



Log & Timber Style; July/August 2002
- Sticks and Stones - by Dan Klingsmith,
Photography by Linda Hanselman

Set at Squaw Summit overlooking Squaw Creek, the 5,500-square-foot home of Michael (MAK) and Mary Kariotis soaks in the unobstructed ski mountain views incorporated into its scenic backdrop. Indeed, virtual walls of glass amply take in the great outdoors, the paned-window treatment adding an airy ambience to the home's soaring gables. Stout granite rock footings and peeled-log columns on the entry lift the façade, sheathed in cedar shingles, all beneath a slate roof. Stone and timber are happily wed here.

Call it putting the fun into functional. "Our family loves to ski, and we wanted to have great ski house," explains Mary. "MAK gets in about 100 days of skiing a season, and the kids and I do 60 to 70 days." This passion for skiing reflects a Kariotis family zest for life – casual entertaining, pursuit of hobbies, quiet evenings around the fireplace, lots of time for games and laughter. It's easy to see why this home was crafted to be lived in and loved.



BY DAN KLINGLESMTIH

PHOTOS BY LINDA HANSELMAN

The home's elevation and floor plan play off the piney, sloped site, rising up a series of levels that afford views of the terrain. At the lowest level sits the one-time garage – now the children's playroom – and an 800-bottle redwood shelved wine cellar. At the front-entry level is the expansive game room, with a full workroom behind – MAK's cozy shop outfitted to tend skis and fishing rods.

Another level up is the main floor, holding the impressively sized great room and adjoining kitchen. An office loft above the kitchen is household command central. Upward are the sleeping quarters: four bedrooms and three baths. Step up a few more stairs to a small loft, known as the "retreat." "We kept the bedrooms purposely small," explains Mary. "Most of the home's square-footage went to living space."

The interior materials encourage an open, clean design that is rich in detail while also acting as a unifying theme to the large spaces. Flooring throughout is reclaimed pine, rescued from vintage East Coast houses and businesses, bearing soothing honey and amber tones and marked with old scuffs and nail holes. Western America granite, the same as used in the home's exterior, lines entryways; the warm terra cottas and grays

a nice counterpoint to the knotty pine. Limestone and tile decorate the kitchen and bathrooms.

Knotty pine planking sheathes most walls and ceilings, in addition to clear pine for moldings and frames. In fact, 75 percent of the home's interior surfaces are pine. The walls that are painted strike complimentary notes to the natural yellow hues with creamy ivory and marshmallow white.

Darker hues employed by the furniture and fixtures balance the color palette, lending visual weight to the light-colored natural wood. Chairs and couches are predominantly soft leathers and suedes in cinnamons and cloves, with some chenille in spice tones as well. Much of the furniture is French walnut. Accessories are kept to a minimum. "It may look sparse to some," offers Mary, "but the finishes create the environment, and instead of lots of little things, this home has larger, simpler pieces to look after."

True to the spirit of a family-and-friends home, it was a collaboration of family and newly made friends that formed the core of the development team for the home. After architect Eric Anderson laid out the skeleton of the house, contractor Bruce Olson came on board as builder and ace onsite designer.

"MAK and I loved Olson's work and drove around taking pictures of his houses," recalls Mary. "We ended up incorporating several of his signature features into this house." In particular, MAK and Mary admired Olson's use of natural materials, large timber and logs, rock and masonry, in addition to his architectural elements of peaked roofs and gables. "Even though the homes that Olson does are usually quite large, they still have a quaint feel about them," comments Mary. "He really makes a mountain home 'homey.'"



THE HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL KITCHEN, THIS PAGE, OPENS INTO THE GREAT ROOM FOR EASY ENTERTAINING AND FEATURES LIMESTONE COUNTERTOPS AND A RED GRANITE FARMHOUSE SINK. A WALL OF WINDOWS AND FRENCH DOORS IN THE GREAT ROOM, OPPOSITE, SHOW OFF MOUNTAIN VIEWS.



Certainly, the Kariotis house doesn't feel over-proportioned, though its ample space is kept open instead of broken into insignificant rooms. Consistency in material usage enforces an uncluttered yet intimate atmosphere. Credit Mike Stone of Tile & Stone Concepts, Inc. for his keen eye for matching stone and tile with wood. And Mary's mother, Mary Peck, an ASID consultant with some 60 years experience, added more than just motherly advice; she was instrumental in color choice plus furniture and fixture selection.

In a roundabout way it was Mary's mother who was responsible for the game room, a truly commodious space at 24 feet wide by 60 feet long. Apropos, the center of attention is a splendid pool table. "In a sense, we built the house around the pool table," laughs Mary. Her mother found this grand hand-carved beauty shortly after MAK and Mary were married, and encouraged them to purchase it, though it would wait in storage for many years for the right room.

Now take a seat at the game room's distinctive bar, yielding to its leather stools emblazoned with hand-painted cow heads. Pull up to the granite-base bar topped with a hefty split log, sanded and buffed to a shiny finish. Scan the easy-living space: the fireplace's warm glow flanked by twin flat-screen TV's, and opposite them an inviting leather sofa. An antique gun cabinet and gun collection, once belonging to MAK's late father, hangs above the couch, recalling a father-and-son fondness for duck hunting, clearly, this room will host many heartwarming gatherings.

With more than a thousand square feet of open space and lofty 30-foot-high pitched ceilings, the great room is considerable, though light and airy. With the exception of the granite fireplace, the walls are essentially glass, floor to ceiling, with expansive French doors opening onto spacious decks. "No matter where you are in this room, you can look out, see the mountains and it's all part of it," comments Mary. "The outside becomes part of the inside – it's impossible to feel cramped here."

"Even though this is one room, it can be divided into several," says Mary. Yes, four major dining areas can be easily assembled. The dining table – 12 feet long by 4 feet wide and constructed out of 100-year-old French walnut – rests on a substantial trestle base, easily seating 14.

Nearby is an Italian-crafted, stone mosaic table – inset with marble, limestone, travertine, and onyx – set atop French fencing. Kitchen stools dressed in ostrich line the kitchen counter, eight perfect perches from which to take morning coffee. Across the room, another Italian stone mosaic table offers family and guests yet one more alternative. And there is always the lounge area nestled in front of the fireplace, a chenille-covered sofa and leather easy chairs drawn up to a French walnut coffee table.

Anyone who entertains much knows that sooner or later the kitchen becomes the social gathering center of any get-together. "We went through the kitchen layout carefully," Mary reflects. "We tried to design everything where it would be most useful, and Mike Stone was essential in choosing the materials." In doing so, Stone persuaded MAK and Mary

to forgo a green granite countertop in lieu of a gold-hue limestone installation with a red granite farm-house style sink. Complementing the natural pine cabinetry, the counter now reinforces a more monochromatic theme, visually enlarging and simplifying the room. Reclaimed French parfeuille limestone set above the stove adds yet another unifying color note. Accenting it all is a work island, inset with colorful Italian tile.

“What we tried to do,” explains Mary, “is make this home so that with kids running through lots of guests, things like furniture and floors hold up – or maybe even look better.” Now, that would be a people-friendly home.



WITH FOUR SEPARATE DINING SPACES, THIS PAGE, THE GREAT ROOM PROVIDES AMPLE SEATING FOR HUNGRY GUESTS. THE MASTER BEDROOM, OPPOSITE, FEATURES LARGE WINDOWS AND COMFORTABLE FURNISHINGS TO ENJOY AFTER A DAY OF SKIING.

