

Design & Build

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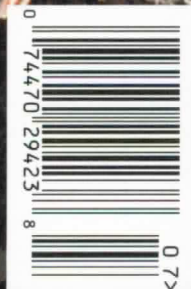
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be inspired...

Cover feature:

Rejuvenate, Refresh
and Retreat... to the Mountains
Cashiers, NC

Where Quail is King
Seminole Plantation
Thomasville, Ga





Rejuvenate

Refresh

Retreat...

Many Atlanta families have a tradition of escaping the oppressive heat of the Georgia summer by retreating to the mountains of North Carolina during the hottest months. Cashiers, located in a valley with an elevation of 3500 feet and Highlands, on a mountain with an elevation of 4,118 feet have remained a favorite vacation and second home destination since the turn of the century, due to the spectacular scenery, exceptional weather and wide variety of activities. Only ten miles and 30 minutes of winding mountain roads separate them.

When building in the mountains, says Architectural designer Bill Baker, there are special considerations that need to be addressed and often, overcome. He suggests you retain an experienced contractor up to the challenge of building on the side of a mountain. "There is a great chance of hitting rock when digging the foundation so understanding the topography is very important," explains Baker. "The parking of construction worker vehicles, and getting trucks, equipment and supplies on site test the builder as well."

Seeing the Beskin mountain cottage, it's easy to understand that overcoming the difficulties is worthwhile. Their picturesque home with a cedar shake roof integrates into the landscape, providing a fabulous mountain retreat. Baker

er chose to use large sheets of tree bark that were steamed into flat sheets as the skin (or outside) of the house. "The technique employs a painstaking method of removing the tree bark by mechanically peeling it off with a sharp knife. The bark is then steamed and treated to preserve it to enhance the rustic look," says Baker. "It is a complicated process but one which produces a very distinctive appearance, especially with a home that you are integrating into the landscape. As this is a fragile material, you do need to protect it from the elements. The eaves offer protection from the weather and a stone wainscot prevents rain damage. We used weather sheaving underneath the indigenous tree bark as an added barrier against the elements."

These types of materials are often used in the Highlands/

"The owners taste leaned toward French Country style. I took that preference and blended it with a North Carolina feeling, as can be seen in the front hall. A poplar post on the staircase is juxtaposed with a faded, French Country buffet and an antique Oushak rug. We loved the soft, muted, faded tones in the palette it created."

~ Kathleen Rivers, Interior Designer, KathleenRivers.com



...to the mountains

