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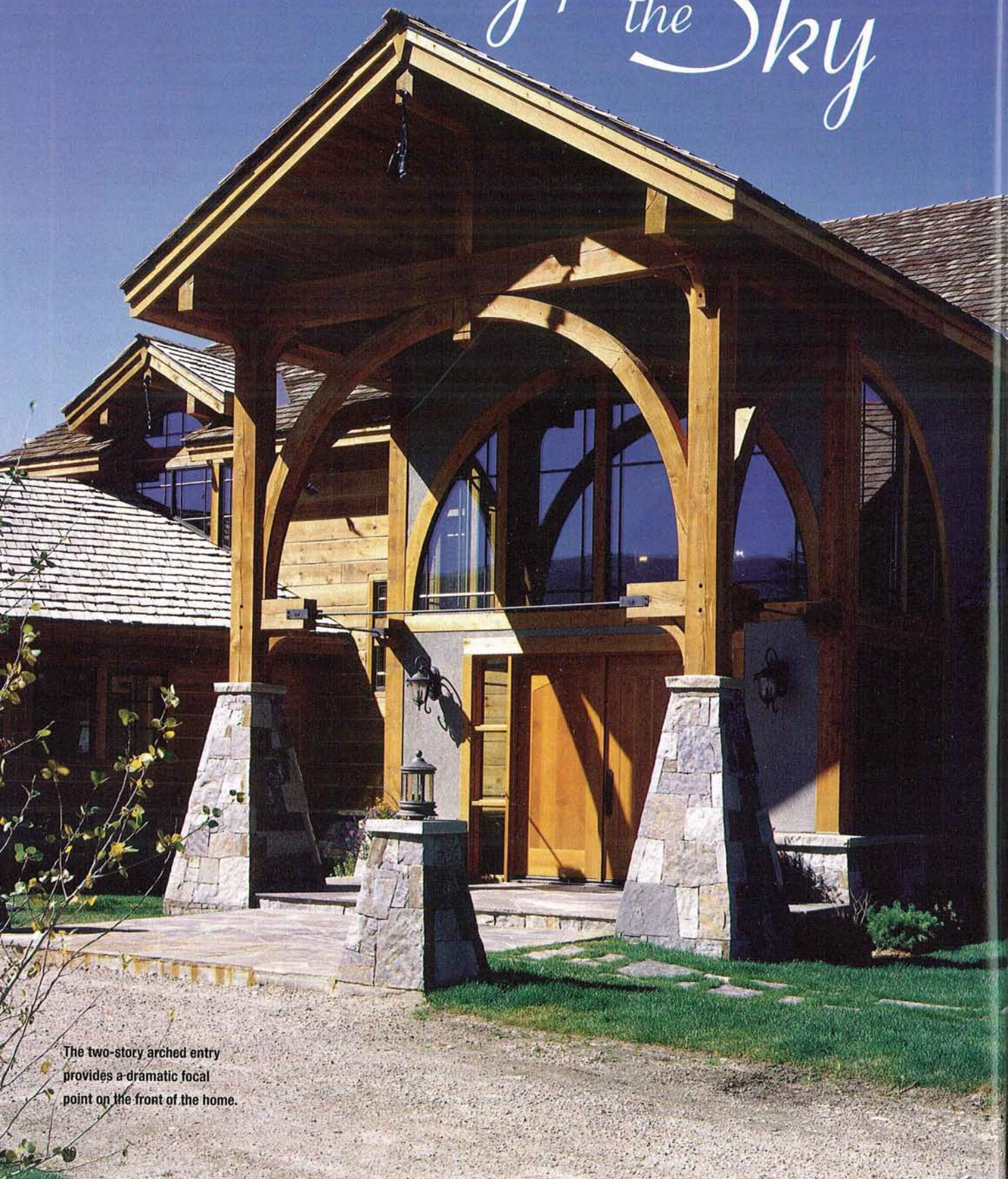
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Reaching for the Sky



The two-story arched entry provides a dramatic focal point on the front of the home.

