

Mountain Elegance

NESTLED AMONG THE PINES, THIS DISTINCTIVE MONTANA RETREAT BALANCES EASY FAMILY LIVING AND GRACIOUS ENTERTAINING.



By Allyn Calton
Photography by Karl Neumann

•a

IT'S A COLD JANUARY NIGHT HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS of Montana. Snow, deep and heavy, blankets the landscape while thick clouds shroud the night sky. No movement or noise disturbs the profound silence. In the distance, a single point of light breaks through the blackness, beckoning weary souls. Those who follow the glow through tall pines will wind their way to a welcome sight: Light pouring forth from a magnificent mountain retreat.

Homeowners Dave and his wife, Pam, had been coming to Big Sky for more than a decade. Avid skiers, they fell in love with the mountains and began to think about acquiring a vacation home. In 2005, their friend and long-time ski instructor convinced them to look at the Yellowstone Club. "As much as we liked Big Sky, YC was even more incredible," says Dave. "And we found the perfect lot."

Tucked in among the trees, the 5-acre parcel offered a secluded setting along with a premium building site. "We liked the sense of being nestled in instead of perched high on a hill; it felt more natural to us," says Dave. But as beautiful as the home site was, it also posed challenges. "The landscape follows a natural curve with breaks in continuity," explains Dave. "It was important to us to work with the topography and have the home look like it was built over time, not plopped down all at once."

To design their home, the owners consulted with architect Jamie Daugaard, whose experience includes specializing in custom vacation properties. Rather than a log cabin-type structure, the couple wanted an elegant timbered dwelling that would exude a sense of timelessness. They also wanted a mix of formal and informal gathering spaces, both inside and out, to accommodate their family and guests.

"We liked the sense of being nestled in instead of perched high on a hill; it felt more natural to us," says owner Dave about his chosen home site in the Yellowstone Club. But the beautiful location also posed challenges.







Daugaard used the natural contours of the land to determine where the lines of the structure should break and rotate in order to capture the optimum view corridor. He also incorporated varying roof lines and a mix of exterior finishes to create a sense of agelessness.

Inside, the great room is defined by tobacco-colored historic timbers and heavy wooden trusses. Along the far wall a massive floor-to-ceiling fieldstone fireplace serves as the room's focal point. To the left of the fireplace, a bank of tall windows looks out over Pioneer Mountain; to the right, a second bank of windows opens to a spectacular view of Lone Peak. Large-scale furnishings and forest green walls finish the space in a dramatic yet inviting manner.

"One of the unique design features is the loft-style library area that overlooks the great room," points out Dave. Originally plans called for a spiral staircase to access the loft. After more thought, the couple nixed the staircase opting instead for something unexpected. "We installed a custom elevator with a glass car inside a rustic steel frame, reminiscent of an old mine cage," says Dave.

Off the great room, the spacious kitchen is the heart and hearth of the home. "I love to cook, and we wanted a large, easy-flowing space for our family and friends to congregate," says Dave. But the kitchen was also one of the most difficult



rooms to design. Because the room sits on one of the key articulation points and bends with the landscape, it took more than half a dozen attempts to craft the floor plan. In the end, the space was broken up into several smaller spaces. The far end boasts a rock fireplace and casual sitting area. Closer in, guests can gather at the informal breakfast table to take in the stunning views. For more formal dinners, the couple and their guests gather in the dining room, which extends out like a peninsula with glass on three sides.

The master suite is a mix of mountain elements and unexpected elegance. Separated from the main living area by a fully enclosed bridge, the suite features squared wooden trusses, warm wood floors, and walls painted an intriguing shade of blue. In the master bath, the same shade of blue is accented by faux copper rivets painted on the walls, beautifully complementing the oversized copper tub.

OPPOSITE TOP: The great room is defined by tobacco-colored historic timbers and heavy wooden trusses. **OPPOSITE BELOW:** A custom elevator leading to the loft-style library mimics an old mine cage. **ABOVE:** The kitchen was one of the most difficult areas to design. In the end, the architect decided to divide it into several smaller spaces, including a casual sitting area with a stone fireplace. **RIGHT:** More formal dinners are held in the dining room, which extends out onto the property like a peninsula, with glass windows on three sides.





Back in the main section of the home, the kids' bedroom is fun and fanciful with a one-of-a-kind bed. "We plucked a 1946 Diamond T flatbed one-ton truck from a junkyard and an artisan transformed it into a unique centerpiece," says Dave. "It's just a lot of fun." One queen bed is hidden under the hood while two more are stacked like bunk beds in the back.

Looking appreciatively around, Dave smiles. "In the end, we're very pleased with how our home came together," he says. "It's perfect when we're here with our kids, or with a few guests, or a houseful. We made the right decision."

Resources

Jamie Dugaard, Architect

Centre Sky Architecture, Ltd.

Big Sky, Montana

406.995.7572, www.centresky.com

Peter Penfold, Project Manager

Penfold LLC

Bozeman, Montana

406.209.4189, www.penfoldllc.com

Kath Costanti, Interior Designer

Harker Design

Big Sky, Montana

406.933.9423, www.harkerdesign.com

Boles Construction

Edwards, Colorado

970.926.3202, www.bolesconstruction.com

Gallatin Timberwrights

Gallatin Gateway, Montana

406.763.4819, www.gallatintimberwrights.com

Montana Reclaimed Lumber

Gallatin Gateway, Montana

406.763.9102, www.mtreclaimed.com



OPPOSITE: The master bath features an oversized copper tub and complementary faux copper rivet accents on the walls. **ABOVE:** The kids' bedroom features a one-of-a-kind bed. Constructed from a 1946 Diamond T flatbed one-ton truck from a junkyard, it was transformed by an artisan who hid a queen bed under the hood and stacked two more mattresses like bunk beds in the back.

.a