

Mountain View

California couple creates an artful Teton retreat

ARCHITECTURE BY ELLIS NUNN AND ASSOCIATES
CONSTRUCTION BY TETON HERITAGE BUILDERS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAMERON L. NIELSON



VEILED BY THE FOREST OF ASPEN and lodgepole pine within Teton Village, Wyoming, is a ski home that is idyllic. Built of logs and stone, it embraces the style of its surrounding landscape, while capturing views through classic glass spans. It is private and cozy, yet large enough for serious entertaining. It's solid and sheltered from the busy pace of far-off urban life. It's everything owners Doug and Penny

Clockwise from far left: The Yarrow's home is tucked quietly into an aspen and lodgepole pine forest within Teton Village. The Great room combines elements of outdoor living with a view of the mountainside and indoor comforts with furnishings that center on the native stone fireplace. The log staircase acts as a structural convenience and sculptural amenity that links three floors in the Yarrow home.







Penny Yarrow worked closely with an interior designer to select the home furnishings such as custom lighting that reflects the mountain theme of the house. Rare fossil rock from Kemmerer, Wyo. adorns the fireplace in the study.

Yarrow hoped it would be.

“I honestly wouldn’t change a thing about it,” said Doug.

When Doug and his teenage son visited Jackson, Wyo., a decade ago, the skiing drew them.

“Within the first day I just fell in love with the entire area—the Tetons, the scenic beauty,” Doug said.

On the next trip Doug brought his wife, Penny; by the second day the couple had purchased a condominium in Teton Village. And several years later they built their family vacation home here, launching a tradition of quiet holidays spent in this luxurious Western setting.

A complete departure from the couple’s southern California home, the Teton Village house embodies mountain style architecture. Considered a “log hybrid” home, according to Jackson architect Ellis Nunn, of Ellis Nunn and Associates, the Yarrow residence touches on nuances of historic national park buildings in this region without compromising modern-day amenities. Nunn teamed up with Teton Heritage Builders



Clockwise from top: The master suite is not overly decorated and leaves room for the log elements and timberframe detailing in the windows to show. Tumbled travertine in the walk-through master bath adds a refined element to the spa-quality amenities. A tiny guest room on the third floor follows a "Wild West" theme.

to construct the 7,800-square-foot dwelling.

Throughout the home massive log beams and artful trusses accent vaulted ceilings and aerie pane-glass views. The ground floor entry is understated and hushed, with its earth-tone walls and slate floor. Just a few steps across the threshold and the smooth, peeled log staircase draws you upstairs to the main floor, where the great room opens to views of the Tetons.

"The log staircase is a structural and sculptural feature," said Nunn. "It worked great for the entry as well as for general movement throughout the house."

In the great room a massive Montana stone fireplace spans from the floor to the high arching ceiling, where intricate log work adds extra dimension to the interior space. An exquisite regional art collection compliments the strong architectural lines in the room.

Through the formal dining area on the opposite end of the house, the kitchen and breakfast nook are tucked into a shady corner. This is where the family gathers and where

the morning's first light filters through the windows. When the Yarrows settle into their mountain retreat, this kitchen is filled with the savory scents of cooking. And like many contemporary homes, the layout of the house radiates from the kitchen.

"We wanted the house to have a feeling of openness," explained Doug, "so when Penny is in the kitchen and we are in the family room, there is still the sense that we are connected even when we aren't in the same room."

Professional-grade appliances and granite countertops give the space a crisp, modern aura, but the handmade hickory-framed bar stools add a personal touch.

In a house of this size, design details can often be lost, but Nunn's complicated roofline carved unusual angles that resulted in unique smaller spaces within the grander living areas. Penny's close collaboration with the interior designer was also essential in the process of crafting a truly comfortable place. Elements such as the hand-forged hood in the kitchen depicting a silhouette of the Teton Mountain Range,

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or the more intricate fireplace screen with a line-rendition of the famous Mormon Row, in addition to luxe upholstery and original artwork add to the character of the Yarrows' home.

From the kitchen, an art-adorned hallway leads back to the great room and beyond to the intimate area of the home and the master suite. In the master bedroom a snowy hillside dominates the space, the way a painting might take over a wall. The bathroom wraps around the bedroom in a wide C-shape, featuring a walk-through closet, as well as a soaking tub and steam shower.

Doug's study is off the master bedroom, acting as a buffer chamber between the public areas and the private portion of the house. A double-sided fireplace connects his office to the great room; on the fireplace fossil rock from Kemmerer, Wyo., is a subtle focal point in this organic space. The window centers on an old, crooked aspen and a custom-designed table with a base made from the twisted branches of a cedar tree link the interior space with the outside environment.

Out of the great room the staircase wends its way up one

more level to the third floor. At the top of the stairs an overlook offers an impressive perspective of the ski slopes and the main living space. Around the bend a lofty recreation room features a billiards table, wet bar and bistro tables that overlook the kitchen. Off to the side, a quaint guest bedroom with a kitschy Wild West theme opens out to a nook of a balcony that provides a private woodland view.

The house is built into the mountainside, but from the ground floor guestrooms to the cozy crannied guestroom on the third floor, there are soothing signs of nature to be seen out each window. Every room in the house was designed with a view.

Big Sky Journal editor, Seabring Davis, has been writing about regional architecture for the last decade.

*If you can catch up with photographer Cameron R. Neilson you'll likely find yourself in a very exciting place: be it an architectural production in the Rocky Mountain West, a fashion shoot in New York, or simply riding a chairlift above a double black diamond ski-slope in his resident town of Jackson, Wyoming. **BSJ***



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