

Going Native

+ Story by Valerie Beck
+ Photography by Roger Wade Studio

Ellis Nunn & Associates Architects, Laurie Waterhouse Interiors, and Teton Heritage Builders, working together on several custom homes, have become specialists in the western style and culture that defines Jackson Hole.

Spending time in the Rocky Mountain West changes people. Whether you hail from Cape Cod or Cape Canaveral, Des Moines or Delray, once you're in the American West, side by side with mountains and valleys and homesteads and national parks, it has a way of making you want to hole up in a rustic cabin, walk on Navaho-style rugs, and sit on leather-hide sofas.

For a commercial developer, his wife, college-bound daughter, and teenage son from Naples, Florida, that is precisely what happened. Said the homeowner, "We spent a lot of vacation time in Colorado, fell in love with log houses and the whole western scene, and decided that Jackson Hole had it all. We found a lot big enough for house, horses, and fish ponds and recruited a team to help us realize our vision.

"Two years later, we were made an offer for the house and all its contents—an offer, as a developer, I simply couldn't refuse. Now we are in the throes of a second exciting project with this same fine team. It will be another unique place—but there will be only one like this one."

According to Ellis Nunn, "This seven-acre lot with waterways—one of only five in Tucker Ranch that allows horses—dictated an integral approach to the design of the structure and landscape." Work on the two occurred simultaneously.

By diverting a waterway into channels around the home's foundation and carving out a pond large enough to stock trout, Ellis developed a site design that afforded sweeping views of both the Teton and Gros Ventre ranges as well as room to board horses. "We even designed bridges to traverse the streams—one leads right to the grand entrance," he said.

Ellis and his associate, Danny Béasse, who was also the on-site project architect, translated the homeowner's desire for an authentic log home in the style of historic park lodges into a stunning two-story dwelling.

The first floor includes Great Room, wet bar, dining room, powder room, kitchen, breakfast and family rooms, study, two guest suites, household

Right: Natural elements, such as the root-ball log and piled stone pillars, flagstone porch and walkway, and native species of plants and trees, frame the hand-carved front door depicting an aspen forest.



The family room says it all—handmade rugs over reclaimed chestnut flooring, hide and leather arm chairs, Indian-patterned chenille sofas, antler-based leather-topped side tables, coffee table carved with textures and wolf images on its sides, iron sconces, and Chief Joseph stone wood-burning fireplace.

STATS:
DESIGNER:
LAURIE WATERHOUSE INTERIORS
ARCHITECT:
ELLIS NUNN & ASSOCIATES
BUILDER:
TETON HERITAGE BUILDERS
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 8,800
BEDROOMS/BATHROOMS:
FOUR BEDROOMS PLUS
FIVE AND A HALF BATHS



office, and utilities. A vast stone terrace overlooks the pasture and reflecting ponds. The curved staircase ascends to the second floor where the master suite occupies a whole wing. A balcony forms a bridge to their son's suite and the media room, also connected to the main floor by a second staircase.

Dan Clancy, co-owner of Teton Heritage Builders and project superintendent, believes this home may be one of the largest full-stack log constructions in the valley. "Most log homes have second stories that are frame. This structure exhibits notched log corners throughout the entire house. Logs convey a sense of structural integrity and warmth—they even make large rooms seem intimate and cozy."

Intimate and cozy by way of American West motifs was the direction the homeowners gave Laurie Waterhouse Interiors. "As a full-service design house," says Waterhouse, "we were involved with everything interior. We consulted on hard surfaces like the fossil stone bar countertop. We imported one-of-a-kind rugs from Oaxaca, Mexico. We commissioned custom carved designs from our exclusive furniture makers. And we worked with local antler fabricators on chandeliers and side tables.

"Our goal was to develop the theme in a warm, subtle way by blending hues and tones from one room to the next. The homeowners—as well as the whole team—were very pleased with the result."

Obviously. And the ringing endorsement was when the new owners purchased the house "as is."

Massive in its dimension, but human in its scale, this home gives an estate-like impression while featuring warm and intimate living spaces.

“While there’s no perfect design for a home, we optimize for the most favorable use of the location, site, materials, and the lifestyle of the client.”

– Ellis Nunn



Views of pasture lands, mountain ranges, ponds and waterways connect this tasteful great room seating area, featuring a tooled leather sofa and chenille chairs, with the great western landscape.



Above: Knotty alder cabinets, rawhide lanterns, stone range-hood, and oversized counter chairs create an inviting and highly functional kitchen for cooking and serving.

Left: A great room with antler chandeliers, woven rugs, leather sofas, fur throws, antler and hide lamps, and Native American artwork combine in a genuine and unpretentious manner with chinked logs, stone fireplace wall, and the graceful, curving staircase rising up to a balcony of chokecherry twig balusters.



Above: Luxurious reclining leather theater chairs and a bar-height service table create the ultimate viewing and entertainment center for family and friends.

Right: Spacious, yet snug, the master suite features a coffee bar and a foot-board bench that houses a TV on a mechanical lift. When raised, the TV turns 360° to face the bed or sitting area.

“At Laurie Waterhouse Interiors, we work from the principle that it’s your home, not our showcase.”

– Laurie Waterhouse

