

Talent Show

Forest Ledge presents a collection of Teton artistry

builder: Teton Heritage Builders
architect: Eliot Goss
interior design: Gallinger Trauner Designs
technology: Electronic Design Associates

photography by
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→ An intimate seating area eases the scale of the great room at Forest Ledge. The chaise and armchair, crafted by Tim Groth of Boise, Idaho, celebrate the spirit of 1930s furniture maker Thomas Molesworth, but with an updated style. Groth designed, built and upholstered the pieces and carved the decorative inlays. Interior designer Cheryl Gallinger chose mohair for the chaise because "it's a true old-western fabric. Mohair and horsehair were popular because they don't wear out easily," she explains. The pattern on the chenille-covered chair inspired the artwork on the dining room ceiling.



Setting the stage

← The great room at Forest Ledge recalls Western log lodges built at the turn of the century, like the one still standing at Old Faithful today. Massive old-growth logs aren't as easy to come by anymore, but builder Peter Lee and log foreman Jared Hill hand-picked the 300 plus logs they used. Floor-to-ceiling windows open the back of the house to a rare view of both the Snake River and the Teton peaks.

← David Lamure of Kimberly, Idaho, fired his raku lamps with a copper glaze and fashioned the inset arrowheads in clay. Etched pictures on the one-of-a-kind pieces tell the story of Chief Sitting Bull, a native Sioux of the Great Plains.

← The sofa pairs suede with silk, while the material on the matching armchairs imitates the design of a Native American blanket. The Ralph Lauren cowboy boot chair is a playful note in the sophisticated room. The diverse pieces mingle nicely around an antique East Indian bed that looks more comfortable in its new role as a coffee table.

← Former Wyoming resident Paul "The Kid" Allen, now of Nevada, designed the floor lamp next to the French doors and engineered the free-standing antler base on the sofa table. The tabletop is carved from the heart of a black walnut tree by California furniture maker Brad Greenwood, who shows his Greenwood Designs at Jackson's Martin Harris Gallery. The fawn holding court on the coffee table was sculpted in bronze by Jackson artist John Mortensen, who also crafted the fireplace screen. Another Jackson artist, Judy Tepley of Star Hand Arts made the elk bag on the fireplace in the Native American style, and Jean Barash of Bittersweet in Jackson composed the arrangement of dried grasses and flowers. Antique African baskets march across the mantel.

→ The staircase became a work of art when log foreman Jared Hill substituted half logs for the typical step. Like elsewhere in the house, each piece of wood retains its natural shape and is positioned to show off the knots, checks and scars that represent the tree's life. Fungus caused the big "cat's face" blemish, a feature builder Peter Lee prefers over burls. He also kept an eye out for lightning strikes and other distinctive markings when he chose the logs for Forest Ledge. The unusual chair's wishbone back and puzzle-piece seat are the work of John Omohundro of Bozeman, Montana.

Since William Henry Jackson first photographed the Grand back in 1872, artists from around the world have been drawn to the Tetons—painters, sculptors and photographers compelled to capture the essence of these mountains and their milieu. In more recent years, architects and builders inspired by the same muse have turned the task of constructing a dwelling into the art of fine home building.

Forest Ledge exemplifies this new genre of Teton abode.

Constructed of hand-hewn logs and Montana sandstone, the house illustrates the level of craftsmanship that has become the standard for a modern-day rush of wealthy homesteaders eager to stake a claim on the West.

Designed by Jackson architect Eliot Goss and constructed as a turn-key home by Teton Heritage Builders, a 4-year-old Jackson company headed by brothers Peter and Matthew Lee, the building evokes memories of → page 36





↑ Interior designer Cheryl Gallinger took one look at the space in the dining room and knew only an octagonal table would do. “I was inspired by the line of the banister,” she explains. Gallinger took her design idea to Drawknife in Teton, where woodworkers constructed a lodgepole pine frame around the distressed leather centerpiece. The hand-tooled hide still bears the marks of the cow’s spine and a scar where the animal got snagged on barbed wire. Jackson artist John Mortensen reproduced the shape of the table in his chandelier, which uses light-weight aluminum in the construction. The octagonal theme is further reflected on the ceiling in a design inspired by the fabric on an armchair in the great room. Elli Rock of Spotted Elk Designs in Jackson aged her painting with an oil rub. Handblown stemware by Laurie Thal of Jackson repeats the gold and orange tones of the mica in the chandelier.



← Down-filled couches in corduroy and chenille make for comfortable viewing of the 53-inch television in the family room, where an oversize ottoman doubles as coffee table and communal foot rest. Jackson craftsman Leland Johnson enlarged his jewelry box design by about 400 percent to make an end table of juniper wood for interior designer Cheryl Gallinger, who saw Johnson’s smaller piece in a local store. Gallinger helped design the copper hood in the kitchen, which features a hand-punched abstract of the Tetons, a motif repeated frequently throughout the house. The backsplash tiles are copper foil encased in hand-blown glass. The barstools were crafted of juniper and leather by Greg Quandary of Quandary Designs in Colorado.

Only the view upstages the 8-foot-high headboard on the squared-off log bed in the upstairs master suite. Artisans at Drawknife in Tetonica executed Cheryl Gallinger's design using bug-tracked lodgepole pine. Gallinger's business partner, Terry Trauner, sewed a 100 percent wool blanket between a Ralph Lauren floral fabric and a sueded French fabric to create a bedspread perfectly suited to Wyoming winters. The antique accountant's table makes it easy to enjoy a cup of coffee in bed while taking in the breathtaking view from the facing window.

