

NATURAL ELEGANCE

LUXURIOUS MOUNTAIN LIVING





AN EXERCISE IN DESIGN

Imagine an old-fashioned hay barn reconfigured as an airy, light-filled contemporary structure set in a picture-perfect mountain landscape. Such was the case when a client hired the architecture firm CLB and us to design a modern version of a traditional barn for multiple purposes: a garage, a lofty and luxurious guest suite, and a workout studio.

The first floor houses a collection of vintage cars, motorcycles, and bicycles. It's an active garage, filled with oil and grease, tools and tires. Though it differs vastly in function from the second floor, the client tasked us with establishing a connection between the two floors. The solution we came up with was an art installation: a swarm of three-dimensional white butterflies made out of old aluminum cans by Paul Villinski that flutter up the staircase wall from the entrance to the rafters of the second floor. In addition to creating an aesthetic link between the two floors, the butterflies bring the natural world into the barn and introduce a light palette and airiness that counterbalance the reclaimed beams

and steel trusses of the second floor. You can almost imagine butterflies flitting around in the rafters.

With its vaulted, wood-paneled and beamed ceiling, the entire second floor, from the workout studio at one end to the guest suite at the other, is flooded with light. The entire north-facing wall is a glass curtain, giving exercisers an inspiring vista of the mountains. In the guest bedroom and living area, we kept the furniture arrangement uncluttered, with a tonal color palette punctuated by splashes of rich color and subtle patterns. Cashmere and faux-fur throws and fine linens add a luxurious softness; in contrast, the wood four-poster bed echoes the industrial feel of the trusses buttressing the ceiling.

Old barns have a spare, rustic charm that evokes nostalgia for times gone by. For this project, the team strove to reinterpret the traditional barn form in a contemporary vernacular—with modern comforts and finishes—that echoes the old but does not imitate it. We hope that it not only harks back to the past but inspires appreciation for the here and now.

This contemporary structure, sited in an open field with a spectacular view of the Tetons, was designed in the form of a classic, gambrel-roof barn out of old barn wood.

The familiar black-and-white-checked racing flag inspired the floor of the active garage, where the owner happily restores vintage cars, motorcycles, and bikes.



Great design lifts the spirit
and calms the soul.

RIGHT: A swarm of white-painted aluminum butterflies leads family and friends from the first-floor garage to the second-floor workout room and guest suite. OVERLEAF: The spectacular view through the glass curtain wall helps make every workout not only pleasurable but also inspiring.





A delicately hand-embroidered Turkish pillow adds color and pattern to the simply and sparsely furnished guest suite.





OPPOSITE AND ABOVE: In the bedroom, the floating wood frame of the Poltrona Frau four-poster bed was inspired by the steel trusses that support the ceiling. Next to the linen-upholstered Ralph Lauren chaise is a side table designed by the antiquarians Leigh and Leslie Keno out of a steering wheel—a whimsical allusion to the owner's car collection.