

ARCHITECTURE Locati Architects  
INTERIOR DESIGN Harker Design  
CONSTRUCTION Teton Heritage Builders



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## RUSTIC, WITH A TWIST

BOLD POPS OF COLOR AND CITY-CHIC DÉCOR MAKE A RUGGED MONTANA HOME A STUDY IN CONTRASTS



**The rules have been broken** in a home on the slopes at the Yellowstone Club in Big Sky, Montana. At the Beartrap Residence, rugged mountain architecture defined by reclaimed timber and native stone is the backdrop for interiors with a Technicolor palette, extraordinary fabrics and exotic skins. The contrast between architecture and interiors is almost brazen, and yet, like the contradiction of the sun shining while rain is falling, the result is brilliant.

The homeowners wanted their second home to be different, an escape from the city to a Montana mountain where they could enjoy family, friends and the outdoors. “We wanted a special place for family, and that is what we have created,” they say.

Perched on a steep slope at almost 8,500 feet, the Beartrap Residence was carefully sited in minute degrees to maximize views of Pioneer Mountain and the spectacular Lone Peak, one framed in an unobstructed expanse of glass off the great room, the other creating a dramatic focal point in the dining room.

To create their mountain masterpiece, the homeowners entrusted Jerry Locati and his team at Locati Architects in Bozeman, Montana. “Our intention was to create a home that was understated yet inviting from the exterior so that the surrounding views would be temporarily lost, only to be rediscovered in grand fashion upon entering the house,” says Locati.

The home’s exterior is undeniably rustic, featuring reclaimed Douglas fir timbers and Montana moss rock, “set very tight to achieve a dry-stacked look similar to that of Incan temples,” says the home’s builder, Peter Lee of Teton Heritage Builders. The interiors, however, offer an unexpected twist. Gone are the subdued colors and traditional shapes typically found in Western mountain homes. In their place are the striking colors and captivating shapes of contemporary design. “Contrast,” says interior designer Kath Costanti of Harker Design, “was a key concept for the home. Locati does beautiful work, so why not create an interior that will show it off?” >>

ABOVE: French lava stone countertops in a green-apple hue and tomato-red ceiling tiles add a bold bit of fun to the home’s family-friendly kitchen. OPPOSITE: A custom-made geometric-patterned rug by Patterson, Flynn & Martin sets the stage for the great room’s eclectic array of colorful furnishings and accessories.





OPPOSITE: “We wanted the master bedroom to be a peaceful haven,” says interior designer Kath Costanti of the room’s muted palette and luxurious textures. The bed is topped with a hand-woven duvet with a lush cashmere backing; a custom dresser adds more visual texture to the room. BELOW: “There are even views from the tub,” says architect Jerry Locati of the master bathroom’s modern version of an antique claw-foot tub.



“Everything has a rhyme and a reason,” says interior designer Kath

Tapping their creative instincts, Costanti and her design partner, Abby Hetherington, went to work creating one-of-a-kind interiors that ultimately set the Beartrap Residence apart from other mountain homes. With a lock on the best view in the house, the dining room showcases the home’s signature blend of rustic and chic—and the designers’ skillful juxtaposition of rugged and contemporary styles: the clean lines of a coffered ceiling over a native stone floor, modern pear-drop crystal chandeliers illuminating bold red leather chairs and a custom wood table with a glass base, and shiny faux bois chairs upholstered in a brilliant peacock-blue fabric. The eclectic array of colorful furnishings and accessories continues in the great room, where a custom-made geometric-patterned rug, giraffe settee and orange velour polka-dot chairs offer color, texture and city-chic style.

Costanti of the home’s carefully orchestrated sense of abandon.

In the kitchen, the designers deftly combined functionality with fun. The countertops are French lava stone in a striking green-apple hue, the ceiling tiles are tomato red (“the exact shade of the porcelain antler chandelier in the entry,” says Costanti), and the cabinets are a deep walnut. “I was nervous at first, stepping out of the box, but I trusted Kath, and when I saw it, I was blown away,” says the lady of the house.

