



FROM ROUGH TO BUFF



A Big Valley log cabin goes from homestead to well-bred and becomes one family's Forever Home.



In every issue, WestSound Home & Garden selects one exceptional home as its featured Forever Home. A Forever Home holds the heart and soul of the family who lives within. There may be luxury, but the real essence of a Forever Home is personal expression and a sense of belonging. It's the difference between a house and a home.

TEXT BY WENDY TWETEN PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM WOLTJER

Two years ago, when Ansara and Tracy Patterson and their two young daughters moved to the rough and ready log cabin on 22 acres in the heart of Poulsbo's Big Valley, friends teased them about their new "Green Acres" lifestyle. Far from being offended, the family purchased cattle, goats, and horses, and planted a vegetable garden. As their first Christmas approached, they donned overalls and posed with the cows for a tongue-in-cheek holiday photocard.

"Some of our friends say they feel like they need a passport to visit us out here," Ansara said. "But we are definitely growing into the place."

Patterson Park, as the family has dubbed their farm, includes a seven-stall horse barn, riding arena, henhouse, acres of fenced pasture, and two ponds. The pastoral setting is a little piece of vintage Americana. In fact, it was the land and locale the Pattersons first fell in love with.

"At night, the only sign of civilization we see is the light from the riding arena down the road," Tracy said. "There's always a blue heron in the pond, and once an owl flew right over our heads."

However, Green Acre references aside, with mice in the cupboards and a raccoon that calmly strolled into the kitchen at dinnertime, living in their new

home often felt more like "Where the Wild Things Are." The final straw came one night when a bat dive-bombed Ansara and Tracy in bed. The Pattersons knew it was time for a change.

A Change for the Better

"The original house was a log cabin built 30 years ago," Ansara said. "It was dark and cave-like, with low ceilings and a fireplace that took up a whole wall, overwhelming the room."

The family's first step was to find a general contractor with the skill and patience to reinvent the cramped and rustic log home. The Pattersons chose Sentinel Construction and Consulting, a



Kingston-based company they found through the Home Builders' Association of Kitsap County.

"We got the best builder ever," Tracy said. "The crew worked here in all weather for more than a year. They're basically family now."

Sentinel President David Godbolt recounts the challenges that lay ahead: "The home was built from site logs, and it wasn't built well, certainly not to industrial log home standards. There were significant structural problems. The job had so many changes and challenges; it started out fairly simple, but before long we brought in architect Wayne Lamont."

Structural Challenges

A full staging system was required to support the roof during the replacement of the undersized ridge beam. This major structural surgery prompted cosmetic improvements to the front wall with the inclusion of new windows and a handsome Craftsman front door. Next, the builders fashioned a cantilevered, 45-foot-long steel beam to lift the home in order to add a basement.

"It was pretty amazing," Godbolt said. "You could move the whole house just by pushing the beam with your hand."

Once the new foundation was in place, a good portion of the floor system had to

be rebuilt. Finally, one entire log wall was removed to make room for the addition of a dining room and a new west wing master suite. A large entertainment deck was also added.

At this point, the footprint of the house had increased from 1,900 to 5,000 square feet, and three dump truck loads of old structural logs had been hauled away. The remaining log walls were "corn-blasted" and rechinked. The old rock fireplace was removed. It was time to start planning the interior detail.

Northwest Nuance

The radical remodel transformed the home from country cabin to luxury lodge. ➤



"Patterson Park" has a setting reminiscent of yesteryear.

Now, facing the overwhelming task of creating the interior from scratch, the Pattersons enlisted the talents of designer and colorist Connie Lamont. With her guidance, they decided to bring the log home style a bit closer to home.

"We wanted a very Northwest feel," Tracy said. "We brought the outside in with greens and natural colors. The kitchen granite inspired it all."

In a sophisticated moss green, this boldly patterned slab granite adds a sylvan allure to a great room in which wood is king: Brazilian cherry floors, pine tongue-and-groove ceiling, cherry cabinetry, exposed beams, and clear fir trim. The kitchen takes center stage in the great room (which features a high ceiling), reflecting the Pattersons' enjoyment of cooking, entertaining, and hosting family gatherings. A bar with seating for five invites guests to relax and watch the show. A second bar is set high for serving, reminiscent of a roadside diner. Appliances include a commercial dual-fuel Wolf range and double ovens ➤

The Patterson family — Tracy, Asara and daughters Naya and Cayenne, share their farm with goats, horses and cattle.



("We had double ovens in our last house and we'll never go back," Ansara said). The cabinets take advantage of every inch of space with the latest pullout systems.

Just off the kitchen, the living room boasts a new fireplace with a secret: The robust river rock is actually synthetic, saving on weight and further structural support. One massive log left over from the remodel was split to serve as a hearth mantel.

At the other side of the kitchen, the new dining area is large enough to accommodate a crowd. A custom buffet is handy for serving and storing china, crystal, and vintage wines.

"We completely opened up this part of the house," Tracy said. "We love all the space and the windows and the light. Now there are views to everywhere."

The Pattersons replaced every light in the house with understated fixtures and recessed cans. ("We didn't want anything too frou-frou," Tracy explained). The moose antler chandelier that once hung in the living room is now the pièce de résistance of a covered front porch worthy of a modern-day cattle baron.

Hardworking Bonus Rooms

Designed as an in-home theater, the newly-added basement is equipped with black-out blinds, surround sound, high definition projector, 80-inch high-def screen and reclining theater seats (complete with cupholders). A destination for family movie nights and Xbox competitions, the room is a favorite of the Patterson girls, Naya, 6, and Cayenne, 3.

"The girls went crazy for the media room," Tracy said. "They watched a Barbie movie and thought it was cooler than going out to a movie. They did ask for popcorn."

At the top of the house, an awkward loft was converted to a craft room. Under-eave space, previously wasted, was outfitted with cubbies deep enough for rolls of wrapping paper and tall enough for stacks of photo albums. Here is that coveted space for creative messes that don't need to be tidied up whenever company calls. Also committed to convenience, the king-sized mud room is a grand storage and laundry center that includes a dedicated dog room with built-in shower, plastic laminate walls, and



access to a fenced run for the family's three dogs.

Forethought, creativity and "field decisions" made as the remodel progressed turned a rustic outpost into

the Pattersons' country dream. As Tracy said: "At the end of the day, when we feed the animals and pick food from the garden, that's when we know we made the right decision." ♦





FOREVER HOME FEATURES OF PATTERSON PARK

- Faux river rock fireplace: indistinguishable from the real thing, much lighter weight
- Electric outlets on the fireplace mantel
- Electric outlets at the eaves for holiday lights
- Wheelchair access ramp
- Storage: creative use of every extra nook and cranny
- Entertainment deck with kitchenette, hot tub and outdoor fireplace
- Electric awning over a west-facing wall of windows
- Electric shades on south-facing skylights
- Theater room with high-def projector and screen, surround sound and theater chairs
- Flat screen TVs wall-mounted in every bedroom
- Tile-patterned vinyl on bathroom floors looks like the real thing with the addition of a vinyl "grout" strip
- Dedicated dog room with concrete floors, automatic waterer, hot and cold shower, plastic laminate walls, Plexiglas door protector, and doggy door to fenced run.