BY HEATHER B. HAYES
PHOTOS BY JAMES RAY SPAHN

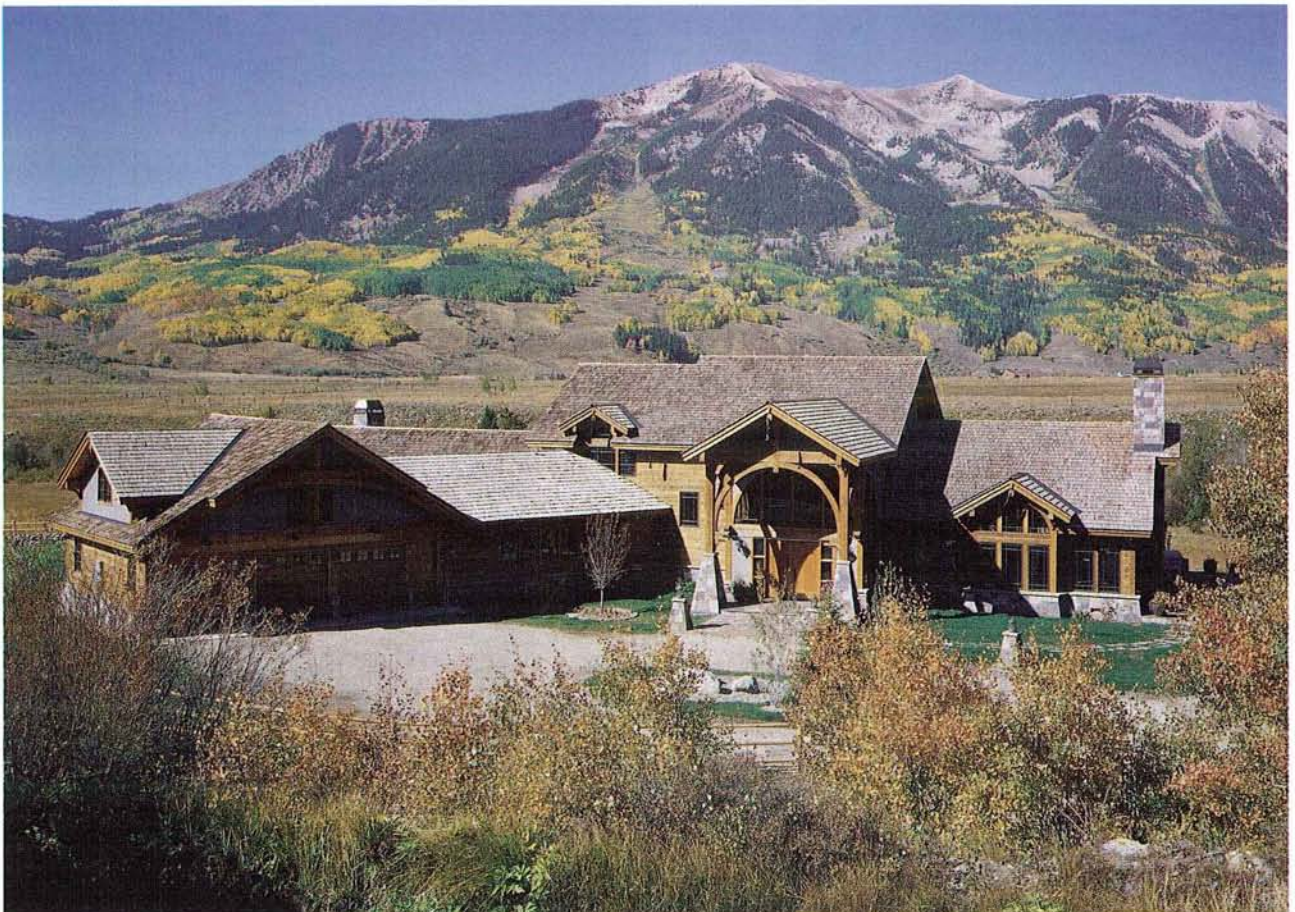
A soaring design for this Colorado timber home provides spectacular views both outside and in.

It's hard not to be immediately impressed by the 7,500-square-foot timber frame home owned by Lori and Dave "Vandy" Vandervelde in Crested Butte, Colorado. With its soaring great room supported by unusual and stunning beam-work, arched windows, gourmet kitchen and 360-degree views of the Rocky Mountains, the arts-and-crafts-style house is as imaginative and striking as any structure in Colorado ski country.

The couple admits that while looks are nice, their first priorities in designing their getaway home was making sure that it was warm, comfortable and inviting. "We love to entertain," explains Vandy. "When we have people in, we'll have 15 or 16 people stay at the house at the same time. We wanted lots of room and lots of amenities, so they would feel welcome and completely at ease."

