

Eagle-Eye Views



Project Architect John Kjos of Ellis Nunn & Associates teams with Teton Heritage Builders and Laurie Waterhouse Interiors to produce Aerie at Spring Creek Ranch.



Granite counters do double duty as an area for food prep and a “settling in” place for the visitor.

- + Story by Alisan Peters
- + Photography by Roger Wade Studios

You’d be forgiven if you suddenly burst into song, and “Doe, a deer” wouldn’t be far off the mark. There’s a herd of them that love this view as much as Randy and Nancy Ronning. “We wanted this home to be like a group of cabins, but with uninterrupted flow through all the rooms,” Randy notes.

The Ronnings were attracted to Spring Creek Ranch because of its unequalled views and convenience to the varied and exciting aspects of Jackson Hole. They found a resort that offers many more amenities to the residents of this full-service community. “Homeowners like the Ronnings choose Spring Creek Ranch not only for the views, but because the resort offers a warm community atmosphere with all the amenities of a world-class resort hotel, from concierge and housekeeping services to shuttle transportation and room service,” says Spring Creek’s General Manager Stephen Price. “A simple phone call takes care of most needs and that includes keeping an eye on their investment while they’re away.”

Led by John Kjos of Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects and supported by Teton Heritage Builders, the team added Laurie Waterhouse and her daughter, Cynthia Slavens, of Laurie Waterhouse Interiors to help trim out the home. Together, they produced what’s become known as Aerie, a 5,400-square-foot main level, lodge-style home that offers 360-degree views of the mountains surrounding Jackson Hole. View windows and outdoor decks take in the entire Teton Mountain Range, Sleeping Indian, the Snake River Range and sights all the way to the southern portion of Yellowstone National Park. The home also has a 900-square-foot bunkroom that can sleep twelve, with an additional 4,500 square feet of unfinished basement.

“Randy’s only request was that the granite look the way the Snake River bottom looked from his fishing boat.”

