Of course, this is no ordinary home. Hidden behind its massive white cedar, half logs lies a haven to escape the outdoor winter wonderland, without ever straying too far from nature's captivating view.

Roberta says family and friends who come for a visit fondly refer to the home as "the resort." And with the amenities found inside its walls, it's easy to understand why.

Like many potential home buyers, Roberta and Roger wanted to create a home that would be both fun and relaxing for them and their family. They quickly determined that the best way to create such a home was with logs, and soon the process was underway.

"We went to a home show and met a representative from Town & Country Cedar Homes," Roberta says. "Julie was the first one we talked to, and she had a floorplan we liked, so we went with them."

Julie Abrahamson, Town & Country's representative in Platteville, Wisconsin, worked with them to create an ideal plan. "The Polarks selected one of our floorplans, and we customized it to accommodate their needs. The size of the home

was increased significantly, and many unique features were designed into the plan."

Since the Polarks planned to build on 130 acres they already owned in southwestern Wisconsin, they went to the next step: finding a contractor. Julie helped them locate Aaron Konrardy of Konrardy Construction in Dubuque, Iowa, and work began.

"We build a lot of high-end homes, and I have a lot of quality workers and carpenters," Aaron says, referring to his decision to try his hand at building a log home for the first time. "I know my guys enjoyed working on it. It was a pretty impressive job."

Roberta and Roger visited the site often and watched their dream home take shape in May 1999, coming to fruition in June 2000. The couple chose northern white cedar logs and vertical log corners.

"Coming from our permanent home to see how much they had gotten done—and watching them put up the logs—was pretty incredible," Roberta says.

"There are a lot of materials involved in building a log home, because it requires a lot more