

# RECLAIMED REFINEMENT

A MONTANA SKI LODGE IS A STUDY  
IN UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE

Contrasting textures and tones add dynamic tension to the kitchen/dining area. Cool white custom wood cabinets by Highline Partners are heavily textured, while the steel-fronted kitchen island is starkly industrial. The live-edge reclaimed-walnut dining table, by Michael McGee of Bozeman's Integrity Builders, also mixes materials, with steel seams and butterfly joints. "I love the way the steel plays off the warm wood," interior designer Lisa Kanning says. Custom lacquered benches are upholstered in buffalo hide.

ARCHITECTURE BY **LOCATI ARCHITECTS**  
INTERIOR DESIGN BY **LISA KANNING INTERIOR DESIGN**  
CONSTRUCTION BY **HIGHLINE PARTNERS**

There's a lot to love about a traditional ski lodge, but the rough-and-rustic, heavy-timbered approach isn't everyone's cup of cocoa. This Montana home was semi-finished in just such a traditional style when it was purchased by an East Coast couple who recognized its potential. The ski-in/ski-out Yellowstone Club residence, designed by Bozeman-based Locati Architects, featured reclaimed Douglas fir beams, a towering stone living room hearth—and not much else.

The owners had admired the fresh modernity of *Mountain Living's* 2011 Home of the Year, so they decided to call on the same team of talented design professionals to take the Western-style elements of this home in a different, more restrained and contemporary direction.

Interior designer Lisa Kanning, of Lisa Kanning Interior Design, and builder Rob McRae, of Big Sky's Highline Partners, teamed up for the challenge. Together, they developed a plan emphasizing sleek, clean lines and soft neutral colors grounded by rich textural variations.

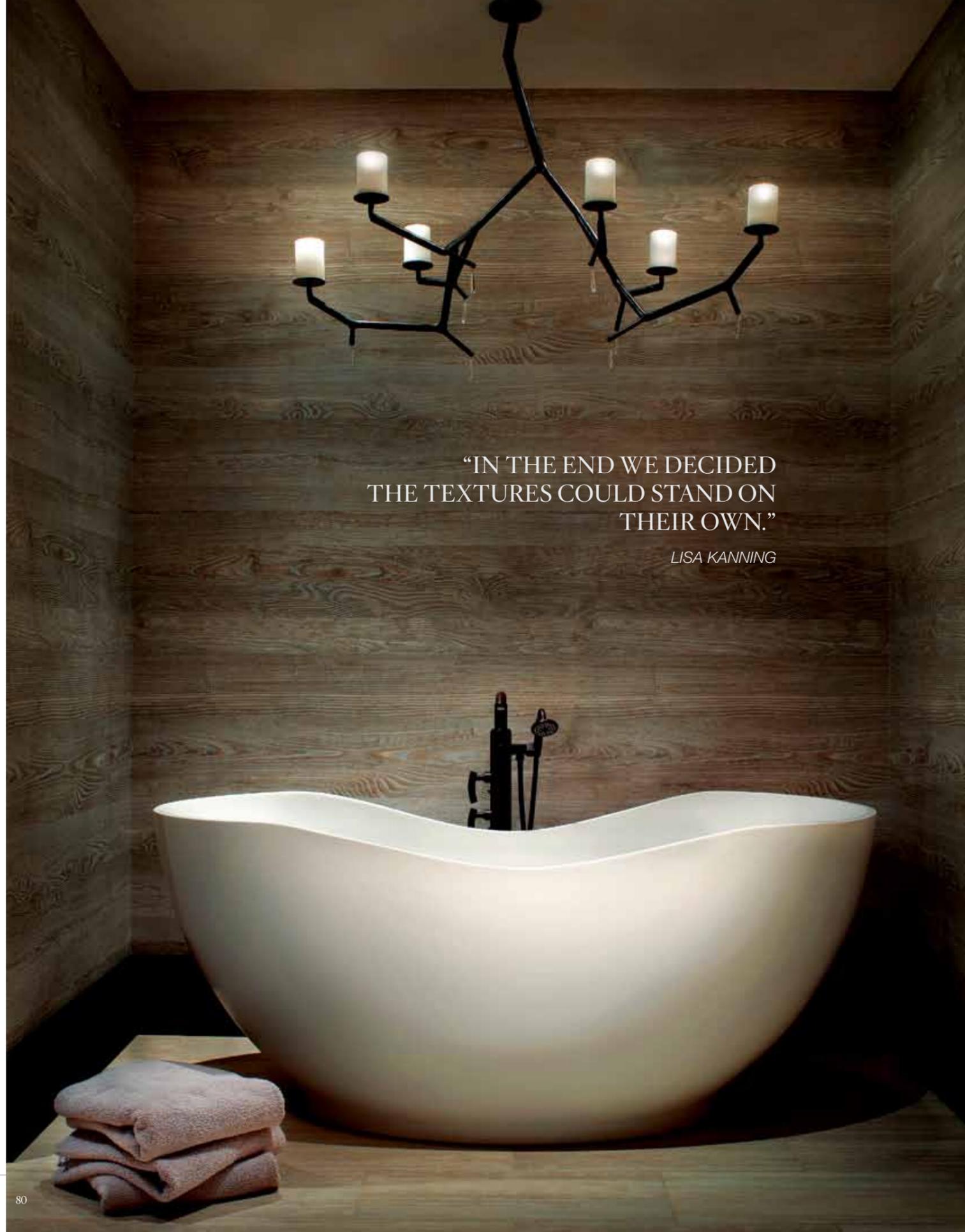
True to mountain form, wood plays a starring, albeit uncommonly sophisticated, role in the home. The reclaimed timbers McRae chose for the new doors, baseboards and trim were particularly rough, with bolt holes and scratches. "But we sanded them very smooth and treated them in a much more refined manner to create a cleaner look that still references the older reclaimed materials in the house," he explains. For the dining area, Michael McGee, of Bozeman's Integrity Builders, created a live-edge reclaimed walnut dining table with boldly contrasting steel inlays and butterfly joints.

