



Rustic Revealed

Architect Larry Pearson loves the element of surprise. He enjoys creating built environments in which visitors engage through a process of discovery. Accordingly, for each new project, Pearson and his team think through every aspect of the approach, from the property's edge to the home's front door, then across the threshold and into the living space. He likes his homes to reveal themselves by degrees and will work to site access roads and outbuildings to this end. In the case of a home with a staggering view, this moment of revelation will make an even bigger impact.

Pearson Design Group was tasked with building a monumental log home on a steep, high-elevation site with far-reaching views. The clients desired that it be decidedly rustic yet still light and airy. The result is architecture that celebrates traditional form and vernacular but employs meticulous joinery, ultra-refined finishes, and spectacular amounts of glass. The home mixes chalet references with contemporary treatments, yet ultimately exudes a classic lodge feeling.

The entry to the home is elevated, with the approach an almost tunnel-like space created by a low, heavy-timbered shed roof and grounded by large boulders on the view side. Stepping across the threshold reveals the first surprise—a room with built-in benches and windows on three sides that yield a stunning panoramic alpine vista. (The concept was inspired by old-time sleeping porches.) From the entry hall one steps down into a long hallway then turns the corner to the great room. There the house begins to reveal its architectural drama in a much more vertical space, with soaring ceilings and elaborate timber truss work. A massive asymmetric stone fireplace provides a counterbalance to the glass expanses and anchors the house to the hillside.

The clients had been specific about their goals, but their goals didn't necessarily go hand-in-hand, Pearson relates. "The husband wanted logs and stone; the wife desired sophistication and airiness." Meshing their visions was a challenge everyone embraced.

Lead architect and project manager Josh Barr and the builders from Lowes Construction paid close attention to detail during the project in order to achieve a consistently refined aesthetic. Rustic materials such as logs and boards were rendered sleek and splinter-free, tightly scribed, smooth to the touch, and lustrous, the product

of meticulously applied special finishes. The craftsmanship of the home is palpable; its effect is to elevate an otherwise rustic structure to an elegance found in far more refined interiors.

In the home's common rooms and bedrooms there's an emphasis on comfort and livability. The kitchen, with its bright surfaces, and the spa, with its Zen-like water feature, vaulted ceiling and heated tile lounge chairs offer opportunities for more contemporary influences. Of the light-filled kitchen (where generous windows are complemented by additional interior windows into an adjoining hallway to bring in light from the east), Pearson says, "It was so carefully orchestrated. We really tried hard to make it feel as though it could have been the shell of an old lodge that had been remodeled. Old lodges didn't have much glass; it was all about being protected from the elements. With the big walls of glass, it's almost as if you've remodeled it and opened it up to the world."

The one place that had no need for contemporary treatments was the guesthouse, a simple log cabin tucked into the trees. There, rustic reigns, from the vertical logs framing the door and powder room to the rugged stone fireplace, Molesworth-influenced applied-pole furniture, reproduction enamel appliances and birch bark ceilings. A door jamb made from a tree trunk, its roots extending into the room, signals the intention for a structure built not just as a private space for guests but as a retreat for the owners, the ideal hideaway for a late-night card game or profound meaning-of-life conversation.

In creating both worlds—the intimate den-like cabin and its counterpoint, a light-filled, view-dominant, timber-trussed main structure—the architects solved a very contemporary dilemma, perfectly bridging the gap between modernity and rusticity.



LEFT: The family room was designed for comfort and durability; fabrics are luxurious, and the copper drum table is both sturdy and beautiful. The large painting in the stairwell is by Theodore Waddell.

FACING: A ceramic antler chandelier from Roll and Hill serves as a focal point and creates a graceful contrast to the ruggedness of the stone fireplace. The chairs from Gregorius Pineo encourage lingering at the table.

