energy can save you money.



7. THE CASE FOR BUYING A SMALL HOUSE



When I decided to write an article in defense of the small house, it was hard to know where to start, because there are so many reasons why I think small is beautiful when it comes to houses. I freely admit that I love living in small houses - in fact, my ideal abode would fit many people's idea of a tiny house. My previous home in Portland was only 420 square feet, and for me, a single woman, it was perfect. My current home, which is huge by comparison but still under 900 square feet, seems too big to me.

Now that you know my personal prejudices towards smaller homes, I'll give you a few reasons for my unusual preferences.

First, smaller homes are more affordable for the average American worker. I just did a quick search through the real estate listings for the Portland Oregon metropolitan area for all homes for sale under \$120,000. I chose that price range because the average annual wage in that area is around \$37,000 a year. Since home prices have raised much faster than wages, a single buyer in the Portland area could only afford a 30-year mortgage under \$100,000 at current interest rates, but the median price for a home in the area went up to \$297,000 in May 2007. Yes, by my calculations, the average worker can afford 1/3 of the average house in Portland. But that doesn't mean that you have to do without a house altogether, as many people assume. You aren't doomed to rent forever, if you're willing to look at a smaller home.

Admittedly, you may still need to haggle a bit to get the price down to a level you can afford, and you may need to do some repairs once you move in, but if owning your own

home is important enough, you can do it, even in high-priced areas. The least expensive house in the Portland real estate market on the day I write this is a 748 square foot two bedroom, 1 bath home listed at \$119,000. The seller notes that it needs some work, but it has a new roof, new vinyl flooring, and new washer and dryer that come with the house. This may not fit your idea of a dream home, but putting money towards something you own is a lot more satisfying than spending money on rent, even if you have to put up with less personal space and even (gasp!) share a bathroom with your spouse.

Even if you have two wage earners in the family, buying a smaller house could still make sense, especially if you have a child or two. By reducing the available personal space for each family member, you might be able to afford to let one parent quit working full-time to stay home with the kids. When you add the daycare costs you won't be paying, the smaller mortgage, and the money you save on the daily commute, you could find that you come out even - and your kids won't be raised by strangers.

Aside from the initial affordability of a smaller home, you also save money each month when you receive your utility bill. Smaller houses are more efficient when it comes to heating and cooling them than larger ones, even when the smaller homes have less insulation and older windows. The idea of a "green" McMansion is an oxymoron - you cannot create a small environmental footprint if you build a huge house.

The average cost to heat and cool a home with electricity in the same real estate market discussed above is approximately 58 cents a square foot, per year. My tiny 420 square foot house cost an average of \$20.30 a month to keep it comfortable all year. That affordable 748 square foot home that is currently listed for \$119,000 will cost approximately \$36.00 a month to heat and cool. On the other hand, an 1800 square foot house, which some people consider "small," will have an average monthly heating and cooling bill of \$87.00. The utility bill can actually be high enough to make the home unaffordable even for a family with two working adults, when you add this cost to the monthly mortgage.

But money isn't everything in life, so let's look at a few other reasons why I think small is beautiful when it comes to houses. First, small houses are easy to decorate, and even to remodel, if you get the whim to make some changes. They're easy to sell, because there are far more people who can afford a small house than a large one (my tiny house was on the market for less than a week before I accepted a full-price offer). They take up much less space on the lot, which means a lot to a gardener like me. And if the house is small enough, and the city is encouraging contractors to build on flag lots, you may be able to divide your lot and make enough money from the sale to pay off the mortgage on your house.

If you're thinking about buying a house, consider looking at the small ones now available in your real estate market. You might find one that fits your lifestyle, your budget, and your long-term financial goals.



8. SMALL HOUSE PLANS - HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF A SMALL LIVING SPACE

There are a number of ways to design small house plans to maximize the amount of space available. These approaches are particularly important in urban areas where space is very limited. Most architects who design plans for small houses know the tricks of the trade needed to make the rooms and space look larger. However, a homeowner should also be educated on the different approaches and techniques for the interior design to make the best use of their tiny house plans.

A common characteristic of small house plans is an attempt to make the room seem like it is bigger than the actual footage of the room. One of the ways architects compensate for the square footage in small home plans is to build high ceilings, thereby making the space feel larger regardless of the actual square footage.

There are a number of design tools a homeowner can apply to accent this feature. The owner can create a horizontal border across the room and paint the lower half a slightly darker color and top half a lighter color. This creates a visual illusion of more height. Homeowners can also compliment their small home plans by buying small paintings that are similar in size and hang them in a vertical line in a prominent area on the wall. This also creates an illusion and draws the focus to the vertical height rather than the length or width.

