

INSIDE: YOUR GUIDE TO THE SUMMIT COUNTY PARADE OF HOMES

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+ Top Mountain Architects
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home of the year



A SENSE OF REDISCOVERY

OUR 2009 HOME OF THE YEAR TAKES A FRESH APPROACH TO TRADITIONAL EXPECTATIONS FOR A ROCKY MOUNTAIN LODGE IN BIG SKY COUNTRY

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THIS PAGE: "The more dramatic the view in a living room is, the more you need something solid to hold you in the room," says architect Larry Pearson. "This fireplace is so organized and solid that it literally anchors you with such an incredible view at the end of the room." Interior designer Charles de Lisle loves the playful nature of the room's two big lamps, which he had made from tree-shaped cast-iron hitching posts from the 1880s.



BELOW: The Home of the Year's striking architectural details honor its location in Montana's Big Sky country while also reinterpreting the local vernacular. OPPOSITE: In the home's formal dining area, interior designer Charles de Lisle paired a simple solid-oak pedestal table with a show-stopping Venetian glass "antler" chandelier.



ARCHITECTURE PEARSON DESIGN GROUP **INTERIOR DESIGN** THE CHARLES DE LISLE WORKSHOP
CONSTRUCTION LOHSS CONSTRUCTION

Rising from a massive tawny-hued foundation of local Harlow stone

to a veritable forest of majestic roof timbers, the six-bedroom, three-story lodge in The Yellowstone Club seems at first glance to have grown organically from its natural surroundings in Big Sky, Montana. This, undoubtedly, is a residence worthy of consideration as *Mountain Living's* Home of the Year. What elevates the home above the rest, however, is the many ways in which its architectural details, finishes and furnishings subtly reinterpret and sometimes even challenge the local mountain dwelling vernacular while staying true to its heritage and spectacular location.

Indeed, the original source of the home's inspiration was the setting itself: approximately five hillside acres with 270-degree panoramas of pine-clad peaks and snow-covered resort slopes. Principal architect Larry Pearson, AIA, of Pearson Design Group in Bozeman, along with several investing partners, began the project as a spec home. They were drawn, he explains, by the lot's "great southerly exposure, its breathtaking views, and the privacy it offered within an incredible mountain resort community." >>

NEAR RIGHT: "The colors in the master bedroom almost don't match: terracotta floral bedding, dried-orange-peel drapes, caramel cowhide headboard," says de Lisle. "Yet they work together, and add up to a great vignette." BELOW: The master suite's sitting room is a quiet, comfortable place to begin and end the day. OPPOSITE: A table, chair and vintage rug lend an air of elegance to the master bath.



That combination proved irresistible. Before the house was even fully framed, a Bay Area family with two young children bought the property as a second home. They, in turn, enlisted San Francisco-based interior designer Charles de Lisle of The Charles de Lisle Workshop, who had already proven himself simpatico with their style on another home. "I had never done a house in the mountains before," says de Lisle, "so I took it as a chance to come up with a fresh approach to that language."

A harmonious dialogue soon developed. Pearson's faithful yet fresh interpretations of mountain lodge architectural traditions dovetailed perfectly with de Lisle's eclectic approach to creating comfortable rooms that feel as if they have evolved over time and, he says, offer family and guests alike "a sense of adventure and discovery" that make the interiors as intriguing as the views are thrilling.

Take, for example, the interior space where so much of the home's socializing and relaxing take place: the living room, crowned by a 25-foot-tall log post-and-beam ceiling. Here, wide-plank white oak floors and an 18-foot-tall fireplace of the same Harlow stone featured on the exterior capture all of the majesty of a grand retreat, "giving a sense of place to the whole building," says Pearson. The surfaces and their assembly are also quietly simplified and streamlined, without the fussiness or grandiosity that might have been added in a bygone era.

To this environment, de Lisle added "appropriately big-scaled furniture, but not overstuffed seating like you might expect. I wanted it to feel right for casual family life." Above the table in the formal dining area, he playfully complemented the living room's simple hand-forged iron chandeliers, which look like they're made from antique barrel hoops, with an "antler" chandelier of clear Venetian glass. "I think it's fantastic," adds Pearson, who salutes the "sense of discovery" such design choices brought to the space. >>





BELOW: A master of illusion, de Lisle designed the childrens' bedrooms to feel as though they were filled with well-loved antiques; the colorful dressers, bedding and draperies are new. In the daughter's cheerful room (below, right), the "rusted iron" bed frame is made of wood that's been carefully stained to trick the eye.



