



# Sweet Dreams are Made of This

The dreamiest bedrooms integrate necessities with beauty to create a relaxing space.

By Claudia Johnson, Honest Abe Log Homes

**ABOVE:** A striking corner bedroom combines an unexpected mixture of materials and styles, including one round log exterior wall; one exterior timber frame wall featuring a square and arched window configuration; a natural finish tongue-and-groove vaulted ceiling with contrasting exposed beams; a dark 12" x12' tile floor; recessed ceiling lighting; and ceiling fans. *Photo by Roger Wade Studio*

**OPPOSITE:** Designing a master bedroom-bathroom suite to ensure that homeowners can remain in place as they age is now common practice. This includes using wide doors, even on bathrooms and closets; open, ample navigation space around furniture; and easily accessible bathroom fixtures like walk-in showers, taller commodes and lower sink. *Photos by Jeff Gartin Photography*



It's no wonder that so many timeless songs have been written about sleeping. After all, more than a third of one's life is spent in bed. But for custom log or timber frame homeowners, the sleeping spaces tend to become – to quote Shakespeare – “such stuff as dreams are made on.”

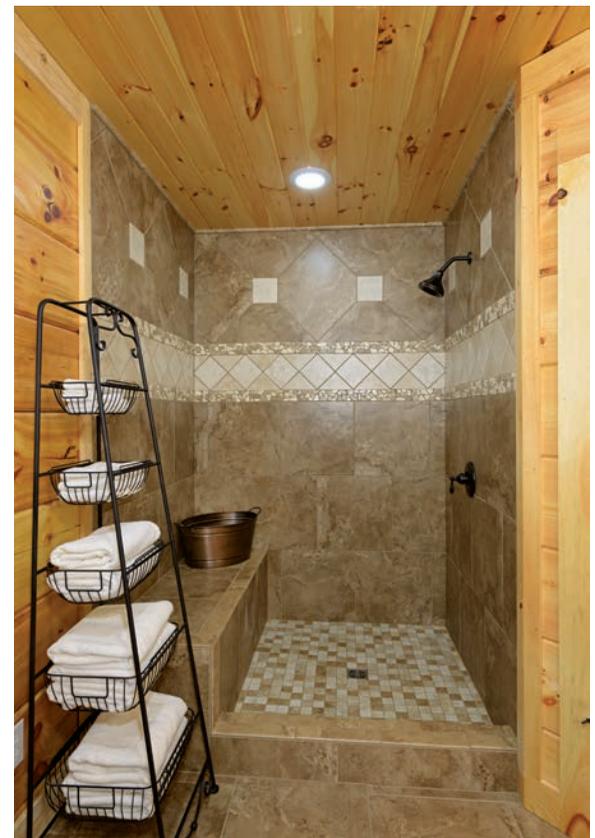
“Design of a bedroom is a direct reflection of how the homeowner perceives the space,” observed Melissa Copas, who has been creating custom plans for Honest Abe Log Homes in Moss, Tennessee, for the past 20 years. “For instance, we’ve had homeowners who oriented their bedroom based solely on the view they wished to see as they rise in the morning.”

The designer noted that in many ways, making choices about bedrooms for a log or timber frame home is no different than for any type of home.

Decisions like the number of bedrooms needed, the size of each room and whether there will be an adjacent bathroom are basic.

Copas pointed out that for log and timber homeowners, there are additional design options that may not always be considered with a traditionally built home. The height often created by log and timber roof systems can lend itself to the option of a bedroom loft. This additional vertical space has been creatively claimed by some Honest Abe homeowners for use as a reading nook, a small library, a celestial observation point and a computer alcove.

“One of the great advantages of fashioning bedroom space is that with interior walls, there are several options,” Copas said. “Sheetrock, wood, timber frame or a combination of materials can achieve a look entirely different





from the predominately wood areas of the more open rooms of the house.”

In recent years the incorporation of a small office has become prevalent for those who extend their work space into the bedroom. More bedrooms are featuring fireplaces and sitting areas. Doors opening from a master suite onto a deck, porch or patio – often private – are an increasingly common feature.

“Choices of windows, lighting, interior walls, ceiling treatment, flooring and even the log style itself can add to the beauty of any bedroom,” she said. “We’ve done some very creative things with small spaces in vacation homes and with children’s rooms.”

Copas encourages those planning

**ABOVE:** Honest Abe homeowners have prioritized guest room design like this one in which the dark stained flooring, natural finished square logs, soft light of the ceiling fan and dark wood furniture create a cozy space. Guests enjoy morning coffee or a drink at sunset from the private balcony. Photo by Roger Wade Studio

**TOP:** Honest Abe’s award-winning Cambridge plan used for the company’s model home in Crossville, Tennessee, features a second floor bedroom suite with a home office area built into a bay window; an extra-large walk-in closet with additional room for vertical storage; an adjacent full bath; and a heavy timber and exposed rafter roof system. Photo by Roger Wade Studio

**BOTTOM:** This expansive master bedroom incorporates a loft sitting room and office flooded by light from large windows situated to take advantage of an endless view. Below, there's a cozy fireplace, French doors opening onto a wrap-around porch and a wooden spiral staircase leading to the loft. *Photo by Roger Wade Studio*

**BELOW:** Many Honest Abe customers have requested special designs for grandchildren's rooms. This grandmother wanted to evoke the feel of summer camp for three young children. The log walls, wood floors and substantial handcrafted furnishings provide durability. Safety-locked windows overlook a farm where lifetime memories are made. *Photo by Jeff Gartin Photography*

a log or timber frame home to thoroughly discuss expectations and ideas for each type of bedroom with the project's designer, who should be able to reach a balance between beauty and necessity.

"Bedrooms have long been considered functional rooms where people sleep or just personal spaces of refuge and relaxation," Copas said. "But just because a bedroom is designed for functionality, aesthetics need not be sacrificed."

Copas has selected photos of some of the bedrooms created for Honest Abe customers to illustrate how the most personal room of a home can be stunningly beautiful and relaxing.



800-231-3695  
 HonestAbe.com  
 info@HonestAbe.com

