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WINTER 2023

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PEAKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

ONE FAMILY MAKES A COULD-BE
VACATION HOME IN WYOMING'S
SKI COUNTRY THEIR ONE AND ONLY





A few weeks here, a few weeks there. That's how folks use a house that's situated in a vacation destination. Case in point: Jackson, Wyoming, a town that in the winter lures skiers to descend the surrounding slopes among majestic views of the Teton range.

When one Virginia couple set their eyes on the mountain town, they wanted to make their vision clear to the design team of Rush Jenkins and Klaus Baer and to architect Logan Leachman. They planned to leave their Virginia home entirely and relocate to Jackson, full time. That meant the house needed to be livable for their needs all year and wasn't solely a ski-in, ski-out situation.

"There's a different approach that we take when a home won't be used just for vacationing," Jenkins says. "They are an active family with kids and dogs. But even though *they* live there full time, their kids are almost grown. This house needed to make sense for visitors who are coming and going and give the homeowners a cozy and intimate setting when it is just the two of them."

The best way to know how someone lives is to live with them, and both the designers and architect did just that. After spending a few days observing how the family lived, the team

was able to craft a property that not only spoke to what they were told, but also what they witnessed.

"Staying with the family allowed us to see the insights and slight nuances that we wouldn't get otherwise," Baer says. "When you are invited to someone's home, you get an idea of hospitality and how they host. That's important to this client. If you can understand the story of someone's life and their heirlooms, you can design a space that will touch their hearts."

But first things first. Before Baer and Jenkins could start selecting materials, fabrics, furniture, and all other pieces that would make their clients' home stylish and comfortable for both crisp summers and ultra-cold winters, Leachman was on board. The family had already bought their land and wanted the house oriented to see Grand Teton out their windows. But Leachman recognized a different angle that would offer more visual impact.

Hallway A bench and coat rack keep cold-weather must-haves close. **Dining room** A cabinet provides storage for tabletop wares. **Portrait** Designers Rush Jenkins (on the left) and Klaus Baer outside the guesthouse. **Previous pages** Architect Logan Leachman scoured the country to find black barnwood that was reminiscent of the tobacco barns of Kentucky and Tennessee, where the couple grew up. A cowhide rug lays under a midcentury cane-back bench and tree stump table. A wreath adds Christmas flair over a mirror that hangs from a leather strap.





Living room "Without the wood, there would have been too many fully upholstered sofas," Jenkins says of the curvy side sofas that are wrapped in walnut. "We wanted something that had a bit of artistry to it. The way that the wood emphasizes its silhouette gives it soul." A mohair throw in a sophisticated blend of blue, olive, and eggplant brings texture into the room.



“This place has vast views of dramatic mountains,” he says. “The landscape drove us. I thought that orienting the house to see the southern Tetons with a distant glimpse of the Grand was a better one. We were able to create a space that looks out at the landscape where they spend a lot of time skiing in the mountains. They are able to look at their playground when they are not *on* their playground.”

The interior shell boasts a bevy of materials that tipped off the house’s mountain location. Stone, limestone, and reclaimed wood demonstrate that rough and rustic can be chic, while contrasting steel adds a modern leaning to the home’s aesthetic voice.

Come Christmastime, the family is entrenched in snowy surrounds that validate so much holiday lore. But inside their home, they dabble in decoration without bombarding the open spaces with too much that will compete with what’s outside.

In the living room, for instance, a tree nestled in the corner repeats its shape in mouth-blown glass form, with an assortment of small evergreens that mingle on the cocktail table. After that, the homeowners preferred restraint—letting the mountain views through windows sing the Christmas song.

Blue proudly accents and softens the palette of gray and brown that emerges from the stone and wood. A blue mohair sofa is balanced by facing chairs where toss pillows and a small

ottoman emphasize the leading hue. A pair of smaller sofas encased in walnut flank the blue seating. The adjoining dining room hints at blue, too, with chairs upholstered in its palest version around an oval table.

To create a moment that felt more intimate, the ceiling was lowered in the kitchen, a distinct departure from the dining and living room ceilings that soar with vaulted lines. Blond wood on wire-brushed oak cabinets keeps the space from becoming too dark. A reading nook of two wing chairs and a round table tucks into the corner near a second fireplace and encourages writing Christmas gift lists, serves as a spot to leave treats for Santa, or offers a seat during a morning peruse through the newspaper or tablet.

The kitchen and reading nook areas connect directly to the utilitarian back-of-the-house quarters. The link is through a long hallway to the garage. On one side, frosted doors conceal a powder room and the laundry area where the dogs can rest. The

Dining room A contemporary iron fixture aligns cylinder-style lights over the table. **Reading nook** With built-ins installed to create a library atmosphere, the reading nook is adorned with a duo of wreaths over the fireplace and winter greens on the glass-and-steel railing. Leachman extended the landing’s window to the ceiling of the upper story, which funnels light into the nook. **Butler’s pantry** Oak cabinets store behind-the-scenes tools and ingredients.



Kitchen “The homeowners didn’t want a kitchen that was too large, but they did want to connect with nature,” Baer says. “Windows that come all the way down to the backsplash allow them to see what’s going on outside.” A robust steel light fixture descends over the island. Doors slide to reveal the butler’s pantry.



THE HOMEOWNERS DID WANT
TO CONNECT WITH NATURE.”

—designer Klaus Baer



opposite side features built-in shelves that display books and other family treasures.

Through the primary bedroom's floor-to-ceiling windows, mornings greet the homeowners with sunlight, the southern Tetons' pine and aspen trees, and the goings-on of creatures including elk and moose that stroll through the yard. While the appointments throughout other spaces tend to tout a rugged and modern disposition, the primary bedroom features a delicate spin with sheers embroidered in a floral motif.

With the snow forecast always in sync with the sleigh that delivers gifts on Christmas morning, the season's spirit is in the air—outside where a coat is required and inside by the fire. “She loves nesting and entertaining, and he’s an outdoorsman,” Jenkins says. “This is a place where they can do both. Family is important to them, and gathering everyone here warms their hearts.”

Interior design Rush Jenkins and Klaus Baer **Architecture** Logan Leachman

Primary suite Windowpane plaid sheers lend structure to the bathroom, where quartzite walls and counters and a stone floor introduce organic patterns. Stripes appear subtly in the bedroom on a mohair blanket and in an abstract painting. **Bunk room** In the guesthouse, a bunk room provides comfy spots for guests to wind down. Fuzzy stockings hang from the bunk beds cushioned in pillows and blankets with regional motifs.