Another facet homeowners must consider when deciding how to use their small house plans is the placement of furniture. A common mistake made by interior designers for small house plans is using large furniture that does not fit the space.

A huge, overstuffed couch may be a beautiful piece, however in a small space it becomes overbearing. It is important to understand about these plans that every inch is important. Homeowners must avoid over decorating the rooms to compensate for the size, as the over decorating can emphasize the smallness of the area. The best approach to design for tiny house plans is to keep the furniture and decorations minimal.

The furniture should also range in height. A large lamp post next to the couch will make the couch look less cumbersome. Instead of a heavy bookcase that takes up space, homeowners should use shelves for their books that vary in height, thus saving space and creating a visual illusion.



9. COUNTRY LIVING AND SATELLITE INTERNET - AN EASIER WAY TO STAY CONNECTED

The pace of life in the country is certainly something worth envying. After all, if you've ever struggled through a two-hour commute, dropped all your files in the elevator, and spilled coffee on yourself before noon, you understand why there is a desire to drop out of the hectic pace of most people's lifestyles and go somewhere things are allowed to be a little bit slower. And that's a huge reason that many people who would otherwise prefer their lattes grande and their mobile phones multitasking get delusions of grandeur about packing it in, buying a pick-up, and moving somewhere more relaxing.

While things like satellite TV and satellite internet make the transition to life in the country a lot easier, there are just as many people who are simply happy to be able to get online at a speed comparable to the rest of the world, who have seen harder days handling things like crops than most executives have ever experienced in the confines of an air-conditioned office. But no matter your walk of life or the reason you've decided that living in the country beats living in a city, there is definitely a need now more than ever to stay better connected.

That is the main reason that so many people have already switched from dial-up to satellite internet. This is, after all, an affordable means for communication. Sick of getting high phone bills because dial-up eats up your phone line and your relatives needing to get calls only drive prices over the edge? Kill two birds with one stone by using a different means of connecting to the internet, which then provides you with other options for talking on the phone. Whether it's through Google's video chat application, Apple's iChat, or a service like Skype where calls from computer to computer are free, a speedy internet connection can solve a lot more than just online troubles.

Satellite internet also makes the conventional methods of surfing the internet a whole lot faster and more reliable. Checking email will not longer take upwards of a half hour if you switch to satellite, and you'll actually be able to do things like download photos and upload short videos. Likewise, all of those hilarious YouTube videos and exciting eBay auctions that people have been forwarding you? They will be easy to actually check out, instead of just sitting sadly in your inbox because dial-up can't handle loading the page.

There are many other reasons that switching from dial-up to satellite internet will improve your country living. It is a whole lot easier to stay informed as to whether or not big storms are going to be rolling into town if you can watch the latest coverage on weather.com, in case your television connection isn't working or the local cable company doesn't provide you with access. And if the local newspaper doesn't quite deliver to your address, then you can read it online in this day and age, no problem. It's not just things that are far away that get closer with satellite; it's also the things that are so close, yet so far away.



10. SMOKER COOKING IS WORTH THE WAIT!



Although barbecuing is the typical way most of us cook outdoors, cooking with a smoker is gaining in popularity. Even though the smoked heat method takes considerably longer than your basic charcoal grill, cooks say that the distinctive taste of smoker cooking is well worth the wait.

Smoker cooking is a form of cooking where the smoke from burning wood prepares your foods. Heated hard wood chips, such as mesquite, hickory and oak are placed in a smoker, which not only cook the food, but also add a unique flavor from each wood type. The typical wood smoker has a separate fire chamber, which allows the heat and smoke to pass through the food being prepared. In smoker cooking, food never comes in contact with an actual flame as it does with charcoal grilling. As such, there are no dripping oils, bursts of flames or charcoal burnt food.

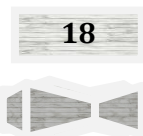
Cooking with a smoker allows for a whole range of flavor opportunities. The type of hard wood chips you choose will provide the unique flavor for your smoked food. Hickory typically provides a heavy, smoky flavor to foods, and is often used when smoker cooking a turkey. Wood chips made from apple or pecan trees produce a lighter smoke flavor and will produce foods with a light, slightly sweet smoked taste, often used with a white fish fillet.

Patience and allowing oodles of time to prepare a meal is the key to successful cooking with a smoker. Foods cooked with heated smoke take considerably longer to cook than foods slapped on the barbecue. Depending in the size of the food you are preparing, and the temperature you are cooking, smoker cooking takes hours longer than typical grilling. A four pound piece of meat that will cook in 45 minutes on a barbecue will most likely take at least two hours in a smoker. A four pound chicken will need about four hours in the smoker before it is done. The best way to tell if meat is thoroughly cooked is to use a meat thermometer. Chicken that is thoroughly cooked has a temperature of 165 degrees.

