



A Haven in Homer

JACK HAMILTON KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS WHEN HE SEES IT. HE went to Homer for a 10-day fishing trip. By the fifth day, he had bought a house. Homer is “incredibly beautiful,” he says. “It’s absolutely spectacular.” As for the town, he describes it as “one funky place,” and “the Key West of the North.” The combination of the natural beauty and the artistic, eccentric nature of some of the residents is a perfect match. “It really is the end of the road,” he says. “It’s like the Grateful Dead stopped playing and they all drove their buses to Homer.”

When Jack and his wife Shawn decided they needed more space at their Homer residence, they briefly considered building a new log home.

Then Jack remembered a 12,000 square foot lodge on 84 acres, manufactured by True North Log Homes of Canada, that had gone into foreclosure before it was finished. Pretty soon, the couple were completing the “only semi-built” house for themselves.

Of the five homes the Hamiltons own around the country, three of them are log construction, and they are considering building a fourth. “Building houses is fun for me,” he says with a laugh. “Because I don’t have to swing the hammer – I just have to write the check.” And what is the exact appeal of log home con-

struction to Jack? For an assertive and decisive man, his answer is surprisingly, and perhaps tellingly, ambiguous. “There’s just something about it,” he says. “There’s a warmth. You walk into the house and you just get a feeling....”

The house, which operates as a fishing lodge when the couple isn’t in residence, is designed with reverence for its magnif-

icent natural surroundings. An enormous deck runs the entire length of the house so the outdoors is just a step away from almost anywhere in the house. Enormous windows frame nature’s artistry and the almost endless views. The spaciousness, the privacy, and the rugged beauty make the home the perfect Alaskan retreat, says Hamilton. “It’s my own private oasis,” he says. “It takes

a lot to impress me,” he adds, “but that house impresses me. Homer impresses me. Alaska impresses me.”

While the house is impressive, says Jack with a laugh, there’s always room to improve. When relatives came to visit the house, they left a tongue-in-cheek list of complaints. “The bedroom is too far from the kitchen. The flat-screen TV isn’t big enough. It rained for three days.” Of course, if you have to come in from the rain, drying out in the Hamiltons’ home would be some consolation.

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private oasis.”

—Jack Hamilton

Photographs courtesy of True North Log Homes

