

Dream Home for Rent

by Griffin Suber



The Sacchini Family

Allen Mowery photos courtesy of Timberhaven Log & Timber Homes

In the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania, near Frank Lloyd Wright’s architectural masterpiece, Fallingwater, and an array of area ski slopes, Keith and Patty Sacchini saw an opportunity to enjoy the mountains they love while capitalizing on the area’s growing popularity.

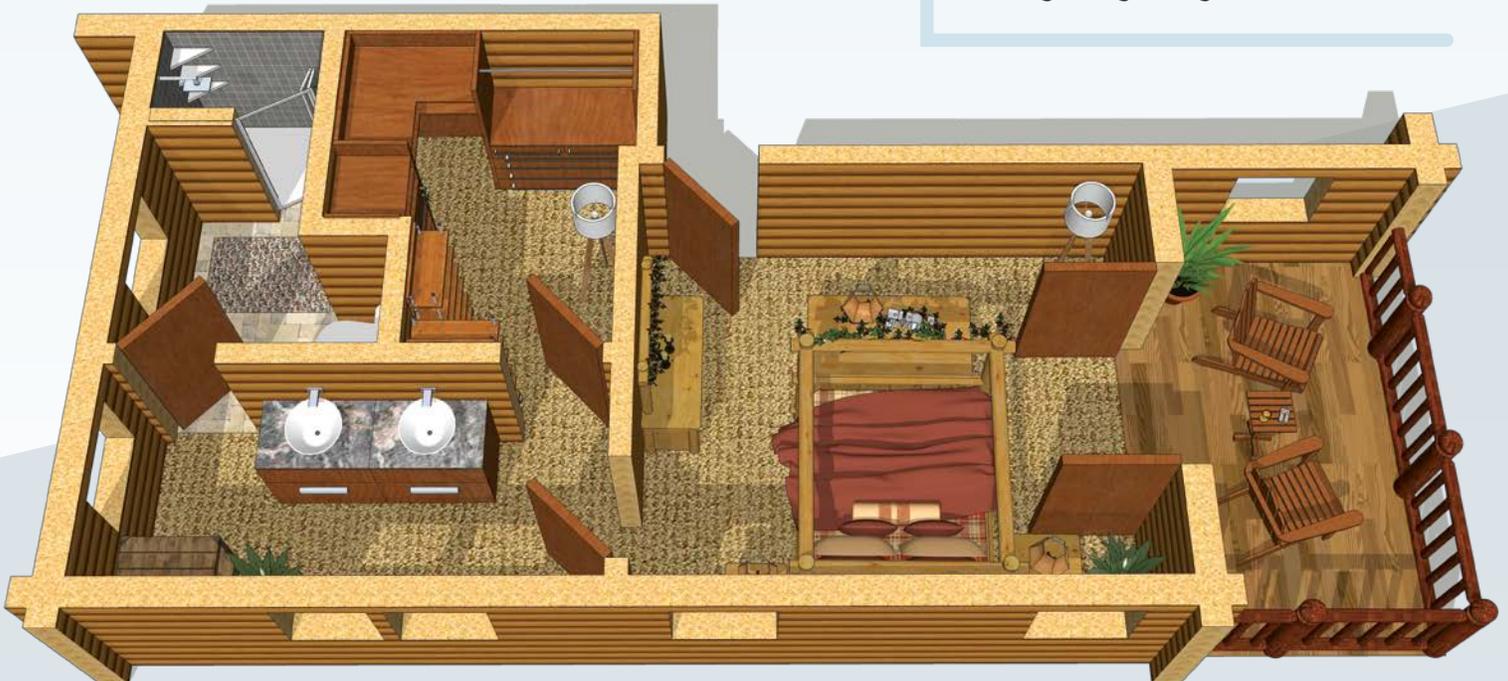
Why a log home: The Sacchinis wanted a house that would pull double duty as a base camp for hunting trips and family holidays *and* as a VRBO (vacation rental by owner). The perennial appeal of a log home won them over, and they chose an open floor plan that

affords space to host large groups, while providing unobstructed views of the surrounding landscape.

Favorite features: As part of their quest for seamless indoor-outdoor living, the Sacchinis incorporated a 500-square-foot, three-season living space to the floor plan. “I’ve never liked decks,” says Keith. “They’re too much maintenance and not enough warmth. So it’s a great area for when you’re grilling or just hanging out. Even if the weather gets a little shaky, you’re still protected. You’re outside, but not in the woods.”