*—Laurie Waterhouse,
Laurie Waterhouse Interiors*

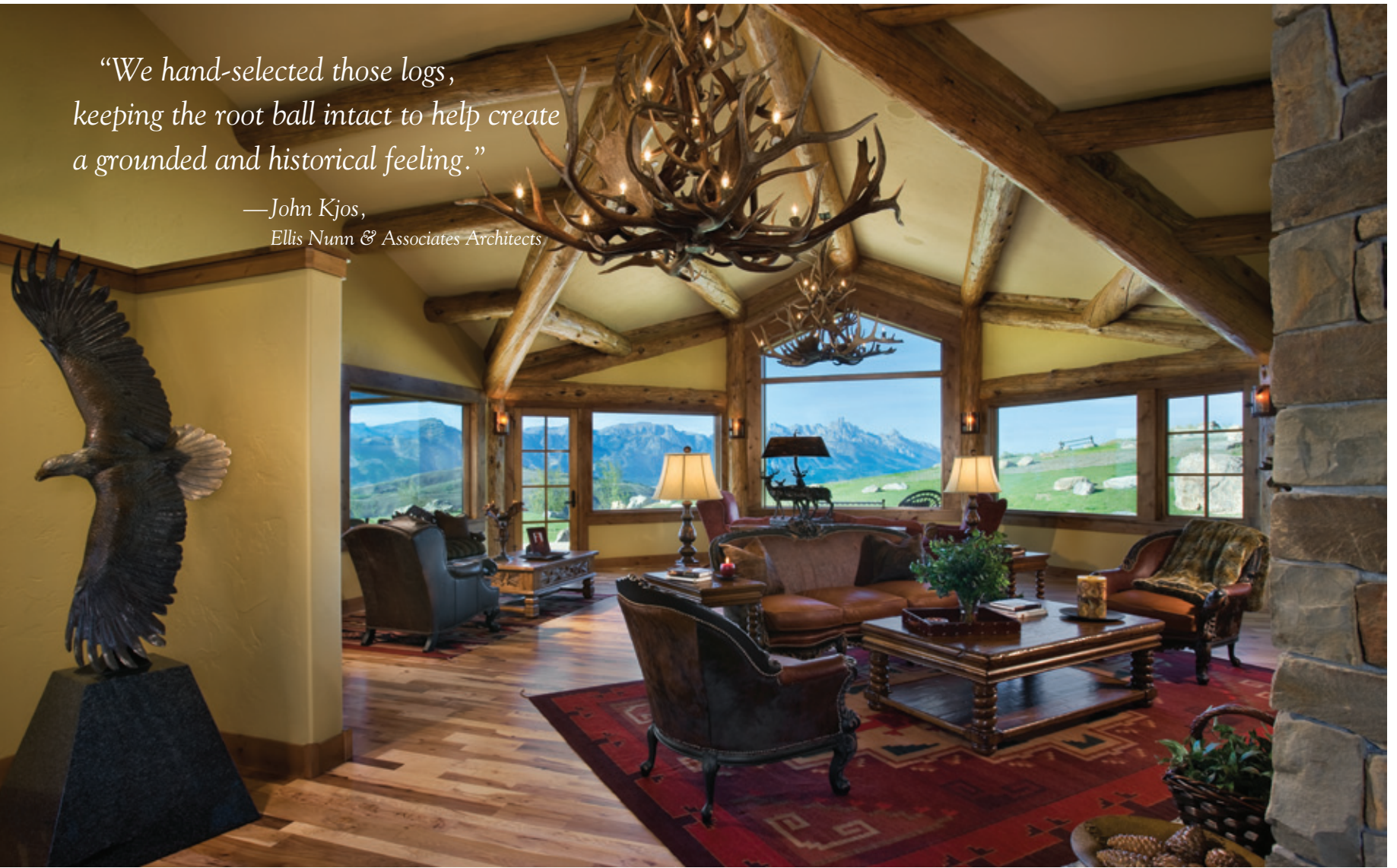


Above: Comfortable, cozy rooms flow seamlessly through this carefully designed home, capturing breathtaking views of Grand Teton National Park with views up to Yellowstone National Park.

Left: The Elk master suite opens onto a personal deck—just the ticket for hot chocolate and a little star gazing.

“We hand-selected those logs, keeping the root ball intact to help create a grounded and historical feeling.”

*—John Kjos,
Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects*



Above: The great room organically incorporates magnificent Teton Range views through its band of vista windows. Careful selections in artwork and design elements accent the theme.

Right: Covered porches and wrap-around decks provide sumptuous outdoor living spaces that complement breathtaking views from a handsome building site.

Opposite page: Views from the rustic and timeless front entry zip right through the house, framing the Grand Teton and invoking a sense of delighted surprise while drawing the visitor in. Note the rooted base of the portico-supporting lodgepole pines.





“... everything had a purpose,” right down to the 12-foot-diameter boulders they jackhammered out for the basement.

*—Keith Benjamin,
Teton Heritage Builders*

Ellis Nunn’s L-shaped floor plan was executed using the latest in construction techniques and incorporates indigenous lodgepole pine logs retrieved from forestry fuel reduction efforts at the site of the Green Knoll Fire in nearby Wilson, Wyoming. “We hand-selected those logs, keeping the root ball intact to help create a grounded and historical feeling,” says Kjos. Wrap-around decks, complete with three different sound systems, serve as covered outdoor living areas, suitable for impromptu barbecues or quiet evening sunsets. And with R-35 insulated walls, an R-60 insulated roof and low-E, high-efficiency windows, Aerie competently withstands whatever winter weather comes its way.

Inside, the flow between rooms is seamless, while décor choices help give each room a distinctive feel. In the Howling Wolf guest room, you’ll find a faux-fur wolf spread on the bed and wolf tracks embedded in the *en suite* bathroom tiles. The Elk room serves as the master suite, with female elk adorning Nancy’s half of the master bath and male elk gracing Randy’s half. Their son’s room is called Fishing Lodge, with all the appropriate touches, but with special consideration given to capturing perfect views of the Grand Teton. The granite countertop in the kitchen was discovered by Nancy and Laurie

Waterhouse on a sourcing trip to Salt Lake City. “Randy’s only request,” says Laurie, “was that the granite look the way the Snake River bottom looked from his fishing boat.” Gulp. “When we found it,” says Nancy, “we showed him a little two-by-two-inch square and said, ‘We found it!’”

Keith Benjamin, project manager for Teton Heritage Builders, and Matthew Niska, project superintendent, admit that for such an intense project—planning and building took two and a half years—the team had to work together with incredible focus and attention to detail. “The Ronnings really thought this out,” says Niska, “there wasn’t a whole lot of redesign.” “And everything had a purpose,” Benjamin adds, right down to the 12-foot-diameter boulders they jackhammered out for the basement. “Every single chunk was used on site, in the hardscape around the property.”

For the Ronnings, Aerie is a dream come true. “You know, it’s not often that people exceed your expectations,” says Randy, “but with our team, that’s what happened. The process was so enjoyable, we look forward to doing it again with the same team.” **HS**

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