The home achieves that goal and a whole lot more. The couple has been married for ten years and shares a love of outdoor activities like biking, skiing, snowshoeing and hiking. They have also been long enamored of Crested Butte, a former gold-mining town known for its friendly people, laid-back style, Victorian storefronts, and massive supply of cultural activities and fine restaurants.

The two, along with Lori's 16-year-old son Devin and Dave's sons Greg and Mark, began traveling from the couple's permanent residence near Boulder in the mid-1990s for vacations and long weekends after first purchasing a condominium on a golf course and then building a large log home in a high-end subdivision. At some point, a 35-acre lot fronting the East River came up for sale and the Vanderveldes, who own two horses and two mules and enjoy recreational riding, decided to buy it, sell their log home and construct



The Vandervelde home was designed to take in maximum views of their own 35 acres and the surrounding Rocky Mountain scenery.



their second “second” home.

“There aren’t that many undeveloped properties of this size left along the river, so we jumped at the chance,” Vandy says, noting that Lori had long wanted to bring her horses down for their lengthy stays in the summer and winter months. “It was a fabulous find.”

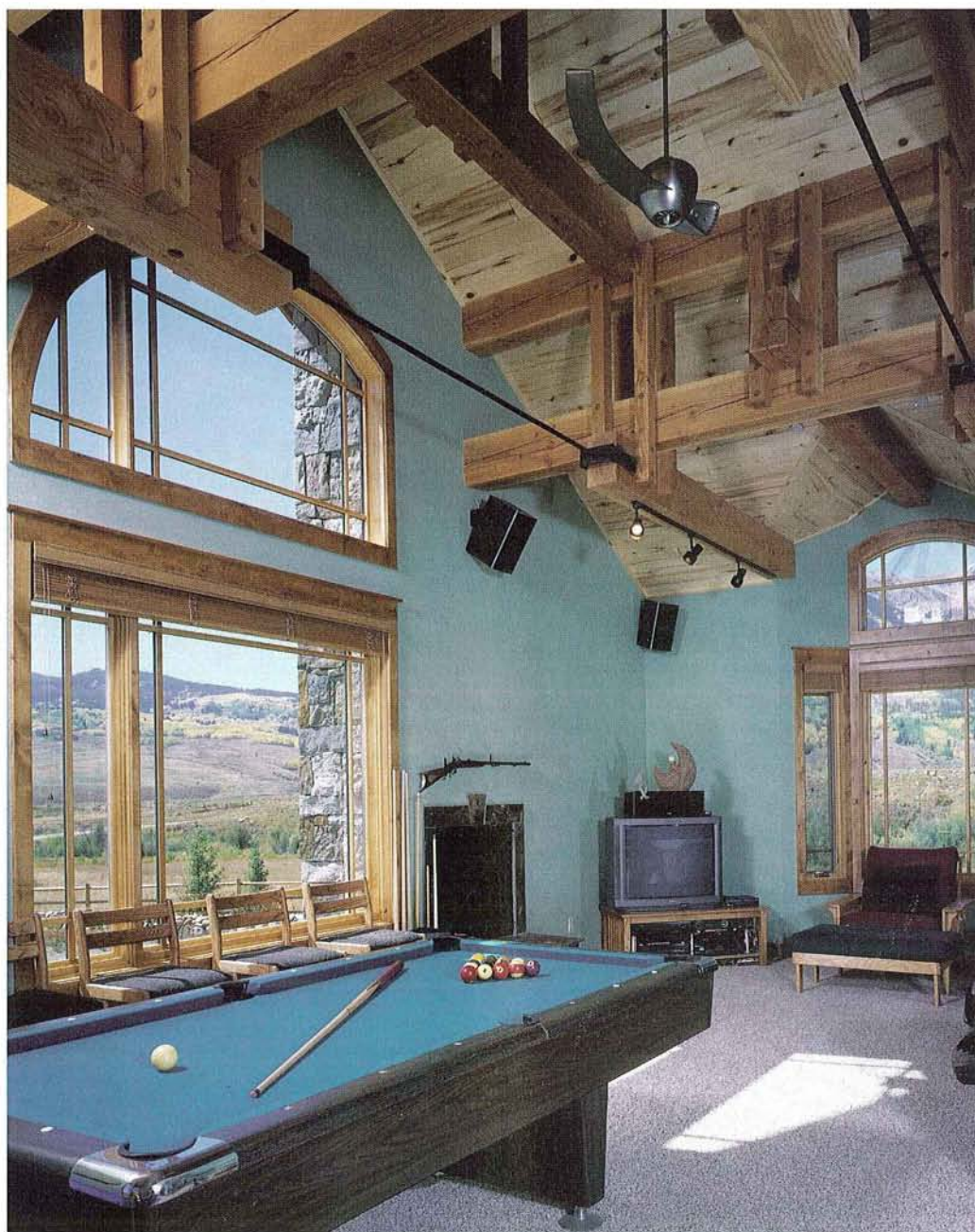
In planning their new home, the Vanderveldes wanted to keep progressing into new architectural territory, so they nixed the idea of another log home and decided on a timber frame design. The couple sketched out a floor plan and re-hired Bill Roseberry, a principal with Sunlit Architecture, who had helped them design their log home, and Kevin Tutor, owner of Kevin Tutor Construction, who built the log home and was creative in bringing their visions of this home to life.