DESIGNING TO SCALE When a house's architecture is as grandly scaled as this Home of the Year's, special attention must be paid to making sure that the furnishings harmonize with the dimensions of their surroundings. "The bold scale excited me, so I just started playing with that," says interior designer Charles de Lisle. Herewith, some tips for keeping things in proportion:

Customize when necessary. It can be difficult to find ready-to-use furniture big enough to match the setting. De Lisle commissioned key custom-designed pieces, such as a 14-foot-long sofa that faces the living room's massive stone fireplace.

Simplify for focus. Though the scale is large, detailing doesn't have to be. The formal dining area's solid-oak pedestal table, which expands from a circle seating six to an oval for 14 people, was kept absolutely clean-lined and simple. "I wanted the Spanish tall-back chairs and the Venetian glass chandelier to be the story in this area," says de Lisle.

Don't ignore the small stuff. Regardless of the interior dimensions, de Lisle never forgot that small details help bring a home to life. "I spent lots of time going to flea markets, junk stores, and antique malls," he says, "to find the kinds of fun, random stuff that feels like heritage pieces."

THIS PAGE: "Most of the building materials you see come from our region, including the beautiful stonework in Harlow stone; the large-diameter standing-dead lodgepole pine logs; aged boards salvaged from buildings in the area, and handsplit cedar shakes from the northwest that weather and gray, giving a sense of place to the whole building," says Pearson.

