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A Place to Gather

When Doug and Penny Yarrow discovered Jackson Hole, Wyoming, they knew it was the place to build a home where their family could reconnect.

"Cowboy casual" is the way Doug and Penny Yarrow describe the decor of their Jackson Hole, Wyoming, home. The family room, dining room and kitchen are one open space, allowing for plenty of room for holiday entertaining.

A

Story By Sue Wasserman

Photographs by Cameron Neilson

great ski vacation with his son was all Doug Yarrow hoped for when he made reservations in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. By the time he was ensconced in the vast allure of the majestic Grand Tetons, however, Doug knew he wanted more. More was exactly what he got when he took his wife to visit the following summer. “We were talking to real estate professionals two days later,” he smiles. “My wife, Penny, and I fell in love with the area.”

To be certain that love wasn’t fleeting, the couple decided to purchase a condo to test the waters. Once they were sold on Jackson Hole, they began looking for property, ultimately settling on Teton Village, located at the base of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. “Since our kids were getting older, Penny and I wanted to create a place for our family to reconnect, a place where everyone wanted to be.”

Hiring an architect was first on the agenda. They chose Jackson-based Ellis Nunn and Associates. “A warm, open space where people could come together was what we were looking for,” Doug offers. “The kitchen and family room, for example, are essentially one large, open space. Ellis is able to create spaces where you don’t feel overwhelmed by the size of the room.”

Hidden beneath the log exterior and ceiling beams lie 55 tons of steel. Nunn says that’s typical among area homes. “It’s built to withstand earthquakes and the combination of heavy snow followed by rain,” he notes. “The greatest challenge was making it fit the site because it’s a mountainous slope with lots of rock.” The greatest pleasure, though, was seeing the rustic end result. “It was a fabulous project,” Nunn notes. “The best part is that I think the Yarrows are as ecstatic about it as I am.”

Despite its 8,800 square foot size, first impressions of the lodge-pole pine log and stacked stone home are that of visiting a cozy

fairy-tale cottage nestled snugly in the woods. “I love the fact that we’re surrounded by aspens and Douglas firs, not to mention a host of wildlife such as moose and bears,” Doug notes. “I also love the fact that we can have a large group of people here (the couple hosted 100 at Christmas) and it never feels crowded.”

“Cowboy casual” is how the couple describes their eclectic collection of furniture and handcrafted accoutrements. To help them accomplish their design goals, the couple commissioned a variety of small firms and individual artisans. “Often we’d start from designs we’d seen,” Doug says. Like the intriguing chandelier accented with pine cones and pine branches that hangs from the ceiling in the great room. “It was custom designed by KAHM Design in Salt Lake City. We found them through a furniture shop in Jackson Hole. They created all of our chandeliers.” (The shop, High Country Accents, has since closed.)

Other handcrafted items include the burnished copper kitchen hood, designed by Two Hills Studio in Texas, with an abstract of the Tetons on it, and a wrought-iron fire screen that resides in the family room, made by Left Hand Studios in Jackson. Doug also likes to point out the aspen chairs that surround the large island in the kitchen. “They may not look it, but they’re incredibly comfortable.”

Comfort was a key element when creating the terrazzo-tiled master bath. Teton Tile was responsible for the installation. “Penny wanted a spa tub while I wanted a multifunctional shower. We put in both.” The best part is that the tub is surrounded by a wonderfully angled wall of windows. “Ellis is known for his large windows,” Doug says. “Wherever we are in the house, the windows allow us to take in the beautiful scenery.” He emphasizes the wonders of bathing while local moose scoot along within arm’s length of where they’re soaking.



The custom rustic chandelier adds a playful informality to the dining room. The round table encourages conversation.



This page: The Yarrows' home was designed by Jackson-based Ellis Nunn and Associates. *Opposite:* Lodgepole pine logs and stacked stone were the primary materials used in this 8,800 square-foot home.



Although there are no windows for wildlife watching in the guest bathroom, it quickly gains attention thanks to the rough-edged granite slab counter and vessel sink with faucets extending from the wall. “We had seen a vessel sink in magazines and thought it was a neat touch,” Doug says.

Other nice touches include the many entertainment options the couple included. To handle whatever indoor interests might arise, Doug and Penny installed a sauna, exercise room, media room and game room with pool. “Because the rooms are so open, Penny can be cooking in the kitchen and still be in the center of a conversation going on upstairs around the pool table.”

An avid cook, Penny paid close attention to overall kitchen design and functionality. The oversized island and accompanying log chairs are perfect for quiet meals served directly from the stovetop. A wooden dish cabinet the color of persimmon, Penny’s favorite color, brightens the earth-toned room. The duo was impressed by Jackson Hole Kitchen and Bath, which designed and installed everything from the granite-topped counters to the two dishwashers.

“Never in a million years did I imagine I’d ever need two dishwashers,” Penny smiles. “But hospitality reigns up here. Come the holidays, people are always opening up their homes. There are either two of us or ten, in which case the extra dishwasher comes in mighty handy.”

While friends and family clamor for an invitation at any season, they know not to come empty handed. “The rule of the house is that every guest has to bring a recipe,” Penny says. “I thought it was a great way to make use of all the people who visit. Let me tell you, nobody brings anything but a great recipe.” Certainly a small price to pay to share in the creature comforts of the Yarrows’ dream home. ■



The master bedroom, *this page*, features furnishings and accessories handcrafted by artisans. The master bath, *opposite*, includes a spa tub and multifunctional shower.

