



The house is built of Montana moss rock and reclaimed timber on spits of land that are surrounded by streams and ponds. Bronze-framed front doors open into the foyer with floor-to-ceiling windows that reveal big views of the water and the mountains beyond.

PHOTOS: AUDREY HALL



ASHLEY SULLIVAN

JLF ARCHITECTS, Bozeman, Montana jlfarchitects.com

“Creating dynamic spaces has always been a part of my life,” says Ashley Sullivan, design principal and managing director of JLF Architects and partner of JLF Design Build. Encouraged by her parents, she started by building “magical spaces” in the woods surrounding her childhood homes in Wilton, Connecticut, and in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sullivan’s place-based architecture and design sensitivity began at Auburn University and was reinforced by working with professor Samuel Mockbee at the legendary Rural Studio, where the students designed and built a home in less than a year. “The project I worked on was a family’s first home with indoor plumbing,” she remembers. “I saw the impact of my profession firsthand ... how it can change lives.” She learned to love the craft of building—swinging a hammer, cutting every piece of wood, pouring concrete—and the importance of asking: “What is the most creative space we can build within the framework we have available?”

Today, in her position at JLF Architects, Sullivan works collaboratively within the design-build partnership to create beautiful homes that are equally timeless and innovative. “We transform our clients’ vision into a physical space that’s sacred to them,” she says. So, in a sense, Sullivan is still creating magnificent and magical places. —Irene Rawlings