

# real or not?

AN ALTERNATIVE TO NATURAL WOOD LOGS

Interview by Christine DeOrio

*We speak with Stewart Hansen, president of Cultured Log Systems, to learn more about concrete logs, an innovative alternative to natural wood logs.*

**LTS:** What is a “cultured log” made of?

**Stewart Hansen:** Cultured Logs are a patented combination of concrete, steel reinforcement, insulation and fly ash. When we say “concrete,” don’t think about the stuff used to make sidewalks. Our products have the exact look and feel of wood. However, because we use concrete, we offer unique benefits unmatched by wood.

**LTS:** Describe some of those benefits.

**SH:** Cultured Logs offer the log and/or timber look without the problems of costly maintenance issues, fire concerns, insect and mold infestation, higher insurance costs and expensive and extended construction times.

**LTS:** Do Cultured Logs offer more design flexibility than natural logs?

**SH:** We can create just about any log imaginable in terms of size and shape. Eight-inch D-logs, 16-inch round logs, 8-inch timber logs, 16-inch hand-hewn logs, board and batten profiles, just about anything. The same holds true for color and texture. Our structures don’t require any on-site modifications. Architects and builders like these benefits as well as the resulting cost savings.

**LTS:** What kind of maintenance or care should homeowners be prepared for?

**SH:** There is basically none. There is no need to preserve, restrain or reseal our logs. Insect infestation, mold and general decay are also not concerns.



**LTS:** Compare the cost of building with Cultured Logs with that of real wood.

**SH:** The cost of the log package is comparable to that of wood logs, but we include erection costs with every package. Most wood log homeowners can expect to pay between \$15 and \$25 per square foot to erect a wood log home. That is in addition to the cost of the logs. For a 3,000 square foot home, we save our clients an average of \$60,000.

**LTS:** Cultured Logs have a 3-hour fire rating. Does the reduced fire danger result in lower homeowners’ insurance premiums?

**SH:** Absolutely. Our structures are less prone to fire damage than those built from natural wood, which results in lower insurance premiums. This can amount to a considerable savings over the life of the structure.

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Cultured Log Systems is headquartered in Missoula, Montana, (877) 257-5647, [concretelogs.com](http://concretelogs.com).

**LTS** To learn more about designing and building with Cultured Logs, go to [logandtimberstyle.com](http://logandtimberstyle.com).