“Everything has a rhyme and a reason,” says Kath of the home’s carefully orchestrated sense of abandon, “from the horn cabinet hardware to the meat-locker door to the powder room. We wanted it to be ‘tricked-out’ rustic: very beautiful and very modern.” ●



## DESIGNER SECRETS

The pros behind the Beartrap Residence offer their advice for building a mountain home.

**THE ARCHITECT SAYS...** “Spend a lot of time selecting your team. It is crucial that they can ‘park’ their egos and work together.” — *Jerry Locati, AIA, Locati Architects*

**THE PROJECT MANAGER SAYS...** “Spend a lot of time in the early stages thinking about how the home will be used, what spaces are functional in a mountain environment, and how they will flow together. Understand what spaces are private and which ones are for entertaining—and think about multiple uses for spaces.” — *Darin Hoekema, AIA, Locati Architects*

**THE BUILDER SAYS...** “Time is money in construction, and winters are long in the mountains. If you can start a project between June 1 and October 15, you will save yourself time—and money.

“Take full advantage of your lot. Are there things (boulders, trees, deadfall, outcroppings) there that can be incorporated into the home? Think about building cabins, retaining walls, mantels, fireplaces, pedestal sinks and other parts of the home from resources found right on the site.

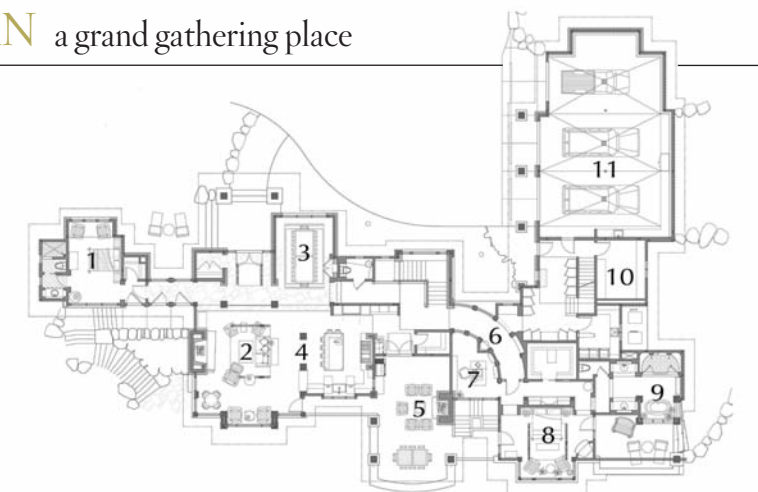
“The northern Rockies are blessed with many talented and creative craftspeople. Ask them for ideas. You may be surprised by how many great features you end up with in your home.” — *Peter Lee, Teton Heritage Builders*

**THE OWNER’S REPRESENTATIVE SAYS...** “The best first step is to put the right team together and make sure they are all on the same page with you. Determine each team member’s responsibility and set expectations. And don’t skimp on the drawings! They will ensure you are planning properly and will minimize surprises.” — *Louie Loucks, Complete Project Resource, Inc.*

**THE INTERIOR DESIGNER SAYS...** “Make your mountain home personal and not themed. It’s important to bring a little bit of where you’re from to the mountains, so bring some art and fun but subtle reminders of your daily life.” — *Kath Costanti, Harker Design*

## FLOOR PLAN a grand gathering place

- 1 Guest Suite
- 2 Great Room
- 3 Dining Room
- 4 Kitchen
- 5 Covered Deck
- 6 Gallery
- 7 Office
- 8 Master Suite
- 9 Master Bathroom
- 10 Ski Room
- 11 Garage



OPPOSITE: Rustic meets contemporary in the dining room, where the modern “Drizzle” chandelier by Ochre casts light on bold, red tufted-leather chairs by Hickory Chair and a custom table with a live-edge wood top and ultra-contemporary glass base. Armchairs by Ironies feature antique gold leafing and a brilliant peacock-blue fabric. Just outside are the snow-covered slopes of Lone Peak.