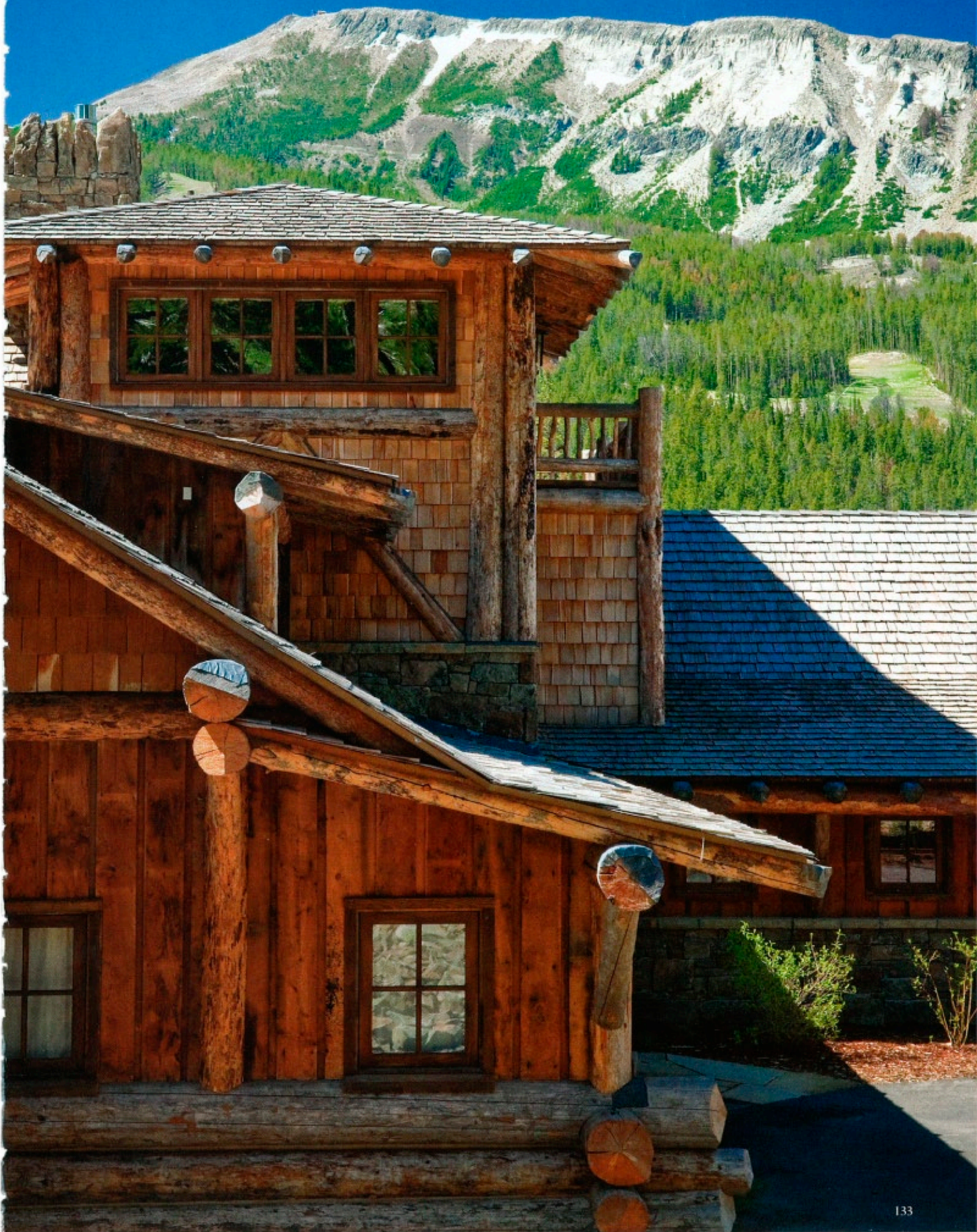


Still more adventurous discoveries await in the home's private quarters. De Lisle bestowed upon the daughter's and son's bedrooms a feeling that they were furnished with beloved family hand-me-downs. The rooms feature antique-style linens and dressers, colorful throw rugs, and a wooden bed frame stained to look like rusted iron in her room, another constructed from rough-hewn logs in his.

The master suite features grander but no less rustic-feeling touches like a caramel-colored cowhide headboard, tangerine-striped draperies, his-and-hers vanity walls with herringbone-patterned wood paneling, and dual sinks fashioned from two-century-old Italian terracotta planters. Combined with such architectural touches as log doorway frames that seem fashioned from still-living trees, the result, says Larry Pearson, feels at once "rustic, sophisticated and luxurious."

Of course, neither architect nor designer let the attention stray very long from the Home of the Year's paramount luxury: its surroundings. From the main house, a pathway meanders downhill to a pond and a separate guest cabin—what Pearson describes as "a discovery yet to happen." And the main home's stairway offers its own special destination, ascending from its lowermost massive stone walls, through ever-more-airy timberwork, to an uppermost tower room offering breathtaking views in every direction. Furnished by de Lisle to resemble a pioneer's cabin, the little room is complete with a wall-mounted deer head.

Evident here, as throughout the dwelling, is an ever-lighthearted yet practical counterpoint between past and present. "It is definitely a historic lodge in form," observes Pearson, "but with a much more playful style that responds to the needs and lifestyle of a modern family."





SNACK BAR



OPPOSITE: The lower-level bar is brimming with unique details, from industrial metal stools to rustic recycled wood. BELOW, LEFT: The tower room, furnished to resemble a pioneer's cabin, offers bird's-eye views. BELOW, RIGHT: In the living room, wide windows look out onto a separate guest cabin, private pond and beautiful Rocky Mountain scenery.



A SENSE OF DISCOVERY The Home of the Year's vast surroundings, extensive grounds, and expansive floor plan gave architect Larry Pearson, AIA, the chance to provide owners and guests alike with ample opportunities to "discover new views, new places, and new character as they move through the house." Some highlights:

A breathtaking entry. "The house's entry room is intimate in scale," says Pearson. "Then, you turn right, walk around a huge log column into the living room, and suddenly realize you've arrived at something much grander as you take in the panoramic views of gorgeous mountains, forests and ski slopes."

Rising to new heights. On the home's lowest daylighted level, the staircase begins completely embraced by stone walls, "like the foundation of an old castle," says Pearson. One level up, it becomes a construction of "hewn planks and heavy timbers recycled from regional barns." At last, it reaches the home's tower room, which offers 360-degree panoramas of the Rockies.

A fresh destination. Windows in the living room and the master suite alike offer tantalizing glimpses downhill of two small buildings comprising a 1,200-square-foot guest cabin beside a pond. "From the main house," says Pearson, "you walk through terraces down to the cabin, making it a great destination for a cookout, a sleepover, a summer afternoon swim, or winter ice-skating." ●