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Retreat to Cozy Comfort





LODGE LIVING

Seated just a stone's throw from Wilson, Wyoming, this nature-inspired family retreat is a pleasing collection of salvaged barn wood, large boulders, and custom designed furnishings—not to mention secret passageways and a brass fire pole to boot.

Amid roaming moose and thickets of old trees lies a most spectacular assembly of towers, enclosed bridges, and vaulted rooms composed of reclaimed timbers and Montana moss stone. But before you think it's a vintage Western lodge from times past, look again. There are enough contemporary amenities and clever features tucked under the split cedar-shake roof to accommodate any fun-loving family—with the emphasis on fun. "We wanted a whimsical house that looked like it had been there forever," explains the homeowner, a New York-based attorney. "Likewise, my wife and I sought to build a place that was comfortable for the two of us, as well as for family reunions, with close proximity to backcountry skiing and hiking."



The corral board-clad hideaway is designed in small discretely scaled sections, rather than occupying one confined footprint. This division of spaces also establishes the family zones, so guests and visitors have their own cozy wing with bunks and bedrooms for the choosing. Envisioned by architect Andy Ankeny of Carney Logan Burke Architects in Jackson, Wyoming, the home was sited to take advantage of views of the Sleeping Indian in the Gros Ventre Range, while keeping much of its forested surrounding intact. “When we first visited it, the 16-acre property was quite overgrown,” Andy says, “and by thinning out the underbrush and less-mature trees, the land is actually more ‘healthy’ and manageable now than it was before.”

Andy also drew inspiration from elements such as old fire towers that dot many of the West’s national

parks, along with other regional structures made with indigenous materials. The architect and homeowners were meticulous as well in selecting just the right stones for both the exterior and interior features. “We wanted real solid stone for the tower and living room fireplace, and not just veneer or the faux kind that you sometimes see,” the homeowner says. “The largest boulders were all independently picked to create the sense of an old fort.”

The beauty and craftsmanship found outdoors is on equal display inside, and for good reason. A group of design professionals from Wyoming’s WRJ Design—Rush Jenkins, Klaus Baer, and Nida Zgiani—worked closely with the owners and architect to infuse the home with a rustic and relaxed authenticity. Collaborating with this group, noted interior designer Agnes Bourne found it to be quite refreshing that the homeowners

A large, rustic living room with a high wooden ceiling, stone fireplace, and large windows. The room features a mix of natural materials and earthy textures. A large stone fireplace with a fire burning inside is the focal point. The ceiling is made of dark wood with exposed beams and a modern chandelier with several cylindrical pendant lights. Large windows on the left side offer a view of a snowy landscape. The furniture includes a beige sofa, leather armchairs, and a coffee table. A red and green patterned rug covers the floor.

Style Idea

Because the interiors of this family retreat are layered in natural materials and earthy textures, the design team used colorful rugs and plush furnishings to instill some needed softness and vibrancy.



Red accents, such as the leather bar stools, banquette cushions, and a rug found in the kitchen and adjacent breakfast nook, add to the home's whimsical nature. (Below) Resembling a stack of old railroad ties, the stairway consists of reclaimed wood beams connected by iron dowels. (Opposite) Guests are treated to their own private 'tower,' which is complete with a living area and nearby covered terrace.









undertook the project with a playful and experimental attitude. “It was the owners’ wish list of hidden passageways, secret escapes, and strategically placed ladders that made this endeavor so enjoyable,” Agnes says. “Because they were concerned that only one stairway linked the different floors of this house together, we devised a whole series of ways by which they could navigate the place, often out of sight from guests and others.”

Other off-beat items, such as yak fur-covered chairs and colorful Gabbeh rugs with dancing figures embroidered into them, contribute to the personalized spaces found within the retreat. And to prove how much of a family affair this home represents, Andy is quick to add, “My twin brother, Jake, built the place.” 



(Clockwise from top left) Interior designer Agnes Bourne gave each bedroom a unique flair by designing the beds and end tables. Made from reclaimed barn wood, the cabinetry in the master vanity perfectly complements its honed Carrara marble countertops. This upstairs “in-between space,” with its yak fur-covered chairs, encourages a quick chat or a short respite from the main household activities. (Opposite) The cozy family/media room boasts furnishings crafted by local artisans and a stone sculpture by Colorado artist Tim Rein.