There are endless possibilities when smoker cooking food. Any type of meat, poultry or seafood can be prepared for cooking by a smoker. Experimentation will allow you to find the perfect wood chip for each of your favorite meat types. Rubbing spices on your meat prior to smoker cooking, as well as adding sauces while meat is being prepared adds even more flavor to your food.

Steaming vegetables is also ideal for cooking with a smoker. The cooking with smoke process seals in not just the taste, but the nutrients as well. Smoker cooking is the simple way and tasty way to add more veggies to your diet. Many of your favorite recipes can also be prepared via cooking with smoke. Chili is a smoker cooking favorite for many cooks. Your smoker will most likely come with a cookbook filled with new recipes to try.

So when you have the time and are yearning for food with that unique smoky flavor, consider smoker cooking for your next meal.



11. HAND CARVED DOOR WITH WOOD DUCKS



This Hand Carved Door with Wood Ducks was Handcrafted by Woodland Creek Furniture. If you are interested in this beautiful piece of furniture, you can find the link at the bottom of this listing.

Woodland Creek Furniture has been building some of the finest rustic furniture in the country for over 12 years now, and we have yet to have a customer not say "wow" when they see one of these unique beds set up in their bedroom. Matching dressers, chests and nightstands are available – of course, in any size needed. Come visit our workshop and we'll teach you some of our tricks (not all of them or the other rustic guys would be lining up for classes).

Woodland Creek started with an idea to make unique rustic furniture from exotic woods. During the summer of 1997 Robert Evina, Woodland Creek's founder, traveled extensively through remote villages in Russia, Ukraine, Romania, and Hungary. During his travels he came across beautiful exotic woods. Having watched his uncles in Alaska craft log homes and rustic furniture, he knew the exotic woods would make some very interesting rustic furniture.

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More Photos & Information Found At: [Woodland Creek Furniture](#)

12. A TINY HOUSE DESIGNED FOR SELF-REFLECTION



The tiny house movement has certainly gained momentum over the years, with all sorts of tiny houses to include cob cottages, yurts, gingerbread cottages, domes, micro houses, teardrop campers, RV's, houseboats, straw bale houses and motorhomes. "A TINY HOUSE DESIGNED FOR SELF-REFLECTION," is an interesting small space that started off as a school project, but is sure to inspire many tiny house builders.

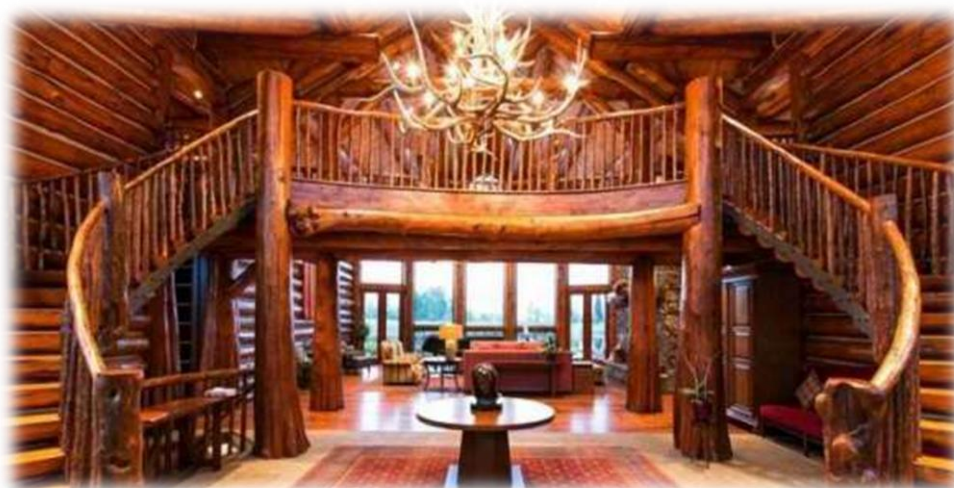
Allergutendinge principals Matthias Druger, Manuel Rauwolf and Ulrik Wentzel designed and built this tiny meditative retreat as a project while the men were students at Bauhaus University in Germany. The project was called "Seelenkiste," which translates roughly as "Sprit Shelter." They tiny house design was built as a place to study, contemplation and self discovery through meditation and introspection. The split level tiny house design, has a bed at mid height, between the ground floor living space and the study space room above. The front of the tiny house, folds down to become a deck, and the roof can be opened to extend the space outdoors. There is lots of wood used throughout the tiny house, lots of storage and lots of photos to take a look at this unique tiny house.

