

The Round Log Cabin, by Dick Walker Sawmill

If you are looking for a low cost, low maintenance, energy efficient home, the round log cabin from DWS deserves investigation. It is one floor, 1134 square feet (same as 28' x 40') open design, with a central core as the only load bearing interior structure. That leaves lots of flexibility on how to divide up the living area.

The round log cabin is built with D-shaped (three sided) cedar logs stood upright in a 38 foot diameter circle. A circle is the most efficient way to enclose an area. White cedar logs are the best kind of cabin log, besides their inherent beauty, they are very long lasting, and have a high insulation value.

This is a very "green" building. It is built on a concrete slab with locally sourced lumber that is sustainably harvested. The cabin logs, and the logs for all the lumber are cut from own woodlot with guidance from the professional foresters at Calfee Woodland Management.

The upright 6 ½" thick cedar logs are planed and finished on the inside for a beautiful look. They form the exterior circle and are loadbearing. Roof timbers rest on these logs and on a core in the center made up of a circular partition or beams supported by posts for a more open living area. The roof itself is a 2" T&G over the timbers and which are strong enough to support the snow load (snow-free insulation right out of the sky). The roofing itself can be rubber over spray foam or there is an exterior spray foam finished with three coats of silicone-job done. Either way the spray foam gives an R value of 5.5 per inch of thickness.

Windows on the east, south, and west allow the low winter sun to stream in all day making this a passive solar tempered house. In the summer the round shape acts as an awning and the high overhead sun is blocked. With proper insulation in the roof, an insulated concrete pad and well placed windows, the heat bill can be kept to about 2 cords of wood per year!

I've lived in mine for 38 years and would love to show you around.

DWS