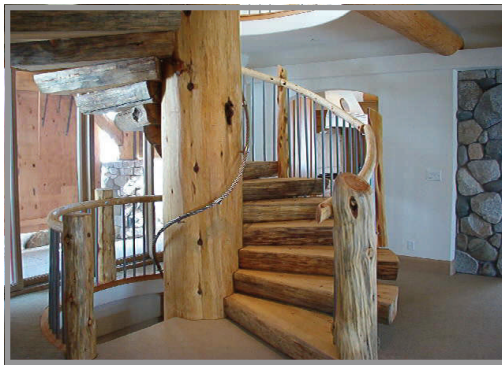


WELCH - KIRKWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Cooper Kessel, Architect and Associates



This four story log home was designed to take advantage of the spectacular High Sierra views while accommodating very heavy snowfalls and a very steep upslope site.

To capture the mountain flavor, log timbers were used to provide structural support for the exterior decks and porches; and local stone was used as exterior veneer to withstand long periods of snow and ice against the structure.

A unique winding staircase was designed to provide access to three floors. A 42" diameter red cedar was used as a center pole to support the treads. The tree was found standing dead in British Columbia and harvested for the project. The treads were also hand cut from logs and mortised into the center "tree".

A log truss in the great room spans 36' and allows for unobstructed views to the surrounding mountains. Exterior deck surfaces are covered with pre-cut concrete tiles allowing for easy snow removal if necessary or the snow can simply remain in place. A drainage path under the tiles allows meltwater to flow away without wicking into the snow and causing ice dam problems.

The entry has a dramatic 20' high volume with a wood latilla ceiling. Space for snow and ski equipment, a powder room and an elevator are also on the bottom floor to provide convenience and access to the three stories above.

