



Pheasants frequently fly past these windows, so designer Billy Beson brought one inside for fun. He kept the room relaxed with trunks as end tables and a drum as a plant stand. The coffee tables and antique drum lamps hail from India. La Lune Collection made the sofa in sections to fit along the bowed wall of windows.

INTO THE WOODS

by Nancy Crotti



"LUXURIOUS" AND "LOG CABIN,"

two words that rarely feel connected, come together in this Gull Lake home near Brainerd. From the soaring ceiling to the fieldstone fireplace, the wall of windows to the rustic furniture, this home invites relaxation without roughing it.

Builder Nor-Son Inc. in Baxter, Minn., maximized natural light on the lake side of this National Associated Builders and Contractors award-winning home with a two-story, bowed wall of windows. Then designer William Beson of Beson Kading Interior Design Group, Minneapolis, got to work. He scoured the shops of northern Minnesota for animal-themed accessories such as a hand-painted pillow depicting dancing bears, loon decoys, and a moose head made of twigs. For furniture with just the right rustic feel built to the scale each room required, he had several pieces custom made by the La Lune Collection of Milwaukee.

Beson gave the lodge-pole pine logs a light finish and designed verdigris maple-leaf sconces to hang between the family room windows. "If you have a beautiful wood ceiling, the last thing I wanted to do is fill it with recessed lights," he says. "What's nice about this room is that two people can sit in here



or 22 people could sit in here and still feel really comfortable.

“One of the challenges that designers have is doing a new space and making it look like it’s always been there,” Beson adds. “One way I did that was by using different finishes—painted wood, distressed wood, different wood tones—so it has the appearance that it was collected over time.”

He did the same with fabrics—sofas and duvets in classic red plaids, a sofa and chair upholstered in an animal-themed print, and another seating group in an Aztec-style gros-point pattern. “There are elements that are common to lodgy, cabiny kind of stuff,” Beson says. “It’s all in how you interpret it.” ■

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The boys’ room shouts, “Gone fishin’!” Beson repeated the duvets’ plaid flannel in pine tree cutouts stitched with rawhide along the denim cornice. The beds are also by La Lune.