Their requirements were both simple and challenging: plenty of windows and tall ceilings to maximize the exterior views;

lots of space, including an open, larger-than-average great room that could contain their grand piano and a poker table; a master bedroom suite situated in such a way that the couple could take in views of Whetstone Mountain (Lori’s favorite site); and plenty of suite-like guest accommodations.

And, of course, a kitchen that was perfect for feeding the masses. Despite a collection of close-by eateries, Lori prefers to cook for her many guests and enjoys nothing more than being able to visit and converse with them while preparing a gourmet feast. For this reason, the kitchen, like the dining area, is completely open to the great room. In addition, the couple worked together to design a massive, dark green, granite-topped kitchen island — complete with six-burner stove built-in — that would allow optimum interaction with guests during the run-up time to dinner.

“It is big enough that 25 people can gather around and not



LEFT: The game room, located on the same floor as the great room but at the opposite end of the house, offers guests a second, more private area to congregate.

OPPOSITE: The great room, with its soaring ceiling, arched windows, complicated support trusses, and massive stone fireplace, evokes the feel of a traditional great hall found in European castles.



Upward Focus

The Vanderveldes didn't want average beam-work for their great room, so they gave the designer and builder a free rein to come up with something unusual. Bill Roseberry, a principal with Sunlit Architecture, and Kevin Tutor, owner of Kevin Tutor Construction, used massive Douglas fir timbers, black steel rods, and metal collar ties for an intricate interlocking assembly of support structures that ultimately gave the room an especially open and soaring quality.

By relying on the diverse materials, the architect and builder were able to use plenty of wood up high but also keep the support structure from seeming too heavy down low where the collar ties would normally be. "It pulls the focus upward but also gives it more of an 'airy' feel in the middle of the room," Roseberry says.

The Vanderveldes liked the design so much that they used it in the game room and the master bedroom suite.



With its open layout, huge island and custom-built cabinets, the kitchen is a dream come true for Lori, an opinion she shares with friends who love to cook and frequent guests who also happen to be professional chefs.

Lori's husband found her these wrought-iron chandeliers for the dining area. The fixtures resemble rings of burning pillar candles but, more practically, rely on frosted glass and interior bulbs to light the area.





ABOVE: The master bedroom features plenty of windows, an exterior deck, a fireplace, a sitting area, and enough extra space for the couple's two golden retrievers to sprawl out on their own individual feather beds.
RIGHT: A rimless plate glass shower, Jacuzzi tub, fireplace, greenery, and decorative touches give the master bathroom a spa-like feel.

feel like they're being crowded," Lori states, noting that the kitchen also features commercial appliances, a double-oven, custom-built cabinets and a large pantry. "It's just set up so you can really enjoy cooking. It's the epitome of what a gourmet kitchen should be."

The great room is clearly the focal point of the guest experience, with Vandy describing it "just a fantastic place for people to hang out." The room has several activity areas, including a large sitting area in front of the massive stone fireplace and built-in rear-projector television set, as well as floor-to-ceiling window banks that make the room ideal for taking in easy 270-degree views of the Crested Butte ski area, Whetstone Mountain, and up-valley sites. "We spend most of our time in that part of the house," he says.

