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The Pursuit of Perfection

An experienced hunter and his wife knew just how to track down everything they needed for their dream timber home

Avid hunter Bob Bobbit doesn't give up on his quarry. In fact, it's his life goal to hunt every species of North American wild game - and he's getting close. "I just need a jaguar and Coues deer," he says. So when Bob and his wife, Paris, decided to build their dream home just north of Flagstaff, Arizona, he put on his hunter's cap and got to work.

After deciding to build a timber home, the couple began scouring hundreds of magazines and visiting timber models across the West. Once they had the details picked out, a few serendipitous turns of events helped the couple track down the perfect crew. At a hunting convention, Bob won a bid on architectural services from an Illinois firm. Later, while visiting family in Virginia, the couple visited a few homes by Blue Ridge Timberwrights and found themselves very impressed with the company's designs.



Two prized trophies greet visitors as they enter the front door. A polar bear and a Kodiak brown bear converse at the top of double, curved staircases.

The home sits on 14 acres surrounded by ponderosa pine trees. From the front door, visitors can look clear through to the other side of the house, a feature Paris and Bob took great pains to design.



Having an East Coast timber framer and a Midwestern architect working on a home in the Southwest could have been messy, but the Bobbits' hands-on commitment kept everything going smoothly. The result: A warm, spacious home that reflects the couple's eclectic sense of style, with a variety of woods showcased throughout.

Of course, the most striking elements of the home might be the traces of Bob's hobby throughout - two bears keep watch from atop double staircases, and an antler chandelier hangs in the foyer - but his pride and joy is the second-level trophy room.

Before long, Bob may just add that jaguar to his collection. Although, he says, that would mean leaving his new home - something he doesn't plan to do for a while.



Although most of the furnishings are new, the couple brought their dining room furniture to the home and accented it with new pieces, such as a rustic chandelier from The Lite Company in Flagstaff. Another unique feature: The display case in the dining room is actually a window with built-in glass shelves.

One of the most stunning aspects of the Bobbitts' home is the variety of woods used throughout. Although the timber beams are a rich, golden Douglas Fir, Bob and Paris chose aspen for the walls and ceilings to create a contrast. "You've got this beautiful timber frame," says Bob. "Why mask it with matching woods?"





Ample cooking and entertaining space was a must for the Bobbits, who frequently host large family gatherings. "All of our children and grandchildren live here in Flagstaff, making 16 of us when we're all together," says Paris. The kitchen was intentionally designed with only a few cabinets and plenty of drawers, with one set of hanging cabinets to showcase her impressive collection of vaseline glass.



French doors open from a small deck into the master bedroom. Flagstaff's high winds make it impossible for doors to open out.



Although the interior of the master bath is stunning with glass blocks, marble floors and a double vanity, it's the view from the couple's Jacuzzi tub that steals the show. "There's a 40-foot drop on the west side of the property," says Paris. "If you're sitting in that tub you can see out into the woods and then just sky."

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