The Lowdown

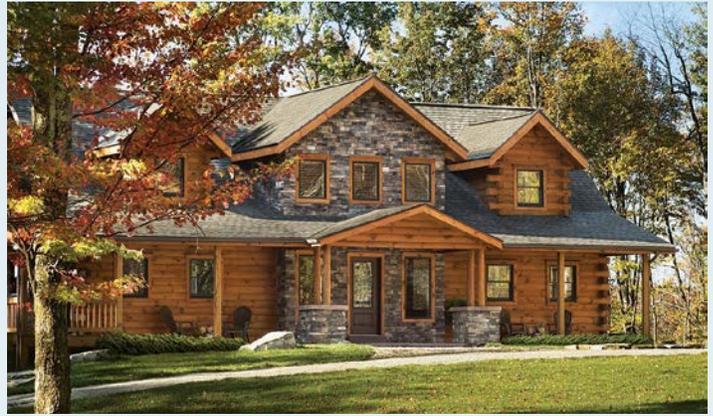
Impressed with Pennsylvania-based Timberhaven Log & Timber Homes’ combination of modern design and rustic charm, the Sacchinis worked with Lynda Tompkins to maximize the home’s potential. With a focus on building for short-term renters, it was important to clearly define private spaces while emphasizing public ones. “The great room and fireplace are centrally located,” says Lynda, “And there’s a balcony on the second floor, so you can peer down into the great room and out through the gabled glass.”



The Inside Scoop

If you're building to rent, these tips can make your property both personal and practical:

- Pack it in.** To fit as many beds as possible into one room, the Sacchinis had a carpenter build custom bunkbeds with a "center step" which makes it easier to climb up and change sheets. "Each bunk has its own light and a USB port," says Keith. "It's pretty slick."
- Private space.** When designing to rent, you want each bedroom to have a clearly defined bathroom. A public bathroom is only needed in the presence of shared spaces.
- Integrate options.** If you're looking to accommodate large groups, incorporating separate living areas is never a bad idea. "In the basement," says Lynda, "We roughed-out space for a separate kitchenette and bathroom." The decision allows the lower level to be self-sufficient, should the need arise.



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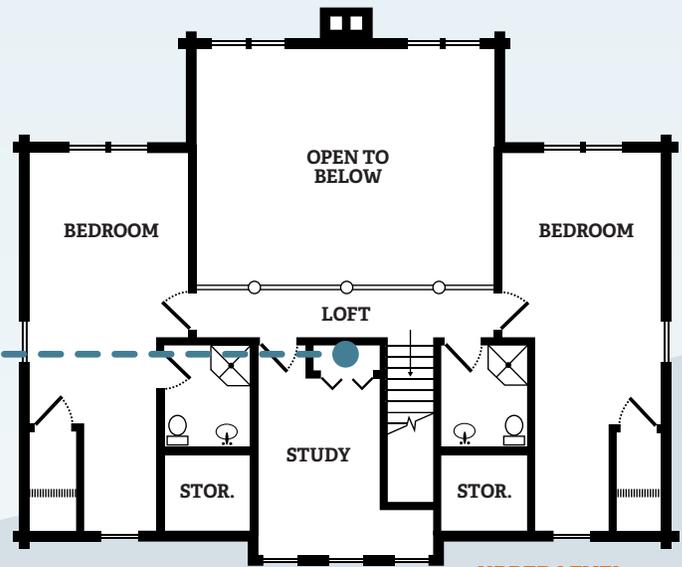
PLAN SPECS

Square Footage:
5,000

Bedrooms: **6**

Baths: **4.5**

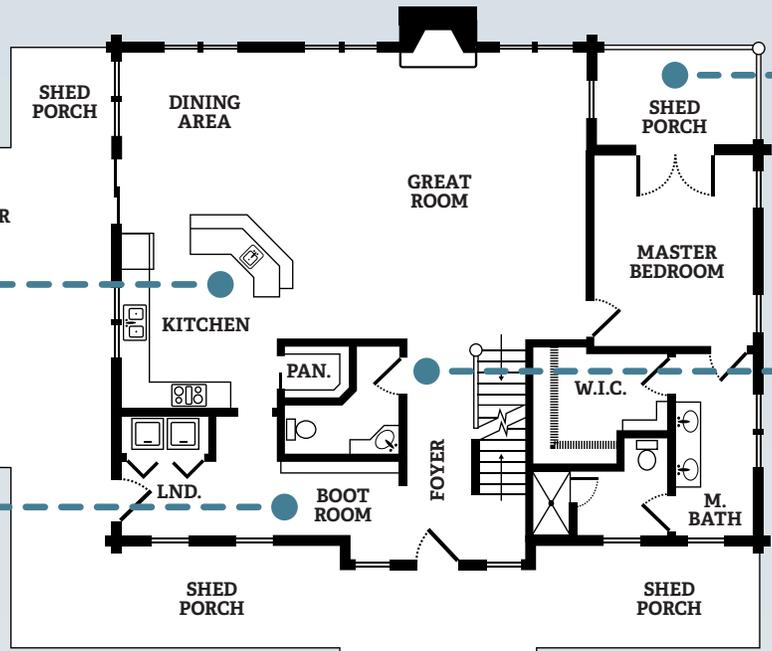
With the inclusion of a closet, the second-floor study can easily serve as an extra sleeping space, if needed.



When it's adjacent to the kitchen, an outdoor living area is perfect for hosting meals al fresco.

An angled island provides a clear view to the great room from the kitchen.

In a snowy locale, a boot room is a smart addition to avoid wet footprints and maintain a clean home.



The master bedroom has its own porch, cementing its spot as the best room in the house.

Since the first-floor half bath is on the small side, plans for a swinging door were replaced with a barn-style slider, creating more usable space.