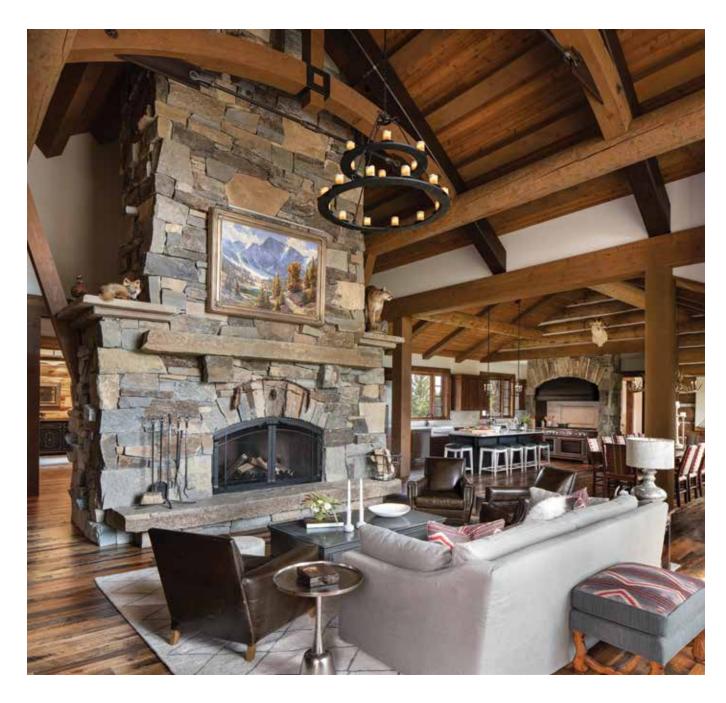






Big Sky Essentials

This Montana home is all about balance, offering a fresh take on classic mountain style while staying true to its Western roots.



hen the owners of this mountain beauty first approached architect Jamie Daugaard, they had three "musts"

Daugaard, they had three "musts" on their list.

The first was that the getaway spot *feel* like a true Montana cabin.

Because the couple owned homes all over the world — from France to Florida

and various spots in between — they wanted this house to reflect the area's vernacular architecture. That meant three things: logs, timbers and stone.

Thankfully, these hard-working materials fit the house's planned purpose perfectly: "They wanted this to be a place where they could enjoy the full Montana experience, particularly fly-fishing and skiing," explains Jamie, who's a member of the American In-

stitute of Architects and the principal architect of Centre Sky Architecture.

The project's interior designer, Erika Jennings of Erika & Company, echoes the commitment to the home's not-too-precious design. "In Montana, we live hard; we play hard; we eat big; we drink big; we do it all big," she says with a boisterous laugh, "so there was definitely a durability factor that came into play."



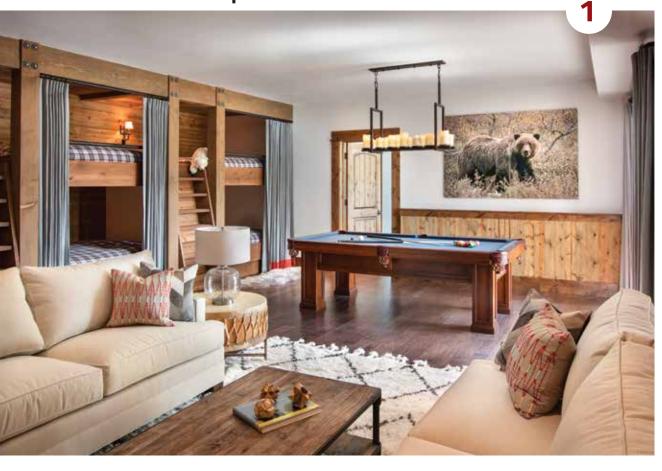
opposite The towering fireplace, clad in local Chief Cliff deep-creek stone, takes center stage in the great room. A generous hearth adds additional seating, while **built-in ledges** serve as display space for the homeowner's favorite trophies.

