

As seen in **North Fulton**
LIVING

By Brooke Schmidt

Thinking About a Second Home?

Escape to Your Own Log Cabin

More and more Georgians are discovering that vacations don't necessarily mean spending days and nights in cramped hotel rooms. In fact, statistics show that by 2010, more than 10 million homeowners will have their very own second homes—where they can get away from it all whenever they choose.

Michael Grant, owner of Barna Log Homes in Ellijay, isn't surprised that many of those second homebuyers are choosing log homes. "Log homes evoke a sense of comfort when you walk inside," he says. "There's honesty in the materials and craftsmanship and a feeling of permanence. We are looking for a respite, a place to go to recharge our batteries and renew our spirits. The North Georgia mountains are an hour away and a world apart from the pace of metro Atlanta."

In addition to the comfort and purity that log homes provide, Grant says other trends potential second home buyers should consider include:

- **Less is more.** Grant says many customers are seeking a smaller home with greater amenities. "No one wants to have a second house that requires extra work," he explains.
- **Good design sells.** A well-designed house uses the square footage and volume to its best advantage. In a log cabin, homeowners may find that the living room, kitchen and dining room are one space. "Cozy" rooms are smaller and may function as a study and guest room. Loft spaces can double as living space and a sleeping area for company.

- **High tech/high touch.** Grant attributes the log cabin's popularity to people's desire for something that "is as it appears to be." Because the home's quality cannot be hidden behind drywall, good construction shows—as does poor construction. Log homes also put people at ease; there's no fear of dirtying or damaging surfaces. "Rustic doesn't mean primitive," Grant says. "It means friendly, touchable, durable."

- **The heart of the home: the kitchen.** Homebuyers want kitchens open to living spaces. Kitchens are becoming larger with multiple prep areas, double ovens and the latest technology. Grant says one current customer's log home is being built with a brick pizza oven, adjacent fireplace and soft seating.

- **Multi-generational housing.** Second homebuyers often share the cost of a home with grandparents, parents, siblings and others. Often this drives the need for one or two master suites on the main level with handicap accessibility in the kitchen and bathrooms.

- **Size does matter.** Many second homeowners want a cabin that is 1,200 to 1,500 square feet, while others want 3,500 square feet on multiple levels. They all want convenience. "When a second home is purchased, buyers want the process packaged so that they know what they are getting, for how much and when," Grant explains.

At Barna Log Homes, Grant and his team of professional designers, project managers and builders identify and define the scope of a client's project; design the cabin to meet the family's lifestyle and aesthetic expectations; and ultimately turn a family's log home dream into reality.

To learn more about what a log cabin can offer your family, contact Barna Log Homes at 1-888-564-8933, or visit www.barnaloghomes.com.