Admitting that "the original orangey-brown beams were not my favorite," Kanning tempered them by establishing a subdued color palette. "Greys and taupes really warm the space up in a different direction," she explains. The raw walls—framed, but not drywalled when the project began—were given a warm gray shade of Venetian plaster, and taupe-and-white-grained fumed-oak floors continue the muted theme.

The tall living room space features a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace original to the home. The designers removed a pre-existing wooden mantelpiece to create a cleaner and more contemporary profile, and placed a lounge chair and sofas around a cocktail table designed by Kanning and cleverly crafted by >>

Kanning warmed up the living room by adding generous seating by Hickory Chair in family-friendly indoor/outdoor Holly Hunt fabrics. Custom side tables by C7 Studio have bleached-ash tops supported by chunky steel legs, while the cocktail table reinterprets the same rich walnut used for the nearby dining table. "Fame & Prejudice," by A.M. Stockhill, hangs above the fireplace.





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LISA KANNING

The master bedroom features dueling textures: Phillip Jeffries grasscloth on the bed wall and Montana Frontier stone on the fireplace wall. The custom bed and settee are by Brownstone Upholstery, and Theodore Waddell’s “Willowcreek Dr. Angus #5” adds an artful note of local color. FACING PAGE: The pristine master bathroom is anchored by a curvaceous Kohler tub and lit by a custom candelabra by CP Lighting.



DESIGNER CHOICES

**CHOOSE STYLISH AND PRACTICAL WALL COVERINGS.**

For walls in heavy use areas—a ski room, kids’ bath, bunk or laundry room—designer Lisa Kanning recommends applying vinyl wall coverings replicating grasscloth, leather or stone as a cost-effective and wear-resistant way to add an extra layer of interest to an otherwise utilitarian space.

**CHOOSE TEXTURES TO CREATE INTEREST.**

“Initially we thought we would add some bright pops of color to the rooms, but in the end we decided the textures could stand on their own,” Kanning explains. Smooth and pebbled leathers, suedes, hair-on hides, shearlings, Melton wool, embroidered fabrics, silk, chenille, velvet and textured vinyls are just some of the tactile materials she introduced along the way.

**CHOOSE FABRICS FOR RELAXED LIVING.**

“One idea for achieving a sophisticated mountain interior that’s also family-friendly is to use outdoor upholstery fabrics on indoor furniture,” Kanning suggests. There are a wide variety of plush velvets and textured chenilles available that are sumptuous yet durable, and they allow for a stress-free environment.

**CHOOSE CEILING TREATMENTS TO ADD POLISH.**

“Ceilings are often underutilized as design elements,” Kanning says. “In this home’s great room, I applied a textured fabric wall covering with a metallic background, which added not only warmth but also much-needed light from the reflective quality of the material.”

A small office space fits snugly under upstairs beams. Wood from Montana Reclaimed Lumber was used throughout the home, and builder Rob McRae gave baseboards and trim two coats of stain to bring out grayer tones. The leather chairs are from Restoration Hardware. **FACING PAGE:** Kanning covered the ceiling with a metallic "Chain Mail" wall covering by Phillip Jeffries to reflect light and give a warm glow to the relaxed loft seating area.



Michael McGee from small cubes of the same walnut used for the dining table. The tawny hues of the custom brindle-cowhide rug tie all the room's colors together.

Upstairs, Kanning envisioned the loft as a "cool hang-out area," so she furnished it with a comfy sectional and a playful gym mat-inspired coffee table perfect for upraised feet at the end of a day on the slopes. The opposite wall serves as a study, with a reclaimed live-edge slab of white ash for a desk and curvy leather chairs that swivel.

The master bedroom's rugged accent wall is clad in linear pieces of Frontier stone, native to Montana and often used as flagstones. "It's in keeping with the palette of the living room fireplace but up-

dated by the more modern stacked-stone shapes," Kanning explains. Glass shelves built into steel-framed recesses introduce a "stark, clean element into the stone," she adds.

The incredible master bath is sheer design drama. As Kanning remembers, "the alcove just called out for a tub." She answered that call with a sculptural matte-white Kohler tub placed atop soft gray porcelain tile floors and surrounded by a pale faux-wood-grain wall covering. Gentle illumination comes from Christopher Pullman's nature-inspired candelabra, embellished with drops of raw-edged crystals. It's no surprise that in this quietly elegant home, an unexpected detail turns out to be a jewel. ◦

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