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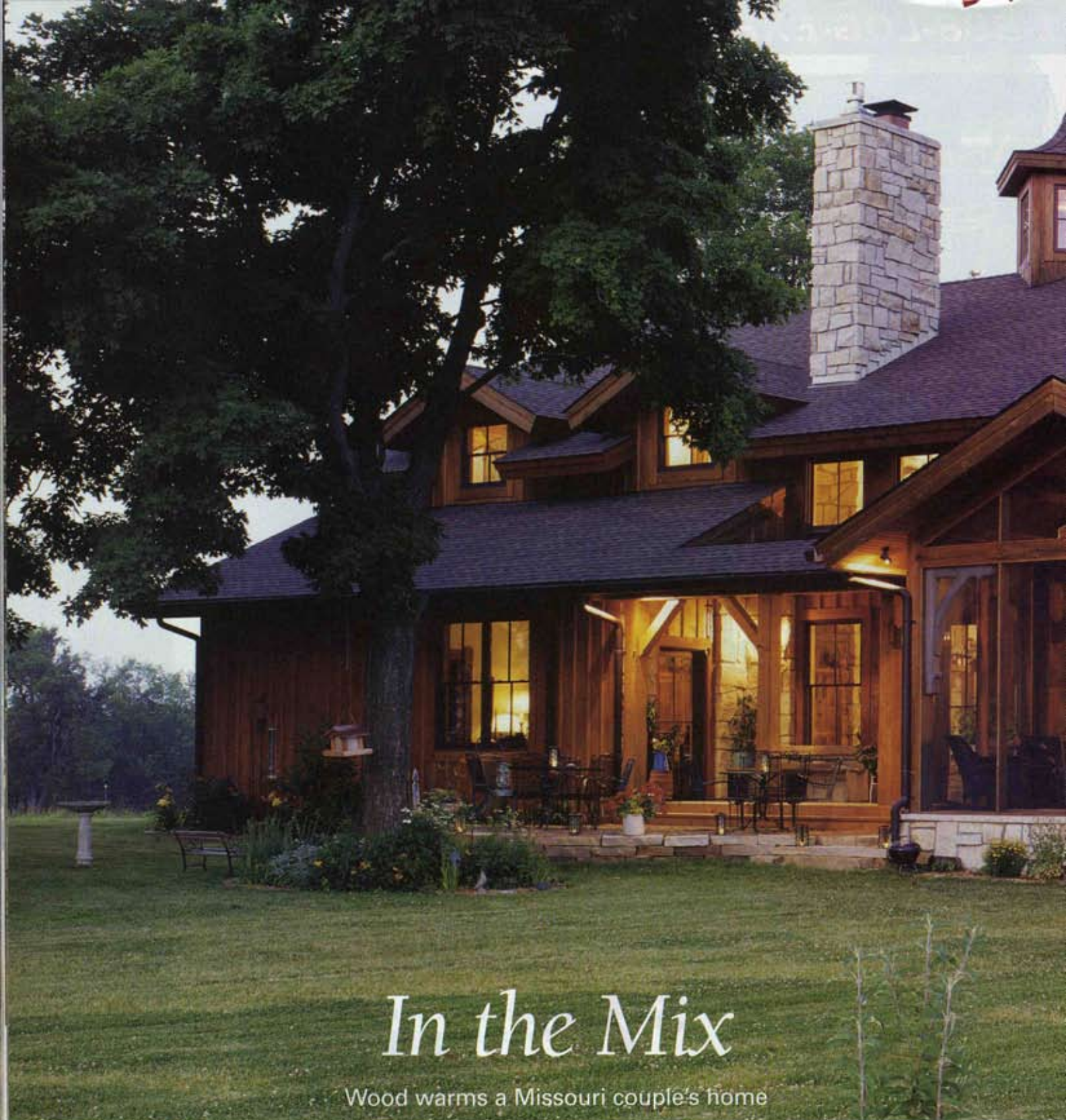
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In the Mix

Wood warms a Missouri couple's home

Walnut, cedar, fir, pecan, pine, cypress and a bit of oak. It may sound like the inventory of a fine furniture store, but it's actually a partial listing of the many woods Bryan and Barb Berlin feature in the timbers and trim of their Missouri home.

The Berlins, lifetime residents of the farm community of Marshall, Missouri, found inspiration for their Craftsman-style timber home in Bryan's childhood. "When I was grow-

ing up, my mother's farm had an old timber frame barn," Bryan reminisces. "I just thought it was neat how it was put together."

The couple, employees of Central Missouri Agriservice, realized that timber frame construction could recreate the barn-like feeling Bryan desired. "But for the longest time, I thought it was a dream that wouldn't be possible because the timber frame centers

Story by Cheryl Kenny • Photos by Roger Wade • Styling by Debra Grahl



Above: To make the most of every square foot of space, the Berlins and their designers stuck with a simple, rectangular shape for the home's plan. Outside, porches framed in bald cypress add interest and charm to the main house, which is sided in stone, and cypress board-and-batten siding.

Right: "In the country nobody comes in the front door because they always drive up," Bryan notes. He designed his home without a traditional front door. Instead, entry is from the side of the house.