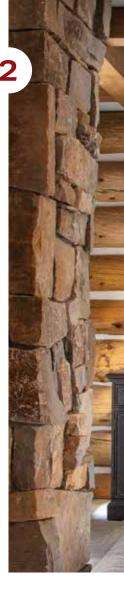
left With seating for 12, the dining room has a decidedly Western feel, from the art to the upholstered chairs by Old Hickory to the shed-antler chandeliers.





special SPACES





That focus on "big" was the second essential on the homeowners' wish list: They wanted spacious, open, breathable spaces where they could host family and friends comfortably. "The house was built as a honey trap for children and grandchildren — a family gathering place," explains Peter Lee, co-founder of the home's builder, Teton Heritage Builders. To this end, the interiors offer an easy flow with room for both gatherings and privacy. A combined kitchen, dining and living area plus a master suite, guest suite and study comprise the main floor,

while a children's bunk and game room round out the lower level.

The owners' third "must" was to take full advantage of the Rocky Mountain beauty that surrounds the home. Located in the elite Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, the lot is hemmed in by towering trees on three sides but offers open views to the rear. A wall of windows in the great room and a pair of French doors in the lower level deliver spectacular sight lines to the distant Gallatin Range, with its combination of sharp ridges and mounded crests.

That same juxtaposition of lines and curves found in nature is a running theme inside and outside the home — a natural result of the blending of logs, timbers, glass and stone. On the exterior, a trifecta of textures encases the conventional framing: rounded, half-log Douglas fir siding with chinking and rough-hewn ends, undulating wavy-edge siding and straight-edged reverse board-and-batten siding applied vertically. A local, deep-creek stone with what Peter calls "an organic layup with natural shapes and no cut edges" adds appeal, along with the massive character



- 1 The lower level is a grandkids' paradise. Built-in bunk beds (with linen drapes for privacy) sit adjacent to a game and lounging area. "The idea was for all the kids to hang out together and have their own space," explains Peter. "Adults can be upstairs, grandkids can be downstairs, and peace is kept in the household for sure."
- 2 Logs, timbers, steel and stone create a strong first impression in the home's entry, where a sideboard with Western nailhead trim is painted with a gray finish "to freshen it up," says Erika.
- 3 The master bedroom gives off a classic-cabin vibe with its exposed logs and chinking. Overhead, a tray ceiling clad in tongue-and-groove with a pair of bronze pendant lights adds another architectural component.



logs and arched timber trusses with steel accents. "We kept the materials close in tonal value and color, so it flows really well rather than looking like a mishmash of different things," explains Jamie.

Flow was also the name of the game when Jamie designed an entrance vestibule flanked by stacked logs, now outfitted with a cowhide-covered chair and bench. "It's an experience entering the house," he says. "You're immediately immersed in it."

Once inside, the theme of wood and stone continues, reinforcing the symphony of shapes. Dark-stained square timbers in the roofline are softened by the curvilinear log purlins and chinked log siding. A truss with an arched bottom chord mimics the window header directly across the great room, where a towering stone fireplace anchors the space and a collection of pillow-topped chairs and couches invites lounging.

Interspersed with it all are stretches of drywall washed in white that give the eye a rest from the wood and lend a decidedly fresh feel to the interiors. "He was very much wanting to bring a masculine feel in, with the wood and stone, but her influence really shows up where

things feel a little more bright, fresh and feminine, such as in the kitchen and master bathroom," says Erika, referring to the homeowners' requests.

The yin and yang of masculine and feminine appears in the furnishings, as well. Animal mounts and Southwest-ern-themed art and textiles share the home with more romantic touches, including armchairs upholstered in tufted ivory fabric, luxurious fur throws and pillows in shades of white and silver. "I think the combination of materials creates a timeless feel," says Erika. "It really is a classic, mountain home."