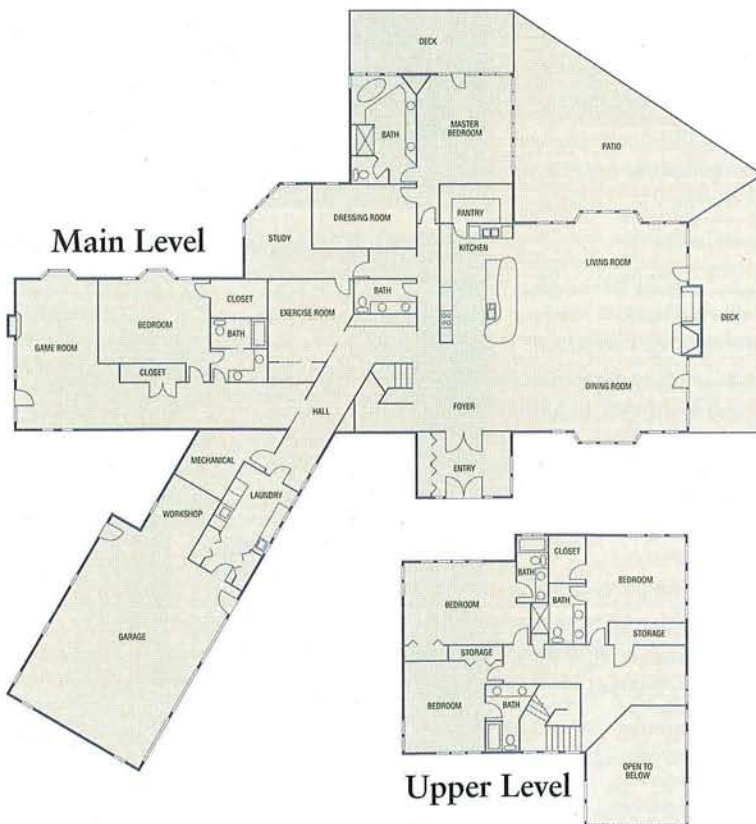




Creative Curves

The Vanderveldes' first vacation home was a traditional log structure, so they were eager to get away from straight lines and incorporate more artistic shapes into their new home. They decided to use arches in a prevalent but sparing way to give the home a feeling of being "more like a work of art," says architect Bill Roseberry.

Arched windows can be found in the great room, dining area, master bedroom, and game room. The two-story-tall entryway has curved timbers that match the curved dimensions of a large interior window and provides visitors with a dramatic first impression of the home. Meanwhile, the use of arched windows and straight-line truss work provide an illusion of curvedness to the pitched ceilings in the great room and master bedroom.



A game room provides a second area for socializing, giving guests who want to break away from the crowd a place to go to play pool or shuffleboard or to watch a football game or movie. Likewise, a second-floor library offers guests a sitting area and a full wall of literary choices (including a rolling ladder with which to reach high-up volumes) if they want a little quiet time away from the action.


Lori notes that one of her key requirements was to make sure that her guests had comfortable overnight accommodations. To allow for plenty of privacy and space, the couple devoted most of the upper floor to guests, putting in a group of bedrooms suites that have private baths, closets, views and unique amenities. Guests also have access to an exercise room on the first floor.

"The thing is, this house just gives everyone room to sprawl," says Lori. "You never feel like you're right on top of each other. It's very spacious, and it's really laid out perfectly for having a lot of people in the house at one time."

For their own personal area, Vandy (who is retired from the agricultural seed business) and Lori (a native of Iowa who also worked in the agriculture industry) designed a large master bedroom suite for themselves. Among its features are a dressing room, sitting area, master bath and French doors that lead out to an exterior deck. "When you're sitting outside, you can hear the river and see Whetstone Mountain, so we really enjoy that part of the house," Vandy says.

Lori notes that the master bathroom is a favorite spot, as well, thanks to a large Jacuzzi tub, in-room fireplace and large windows. "It's a wonderful place to relax," she says. "Because of our location, no one can look in on you, but you have a fabulous view of everything."

The only downside to the house is that the Vanderveldes can't spend more time enjoying its spacious warmth and amenities. They do manage to spend at least six weeks in Crested Butte in the summer, two or three weeks during the Christmas holidays and for several long weekends each year. More recently, says Lori, vacations have become even more lively as Vandy's two sons — who visit the Crested Butte home frequently — have both married and are beginning to introduce the house to the happy sounds of young children.

"It's just a wonderful place to spend time and enjoy friends and family," says Vandy. "It really is everything we want in a home." 

DESIGN: Sunlit Architecture, Crested Butte, CO.

CONSTRUCTION: Kevin Tutor Construction, Gunnison, CO