



**Previous page:** Before building the home of their dreams, the Markers called the little red cabin their home on the weekends. Janette says the lot goes for as far as you can see (bottom left). With such a large plot of land, Janette says there is no way they can mow everything. So she designed smaller gardens and connecting pathways through the natural habitat. **Above (l-r):** Looking at the living room you get the log cabin feel of the home. The kitchen boasts a large island for entertaining. And just off the kitchen and living room is the dining room. Beautiful French doors lead to the multi-season room from the dining room. **Left:** The multi-purpose room allows the Markers to enjoy the beauty of their wooded property anytime of the year. The Markers put all the stones on one wall themselves to add to the feel of the home. **Below (l-r):** The stairs leading upstairs were made of logs Dennis Kisch picked up in Custer. It adds so much to the cabin feel of the home. The master bath's garden tub is nestled in a knotty pine base.

Don and Janette Marker raised their family in Madison but spent most weekends camping in Yankton.

"We both grew up in northeast Kansas, which is hilly and wooded, really unlike most of South Dakota," Janette said. "We wanted to stay in South Dakota but go as far south as we could (for retirement). We love Yankton and knew this is where we wanted to retire."

So eight years ago the Markers bought a wooded lot overlooking Lewis & Clark Lake, west of Yankton. They used the land as a private campsite on their excursions from Madison and a year later Don

decided to build a cabin on the site.

"The design is based on the state park cabins," Janette said. "He built it in components in Madison, and assembled it here."

Don and Janette stayed in the one-room cabin with a bedroom loft on weekend visits to Yankton and during the construction of their three bedroom, three bath dream house.

"We took two years to build the house, but it was nice to have it go that long," Janette said. "We had time to think things through. We had built a house before and that time we did it in three months from breaking ground to moving in. It's much more sane to take your time."

The Markers hired Kisch Construction to build the home that Janette designed herself using at-home design software.

"We are real outdoorsy people and we wanted to preserve as many trees as possible, Dennis (Kisch) was really great about listening to all our concerns and wishes and working with us on everything."

Although the Markers had planned extensively for their new home, Janette said she was impressed with the extra touches Kisch suggested.

"It was his idea to do a log staircase and banister. He drove out to Custer and picked out the lumber himself," she said. "It turned out beautiful."

The Markers also added much of the home's unique aspects themselves.

"We did all the finishing work, the flooring and painting ourselves," Janette said. "Don and I



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