



## ON THE EDGE OF RUSTIC

It is one thing to create a compound on a ranch; it's quite another to create the sense of a compound on a mostly level site on the edge of a golf course. But his clients were specifically *not* interested in a starter castle, says architect John Lauman of JLF Architects and Design Builders. Rather, they were seeking a more modestly scaled presence in what would be their full-time home. They would use the layout of buildings to create a sense of arrival, screen out neighbors, and direct one's gaze to the primary southern views over open space to the Snake River Range. And they would use multiple structures, mostly attached, to create privacy and a sense of separation within the larger whole.

The homeowners, recently retired and still very active outdoorspeople, were relocating to Jackson, Wyoming, from the East Coast when they chose their site and retained JLF Architects to design their home. Enthusiastically involved from the beginning, they even rented a house nearby to live in while the construction was taking place.

Originally conceived as a somewhat U-shaped structure (parking courtyard within the U, and big views over open landscape to the south, on the opposite side of the building) with a guest cabin connected by a covered walkway, the design expanded and evolved over the course of the project. What was intended as the guesthouse became the husband's office and retreat, while the self-contained guest quarters moved across the driveway to the corner of the property. Meanwhile, the covered walkway to the guesthouse-now-man-cave became a glass connector—separate but attached, with shelter from the elements and a major “Aha!” moment experienced en route as one glimpses the mountain view.

The arrival sequence brings one to the front door, which is located underneath a gabled porch in the center of the main mass of the reclaimed timber and cedar-shake-roofed house. A low stone wall creates a division between the structure and driveway, with the barnlike garage wing to the right. To the left, the attached log-cabin office retreat enjoys its own entryway. The low, glass-walled, metal-roofed connector links it to the main volume while lightening the mass by offering transparency and views of the mountains straight from the driveway.

Upon entering the house, the simple stone-floored foyer reveals true stacked log corners in a nod to the origin of the reclaimed materials. The “announcement of place” happens as one's gaze travels straight

A Jackson, Wyoming home designed by JLF Architects and Design Builders and built by their construction partner, Big-D Construction, uses reclaimed materials and dramatic scissor trusses to establish sense of place in a compound-like home with views of the Snake Mountains.

through the living room to the long prospect south, creating a pause before entering the great room. This is important because, once in the great room, dramatic scissor trusses of heavily distressed reclaimed material dominate the space and draw the eye upward.

"We find that a truss is nice in dividing a volume," explains the architect. "Historically a truss is a horizontal bottom cord; this was mostly out of necessity and ease of construction. But a bottom cord is sometimes too close to the human scale." In this case, the choice of truss generates energy while creating a greater sense of volume than would have been possible with a horizontal timber. The unexpected truss structure creates a powerful architectural moment within the vaulted-ceilinged space and acts as a counterpoint to the weight of the expansive view.

From the main living, dining, and kitchen area, the bedrooms radiate out, even into a second level over the garage, while the master bedroom suite juts out to the south toward the intermittently treed open space. This is mirrored by the husband's retreat, constructed almost as if a separate cabin, a move reflected in its heavy, lodglike ambience. The simple gabled form is oriented away from the house toward the view and enjoys its own shed-roofed porch, which overlooks a hot tub and shallow pond with partial deck. Verdone Landscape Architects were tasked with creating the water feature whose cascades provide the soothing sound of water while the pond, depending on the season, creates the effect of a winter wonderland or summertime idyll.

For the interiors, designer Jet Zarkadas of Los Griegos Studio in Santa Fe helped the owners balance the masculine and the feminine, the heavily rustic with the more refined, and the family's East Coast past with its new west present. She assisted the husband in creating his den retreat, with its elaborate bar, cigar smoking accoutrements, and animal mounts. With the wife she

scoured their existing collection of furniture, selecting pieces that could make the transition to mountain living. A statement rug crafted from hides in a stylized pattern referencing Navajo design grounds the living room and became the base upon which the rest of the space takes its cues. Zarkadas says the water-referencing tones found throughout the house speak to the owners' longtime passion for the Turks and Caicos islands, as well as their previous coastal home. The kitchen is a study in serenity with Shaker-inspired, frame-and-panel reclaimed fir cabinets, greenish-gray Pietra Cardosa countertops, oak floors, and a glazed Fireclay tile backsplash in a tranquil pale aqua. In bedrooms and the guesthouse, there is a sophisticated simplicity and comfort in the human-scaled spaces. The goal, says the designer, was "a refined mountain elegance."

The home succeeds in balancing its different personas—mountain and coast, rustic and refined—by establishing a strong sense of place through its materiality and authenticity. "We strive for truth in materials," explains Lauman. "If there's log, it needs corners. If there's stone veneer, the wall needs to be thick enough that it could be a stone wall." In a log cabin-like wing, windows must be historically appropriate, double hung rather than casement. To that end, new white oak floors were treated for an aged look, while walls, beams, and kitchen cabinets were made of reclaimed wood. Having master craftsmen such as those from Big-D Construction, JLF Architects' construction partner, executing the details makes all the difference, as does the sense of place conveyed by the work of Wyoming blacksmith Jeff Morris, who created much of the hardware, light fixtures, chandeliers, and fireplace doors. The solidity and tactile nature of hand-forged metal and antique materials imbues the home with a palpable regional authenticity—establishing this cabinlike compound firmly within its setting on the edge of rustic.

FACING ABOVE: In the entry, the true stacked-log corners make an artist statement with a chandelier by Jeff Morris. The entry table and low bench were designed by LGS and made by Hands of America in Santa Fe.

FACING BELOW: The elegant kitchen marries Shaker-inspired frame-and-panel reclaimed fir cabinets with greenish-gray Pietra Cardosa countertops and a glazed Fireclay tile backsplash. Ocean tones found throughout the house reference the couple's love of the sea.





ABOVE: Stylistically, the husband leaned rustic, the wife more refined. A compromise was for him to have his own retreat—separate but attached—which is more weighty, masculine, and traditional than the rest of the house.

FACING: Tranquility reigns in a guest bedroom with a crisp blue-and-white color scheme, brass beds set against white walls, and simple wood-trimmed windows. In a bathroom with a fresh outlook, mountain views draw the eye.



The house takes advantage of its situation at the edge of a development by facing the views and orienting on the shallow, swimmable pond. It can be reached directly from the husband's lair, with its private porch, as well as from the main home's patio.

RIGHT: The narrow, glass-walled connector acts like a bridge and makes the most of the views while giving the den the feel of a separate cabin.

BELOW: The handcrafted appeal of the home is evident in the approach to the husband's retreat, which enjoys a private entry from the parking area.



The comfortable guesthouse was placed a stone's throw away on the far edge of the driveway for its own views and for privacy, creating a small ranchlike compound.