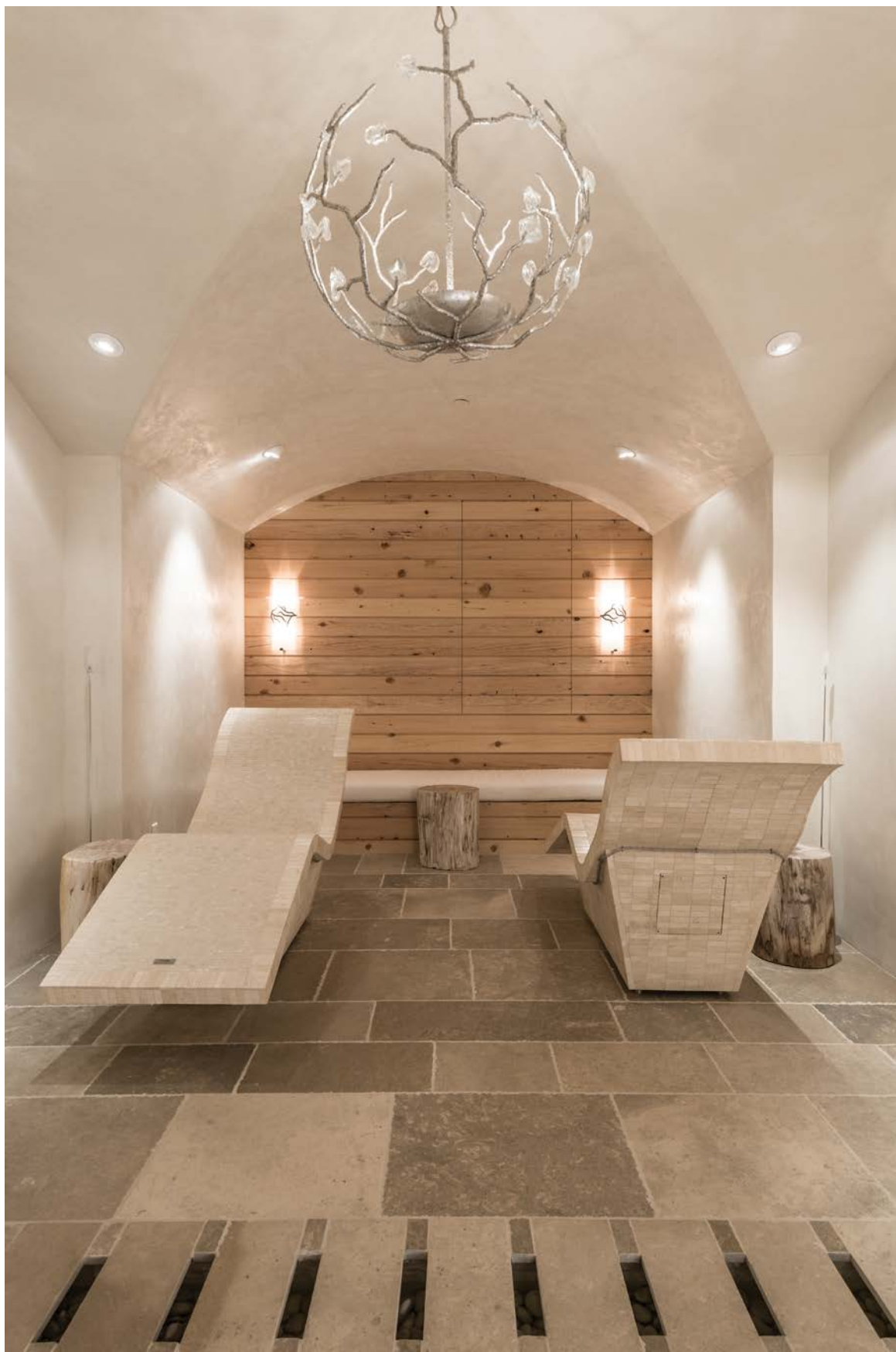






FACING: Streamlined built-ins add storage without distracting the eye from the dramatic interplay of logs leading into the master bedroom area.

ABOVE: The kitchen was designed for clean lines and a feeling of light, achieved by white tiles, handmade in Montana, and white countertops. Tactile elements include horn drawer pulls, a zinc countertop and a hood detailed with hand-hewn beams and hand-carved corbels.



LEFT: A serene spa with vaulted ceiling features tiled heated loungers, a waterfall feature that runs along a trough under the floor and an ethereal chandelier from Porta Romana.

FACING: A corner fireplace in the master bedroom allows for a big window looking out at the dramatic mountain view.





Guesthouse

The guesthouse is a rustic hideaway, ideal for visitors as well as late-night card games. An applied-pole chair and ottoman by artisan Tim Groth work well in the wood-dominated interior. A simple wasp's nest is mounted above the fireplace, which is flanked by a series of mounted horseman artworks by Duke Beardsley. In the kitchen, birch bark ceilings and vintage-look appliances from Heartland complete the effect. A live-edge wood slab table floats above minimal metal legs and echoes the tree trunk doorway.







FACING: Minimal furnishings and vintage-like lighting fixtures allow the rustic elements to dominate.

ABOVE: A porch with a primitive chair and repurposed table keeps the focus on the great outdoors.