Above: The barn in the background was the Berlins' home for two years while they planned and built their timber frame. By time the Berlins' house was built in 2003, the barn was filled with antique furniture and reclaimed woodwork and hardware.

Right: Porches and decks surround the home, tying it to its rural site. Framing on the porch continues the handcrafted look created inside the home.

were on the Pacific Northwest and Northeast coasts," Bryan says. "I thought there was no way anyone was going to come to central Missouri to build these." Happily, Bryan was wrong. Clydesdale Frames Company, a timber framer based in Hutchinson, Kansas, was more than happy to help Bryan realize his dream.

Porch Appeal

The couple worked with Bryan's cousin, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, architect Larry Berlin, and Clydesdale principal John Van Bruggen, to design a house that looks like it belongs on their 20-acre working farm. Since one of their requirements was that the 4,200-square-foot house have no unusable space, they chose a rectangular design.

"The Berlins' home is a series of rectangles with protruding porches and a simple roof line," John explains. "However, when





A variety of wood tones and textures enliven the Berlins' great room, with its 28-foot ceiling. Dark wood floors offer a wonderful contrast to the limestone fireplace. To maintain an authentic look, the Berlins chose conventional, not oversized, windows for the home.



The five pocket doors that make up the dining room paneling were buried behind the wall of an old house in the Marshall area. The Berlins found their many reclaimed treasures through word of mouth and a little investigating.





Cherry cabinets, specifically designed to allow the timber framing to be seen, provide storage—and character—in the kitchen. Above the stove, an antique mantel serves as a range hood.



An old iron fence was given a second life as a loft railing in the home. Through a set of antique pocket doors, a shelf-lined hallway leads to the master bedroom.

you tie all those rectangles together it is very attractive. A lot of homes these days get into octagonal rooms, roof lines going six, seven different ways, and end up with a very interesting roof, but not necessarily all the space that you could have just by employing a basic rectangle."

To create more outside interest, John added porches framed in bald cypress. "By employing porches around the outside to carry that timber frame theme, it gives the house more of a Craftsman-style look and blends in to the architectural patterns that they have inside." The house has

timber-framed porches on three sides, including a cantilevered porch from the second floor facing the road, a porch at the entry, and screened and

covered porches in the back. The cypress porches complement the home's exterior of board-and-batten cypress siding and natural stone.

Pieces of the Past

Stepping from the foyer to the great room one is struck by the variety of wood tones and textures. Much of the framing is Douglas fir, but to highlight the Berlins' walnut



Left: Warm carpeting, wood timbers and a mix of antiques give this second-floor guest bedroom a homey feel.

Below: Although the Berlins' home has a feel of antiquity, the couple added modern amenities, like a luxurious soaking tub, to the mix. A wood surround makes the tub fit the style of the timber home.

antiques, Clydesdale used black walnut timbers for braces, collar ties and the king post in the room's 28-foot cathedral ceiling. (John notes that using walnut or cherry for timber framing accents is becoming popular.) The wide plank floors also are walnut.

The great room features a limestone fireplace with a simple mantel of cypress and fir. Since windows are not oversized—the Berlins wanted to avoid a contemporary look—the room includes a windowed cupola to provide more natural light, as well as complement the shape of the house.

Stairs at the side of the great room lead to a loft, which includes a guest bath and two bedrooms, as well as a den. The stair risers are of light, natural pecan, in contrast to the rich walnut used for the treads. Across the top of the loft, open to the great room and kitchen, the Berlins placed an antique wrought iron fence. The loft rooms' exterior walls, visible from the great room below, are cedar clapboard. The ceilings are of yellow pine siding reclaimed from a local barn.

Near the stairs, pocket doors of yellow pine dating from 1890 open to a hallway that leads to the master bedroom suite. Built-in cherry bookcases line that hall. The kitchen, to the right of the entry, also features cherry in cabinets specifically designed to allow the timber framing to be seen. An antique mantel serves as the stove hood.

What appears to be beautifully crafted wall paneling in the dining room is actually five reclaimed, 8-foot pocket doors of





yellow pine. The dining room, to the left of the foyer and adjacent to the sitting area of the great room, offers a view of the great room's fireplace.

The Berlins are proud that all of their home's hardware—doorknobs, pulls, even transoms over some doors—is reclaimed. Likewise, the interior woodworking is taken from area homes and barns. The couple refinished the woodworking themselves, working hard to keep ahead of their talented finish carpenter, Stephen Christner.

"We knew from the start what we wanted our house to look like and that it might take extra time or extra material," Barb notes. "But we feel our house makes the statement we wanted: casual and comfortable."

"What we have created is a handcrafted house, with every piece of wood and trim hand-selected," Bryan adds. "We achieved the idea of a barn transferred into a house."

John applauds the Berlins' eclectic design choices.

The Berlins wanted their eclectic home to look handcrafted, yet still casual and comfortable. They refinished salvaged woodwork that was used for door and window trim throughout the house. Here in the master bedroom, a reclaimed cast-iron mantel surrounds the fireplace.

"What I typically counsel clients is, when they choose finishes, don't compete with the timber frame. You want to complement it. Some people have white walls, oak trim, oak cabinets, everything looks the same, and you don't necessarily want to do that. The Berlins did a fantastic job of complementing the timber framing by adding all of these different species of wood." **THI**

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