

A retreat with nature

PORCHES AND DECKS EASE THE TRANSITION BETWEEN INDOORS AND OUTDOORS

By Catherine Cella

Chances are that if you love log homes, you also love nature. You thrill to a lark's trill, gush at waters' rush and find your spirit soaring right along with that mountain vista.

You simply love being in nature, which makes porches and decks more than an afterthought. After all, they are the link between your log home haven and the nature surrounding you. So it's only fitting that you consider these outdoor elements as integral to the overall design of your log home.

FITTING YOUR NEEDS

Consider your budget as well as how you might use your porches and decks. If your log home is a romantic cabin getaway, a few small ones will do. A porch off the master bedroom, for example, will allow for more times spent outdoors, protected from the elements. Make it a deck if you prefer feeling even more in nature, whether soaking in the morning sun or basking in a starlit night.

On the other hand, if you plan to entertain guests in your log home, you will want plenty of outdoor floor space. Porches and decks can wrap around corners and even surround your home.

FITTING YOUR STYLE

Maybe you're a traditionalist and will choose a nestled front porch and a deck out back. Or perhaps you prefer the classic yet contemporary lines of a porch extending the length of your home, with a deck in back.

Today, you have the additional option of a designer look. Multiple porches and decks create interesting lines as well as offer different uses. A front porch, for instance, can turn the corner to provide entry to a second door. Voila – you have functional flow as well as a fun visual!

HOMEOWNER TESTIMONIAL

"I am very impressed with my Honest Abe Log Home. I am very pleased with the quality, service and professionalism I experienced during the construction of my home. The Honest Abe staff was extremely helpful and accommodating."

Karolyn Welty
Honest Abe Homeowner







TIMBER FRAME

Above: Entertaining outside can be done in any weather with an enclosed wraparound porch. **Opposite:** Even the family pet recognizes one of the most comfortable areas in (or out) of the home.

FITTING YOUR INTERIOR

Connecting your porch or deck with the home’s interior is especially important where windows are present. Fortunately, today’s designs can accommodate various window placements, glass doors, even such elements as cathedral ceilings. Stones in the chimney can repeat in porch and deck piers. And, of course, log types can mix and match in many pleasing looks.

Some of the design principles for indoor spaces can be applied to porches and decks. Let’s say that inside you have chosen moss green as a unifying color, pairing it with ivory, orchid or chestnut to distinguish “rooms” within a room. Bring some of that moss green outdoors – pairing it with a new color – to further the effect and bring indoor and outdoor together.

FITTING YOUR EXTERIOR

Whatever colors you choose – for exterior door, trim, furniture and so forth – consider nature’s palette in your

corner of the world. Do rhododendrons grow on your land? Borrow that purple! Are you redolent with redbuds? Think pink!

The layout of your lot will have its own suggestions. A spectacular southwest view means the perfect place for a porch. Lovely woods to the north beckon a deck that abuts – and possibly incorporates – the trees. Go with the flow – this is living with nature at its best!

Finally, remember that your exterior includes wild critters. Your porch or deck could use a birdfeeder or two, including one for those special charmers, hummingbirds. While you may not want to feed other animals, your exterior décor could feature those that share the land with you.

FITTING YOUR PERSONALITY

A home’s décor – inside and out – is where we can best express ourselves, our interests and our individuality. At the same time, certain places have

OPTIONAL RAILING PACKAGES



Our standard porch rails and spindles are made of white pine and are rectangular/square in shape. An available option is a round railing and spindle system. Also available in Tennessee Red Cedar wood, which is very durable and colorful.

expectations and functions to consider.

Take the front porch. It's roofed so that people are protected while waiting at the door. It is also the welcoming place, with its doormat and inviting furniture. In log homes, typically you'll find rocking chairs and hanging or potted plants as well.

But if you "think outside the porch," you open yourself to more personal expressions. If you love the beach, you might favor Adirondacks and seashells. Antique collectors may fancy wicker and statuary. Bent willow furniture paired with vintage baskets lend a rustic yet artistic air.

Think theme, too, in adding such features as pennants, plaques, wind chimes and wreaths. They can either fit with your overall porch design or change with the seasons. Wreaths – made with virtually anything these days – especially

lend themselves to customizing.

As with furniture, personal touches can both express yourself and appeal to guests. Like bluegrass? Put a fiddle on your front porch. Play games? Make it a checkerboard. Sports fan? Lean a tennis racket in the corner. All these things tell your guests a little about yourself and invite them to join in the fun.

On your decks, the sky's the limit – literally! Sure, you'll want to dine there, whether in picnic-style or alfresco ambiance. But you could also craft a haven-within-a-haven, an herb, flower or miniature garden, or a special place you have yet to dream up!

By fitting them into your home and your life, porches and decks can do more than literally link your home and its surroundings. They become integral to both, making your dream of living in nature even more of a reality. 🧑🏻



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"Great company from the president on down. From the initial visit to the display model to the design of my home and through the construction phase, I am very pleased. I am more than grateful for choosing Honest Abe. Great service after the sale, which is hard to find these days. Honest Abe has taken great care of me."

George Thacker
Honest Abe Homeowner