



RUSTIC REDEFINED

IN MONTANA'S YELLOWSTONE CLUB, A GETAWAY HOME SHOWCASES THE OLD WEST VERNACULAR—WITH AN INDUSTRIAL EDGE

STORY BY **NORMAN KOLPAS**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **GIBEON PHOTOGRAPHY**



Standing-dead spruce beams criss-cross the ceiling in the living room, where a double-sided rock fireplace rises 22 feet. Eclectic, comfortable furnishings include a leather wing chair from Hickory Chair Furniture Co. Expressing an industrial aesthetic, the steel-rimmed coffee table was fashioned from an antique mining cart, while rusted metal wheel banding from early-20th-century horse buggies composes the chandelier from Coup d'Etat. **FACING PAGE:** A steel-and-glass bridge connects the home's entryway to the main living area.



ARCHITECTURE BY FAURE HALVORSEN ARCHITECTS
 CONSTRUCTION BY HIGHLINE PARTNERS
 INTERIOR DESIGN BY PEACE DESIGN



“CAPTURING THE VIEWS IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE HOUSE. THE ARCHITECTURE AND MATERIALS BECOME SECONDARY TO FRAMING THEM.”
 KIPP HALVORSEN



WHEN A NEW HOME IS BUILT IN RUSTIC STYLE, THINKING INSIDE THE BOX IS THE MOST COMMON APPROACH:

Pick a material, whether logs or rough-hewn planks, river rocks or granite blocks; build in a conventional square-cornered form; and then furnish and accessorize with harmonious, time-honored choices. The results may please, but they can also appear bland and predictable.

So when the owners of a property in Montana’s Yellowstone Club asked for a second home that was not only rustic but also unique, architect Kipp Halvorsen of Bozeman-based Faure Halvorsen Architects knew that “tried and true” just wouldn’t do.

“The site drove everything,” Halvorsen says. Just smaller than one developable acre, the steep lot offered spectacular views of nearby Pioneer Mountain ski area and distant Yellowstone National Park but afforded no easy place to build a home to accommodate the clients, their twin sons and a large extended family.

ABOVE: In a sunny niche between the kitchen and living room, the dining area faces west toward Pioneer Mountain. Open-weave Belgian linen draperies frame the view and close to filter afternoon sunlight. The custom table consists of two raw-steel pedestals, each with its own hickory top; a leaf insert forms one continuous surface for larger gatherings.

Halvorsen’s solution: Design four separate “modules,” connected by enclosed bridges and hallways, that work their way up the hill in an organic, nonlinear fashion. Each module sits at a different elevation and slightly different angle. This approach enabled the architect to maximize the views from the 4,500-square-foot home while concealing neighboring houses from sight. It also created intriguing interior sightlines, with bridges and living spaces revealing glimpses of other parts of the house. The unconventional configuration yielded some surprising nooks and crannies too, from a staircase landing that doubles as a niche for a desk, to wall-recessed bunk beds, to a wine cellar tucked beneath the bridge leading from the living room to the master suite.

Equally unique is the home’s palette of materials, finishes and furnishings. “The traditional rustic look has been done time and again,” observes builder >>

ABOVE: The kitchen’s gas stove shares a flue with an outdoor fireplace on the adjacent terrace. Antique baking sheets form the stove’s backsplash. TOP, RIGHT: Kitchen cabinets were crafted from trimmings of the reclaimed timbers used in construction. BOTTOM, RIGHT: The entry module includes a garage, foyer, mudroom and upstairs guest room.





“USING DIFFERENT TYPES AND TEXTURES OF MATERIALS MAKES THE STRUCTURE FEEL AS IF IT HAS BEEN ADDED ONTO GENERATION AFTER GENERATION.”

TODD THESING



THIS PAGE, TOP: The recreation room includes a leather sectional, a media center and four recessed bunks. ABOVE, LEFT: A downstairs children's study features metal flea market chairs and a desk with a reclaimed wood top on raw-steel pedestals. ABOVE, CENTER: Linking the kitchen island countertop's reclaimed walnut planks, a stainless-steel bow pin notes the home's precise elevation. ABOVE, RIGHT: License plates from places where family members have lived cover the walls in the downstairs bathroom. An antique barrel form frames the mirror above an antique copper sink. RIGHT: The mudroom provides cubby storage for outdoor paraphernalia. Just beyond, one of the home's many handcrafted barn-style sliding doors reveals the laundry room. FACING PAGE: The bridge from the entry to the living area ends at this landing. Downstairs is a recreation room; guest quarters are above.






Todd Thesing of Big Sky-based Highline Partners, whose material choices offer a fresh take on rustic design—and make the new structure look as if it was built over time. Finishes include standing-dead timbers and reclaimed barn boards, joined by Montana moss rock that forms walls, double-sided fireplaces and the enclosure around the kitchen stove. Perhaps most surprisingly, the design team fashioned the bridges from salvaged steel joists, tracks and screens that recall the region’s mining tradition. In the 1860s, Montana had its own gold rush, points out Halvorsen. “I haven’t seen people incorporate the essence of that history before,” he says.

Interior designer Bill Peace describes the look as “rustic with an industrial edge.” One of his primary responsibilities, says the Bozeman- and Atlanta-based designer, was to “reflect history while bringing the house into today’s world, adding softness to contrast with the rugged materials, and introducing subtle decoration to make the home even more interesting and livable.” He deliberately chose a neutral color palette—predominately earth tones in a range of browns and grays—to serve as a backdrop for the owners’ lives. “Once you add people, their collections and art, their family and friends, their food and activities,” he says, “the result is a home that is truly memorable.” ◦

ABOVE, LEFT: Resting atop a rock platform, the master bathtub cozies up to a two-sided fireplace shared with the bedroom. ABOVE, RIGHT: On a landing beside the bridge to the master suite, an antique desk provides an ideal writing or reading haven. FACING PAGE: A bedroom resembles an alpine lodge thanks to white plaster walls, reclaimed paneling, and crisp linen and cotton bedding.

“WE MADE SURE ALL THE ELEMENTS, OLD AND NEW, BLENDED TOGETHER SO THAT 10 YEARS FROM NOW, SOMEONE WILL WALK IN AND SAY, ‘I REALLY CAN’T TELL HOW OLD THIS HOME IS.’”

BILL PEACE

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