This tiny house web site is an excellent resource for all your tiny house, small house and micro house questions and inquiries. There are plenty of small house plans for sale on the site, along with Victorian Gingerbread cottages to minimalist Japanese houses, rustic cabins to modernist models of efficiency, hand crafted cob cottages to factory built prefabs, small vacation homes, shotgun houses, accessory dwelling units, converted container homes, beach shacks and more. The website showcases well designed and interesting small house and spaces, with ideas for planning and organizing your own small house.

To read more about this subject, visit the website link below to the "Small House Bliss," website.

More Photos & Information Found At: [Small House Bliss](#)

13. MAJESTIC LOG HOME STAIRCASE



We loved this piece so much that we had to feature it in this directory. If you are its builder or photographer please contact us so that we can link to your website.

Traditionally log cabins were found in wooded areas, where the construction material was at hand. In North America they were built by early settlers and by hunters, loggers, and other wilderness dwellers, and were associated by many people with simplicity and self reliance. Since the days of the early settlers in North America, women would make quilts that represented log cabins on the prairie. The red centre squares were for the hearth, the lighter squares were for the sunny side of the log cabin, and dark squares were on the opposite side for the shady side of the log cabin.

Log Cabin Uses

The heyday of the log cabin in North America was in the third and fourth quarters of the 19th Century, which corresponds to the widespread trek Westward after the Civil War. Nowadays log cabins are found all over the world and they are often used as an extension for the home when space is short, for example, as an office, playroom, sauna, a gym or a therapy room. Because log cabins are seen as strong, reliable and environmentally friendly, log cabins are often used in the branding for various companies and organisations.

Energy Efficient

Log cabins are renowned for their energy efficiency as timber is an excellent insulator - a 2.5cm log has a better thermal resistance than an 11.4cm brick, because the thousands of tiny air pockets trapped in every square inch of the wood's structure slow the transfer of heat through the log. Therefore the log cabins are warm in the winter and cool in the summer. However, increasing the thickness of the walls does not mean you will have the most energy efficient log cabin, because you have to consider the insulation for the floors, ceilings and roof, and use the right kind of doors and windows, etc.

Choices

Log cabins are often bought directly from a supplier, and the choice is huge. However, if you're looking for a truly unique log cabin, then building your own can be a great

experience but remember it can also be challenging and physically demanding. To save yourself time and energy you could hire a contractor to build your log cabin home, but do check they are reliable, offer good value for money, and only use the best materials.

Check list

Whichever option you decide on, i.e. buying a ready-made log cabin or building your own, there are a several points to consider: Try to opt for toughen glass in your log cabin because plastic fades over time; Be careful of long delivery times. It is possible to do a credit check on the company selling you the cabin and there are websites that check a company's financial status; Check what is included in the price, for example, delivery, veranda, and window boxes; Use a good preservative as a cheap one is a waste of time; Check where the wood comes from. Is it from a sustainable forest, and is it made from slow grown timber? Quick growing timber is cheaper but will eventually twist; Check on building regulations for your area. Planning permission isn't normally needed for small log cabins as long as it is 5 meters away from the main property, does not exceed more than 50% of your total garden area and is less than 4 meters in height. However, if you have any doubts or live in a conservation area or a listed building, you should contact your local planning office.

Conclusion

Log cabins have a long history and are as popular today as they were many years ago in North America. However, these day's log cabins are not limited as a place to live, but rather as an extension to the home.

More Photos & Information Found At: [Imgur](#)



14. WOOD CHAIR TUNNEL



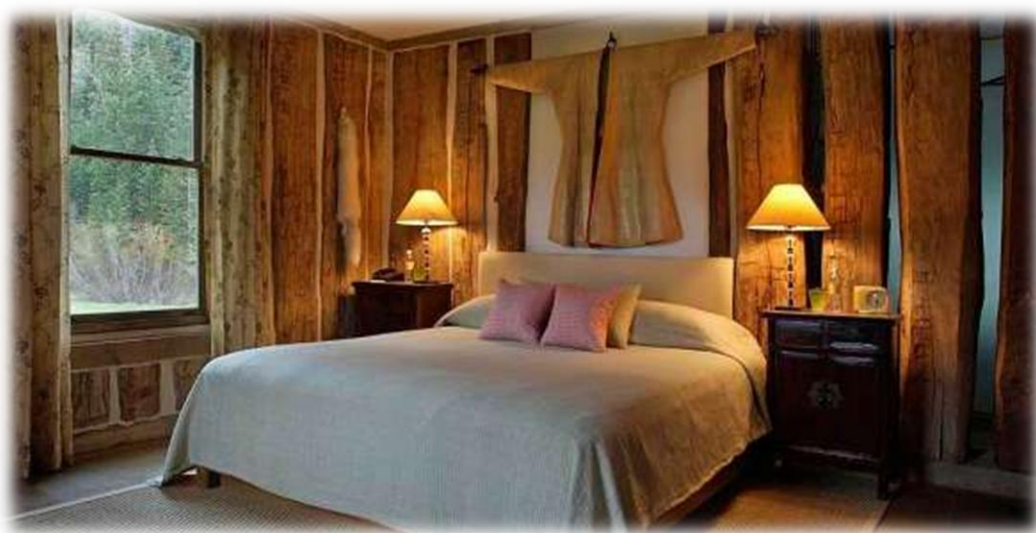
This piece was conceived and executed by Yon Ju Lee and Brian Brush. If you are interested in learning more about this striking piece, you can find the link at the bottom of this listing.

Sitting is perhaps the most common condition from which we experience architecture. Whether we work, relax, watch, eat, sleep, or talk to each other we are sitting at the core of our relationship to buildings. Sitting structures inhabit our living spaces, determining the proportions of useable objects, forms, spaces, dimensions and relationships in an unfolding sequence of architectonic layers. The Design collaboration Eboarch by Yon Ju Lee and Brian Brush from New York created a playful object out of 400 simple wooden chairs, that deal with the question of how we see and experience the architectural world around us. The chairs are essentially connected to each other via simple lag bolts, clamps, and screws that are hidden from view. They are arrayed in a sine wave rising from the ground and celebrate the act of repose itself as a fundamental architectural event. It formalizes the transformation of chairs from useable objects into structural and spatial components of an ambiguously edifice.

More Photos & Information Found At: [Eboarch](#)



15. VERTICAL LOG LUXURY COLORADO RENTAL



If you are interested in renting this beautiful room called the "Vertical Log", you can find the link at the bottom of this listing.

The Dunton Hot Springs Resort is a unique and exclusive resort in Colorado, built on the site of an old ghost town with refurbished buildings, inspiring scenery, and five-star service.

More Photos & Information Found At: [Dunton Hot Springs Resort](#)

16. SIMPLE BUT DIFFERENT LOG CABIN



This was Handcrafted by Estemerwalt Log Homes. If you are interested in this beautiful piece of furniture, you can find the link at the bottom of this listing.

For 130 years and through five generations, the Propst family has been manufacturing the finest in wood products and setting the standard for excellence in log homes. They are a family run log home company; who pride themselves on having unequalled personal service, friendly staff, and precision craftsmanship.

More Photos & Information Found At: [Estemerwalt Log Homes](#)



17. MAGNIFICENT DESK



This was Handcrafted by Ryan's Rustic Railings and Furniture. If you are interested in this beautiful piece of furniture, you can find the link at the bottom of this listing.

At Ryan's Rustic Railings and Furniture we have been committed to our customers since our inception in 1994. We strive to satisfy you in all of your unique log and timber needs.

Since 1994 we've shipped or installed our rustic log railings, staircases, log spiral stairs, timber and log trusses, furniture, and accents into: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. We have also been to Germany, France, and Canada as well with our log and timber work, so we'll be happy to ship to you, where ever you may be. Contact us for more details!

More Photos & Information Found At: [Ryan's Rustic Railings](#)

18. UNIQUE SINK

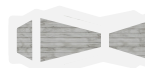


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More Photos & Information Found At: [Ryan's Rustic Railings](#)



19. RUSTIC LOG BED



This is a statement bed. This rustic log bed screams “Wow”. The incredible solid slabs of live edge redwood tell a story by themselves. But when combined with the twisted juniper logs – each piece placed in just the right spot to support the free form shaped slabs – it becomes a functional piece of art.

This Rustic Log Bed was Handcrafted by Woodland Creek Furniture. If you are interested in this beautiful piece of furniture, you can find the link at the bottom of this listing.

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20. JUNIPER LOG DINING TABLE



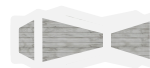
This rustic log tables starts with massive, twisty logs. Our artisans create a trestle base by hand-scribing each log to fit as if the base grew this way. The top is thick, beautiful redwood harvested from standing dead or sustainable sources. The combined base and top make a true one of a kind log dining table. Just measure your space, and we would be honored to craft a work of art for you.

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