

# MOUNTAIN LIVING<sup>®</sup>

## THE MOUNTAIN MODERN ISSUE

**BIG SKY RUSTIC MEETS MOD  
SUN VALLEY SLOPESIDE SLEEK  
VAIL PENTHOUSE LIVING**



# Rustic Redux



SLEEK MIDCENTURY FURNISHINGS AND WEATHERED TIMBER AND STONE REDEFINE WESTERN STYLE IN A MONTANA HOME

STORY BY **CAREN KURLANDER** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **AUDREY HALL**



Interior designers Timothy Haynes and Kevin Roberts collaborated with architect Paul Bertelli to create a mountain home with modern style. Mohair-covered mid-century Edward Wormley for Dunbar sofas and vintage Scandinavian swivel chairs complement the living room's reclaimed barn timbers and old stone. **FACING PAGE:** The stairway's steel-and-glass railing establishes a contemporary tone.



ARCHITECTURE BY **JLF & ASSOCIATES**

INTERIOR DESIGN BY **HAYNES-ROBERTS**



The structure—made of timber, wood and glass—steps up the hillside to help break down the scale. **FACING PAGE:** The 1960 Mazzega chandelier in the dining area plays off the rough interior surfaces and echoes the snow outside. Vintage Jacques Adnet armchairs are upholstered with snakeskin, and the oak table is a custom design.

TIMOTHY HAYNES AND KEVIN ROBERTS, FOUNDING PARTNERS OF THE DISTINGUISHED NEW YORK CITY INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM HAYNES-ROBERTS, HAVE NO INTEREST IN PLAYING IT SAFE.

When the duo accepted their first commission in Montana—a ski house in Big Sky for a family with young children—they saw no reason to sacrifice their sophisticated style and had no intention of falling into Western clichés. “We wanted to shake things up a bit,” says Roberts, “and show that you can still have the great warmth and beauty of a Western house, but infused with a hip, up-to-date sensibility.”

To achieve that goal, the designers collaborated closely with architect Paul Bertelli, principal of Bozeman, Montana-based JLF & Associates, and his team as they created a structure that was authentic to the region but pared down to communicate a 21st-century lifestyle. The architects designed framing elements from huge weathered barn timbers, clad ceilings and floors with reclaimed wood planks and constructed fireplace surrounds from regionally quarried stone. “The whole contemporary belief of ‘less is

more’ is how you keep reducing the components down to their essence,” Bertelli says. “So the question became, how do we do that using these reclaimed timber assemblies?” Their solution was to strip away extraneous knee braces, avoid trim and decorative embellishments, and simplify a prominent staircase down to a spare steel-and-glass form. “It was an opportunity to bring these very clean materials and uncluttered lines into the historic shell,” he explains.

The rich texture and warm gray tones of the building materials served as both complement and counterpoint to the furnishings. “We wanted to impose a sense of modernity you don’t often see in the antler-filled Western ski home,” says Roberts, “and because of the quality of the wood and stone background materials, I felt that this was the perfect opportunity to add a hip 1960s/70s overlay. The vintage pieces provide more nuance than contemporary furniture, and they evoke a bit of the James Bond era.” >>

While the furnishings exhibit clean minimal lines, tactile fabrics in a “dark neutral” palette blend with the surrounding walls and recede from the sweeping vistas. “The views are so spectacular that I wanted to keep the colors to a minimum,” Roberts says.

While the hues are meant to blend in, the light fixtures are meant to stand out. Starting in the living area, two 1960s Murano glass fixtures set an immediate point of departure. “People usually use bronze or brass,” says Roberts, “but I wanted nothing that was expected.” The furnishings follow suit. Rich charcoal-colored mohair covers two Edward Wormley for Dunbar sofas, and Warren Platner lounge chairs pull up to a black-lacquer game table in the adjacent sitting area. Underfoot, the traditional cowhide rug is remade into a modern patchwork that “continues the texture of the background,” Roberts says.

The architecture also provided inspiration for the sturdy dining table the designers had made from solid planks of rift white oak and then sandblasted so “it could handle a lot of heavy-duty

use,” Roberts says. Vintage Jacques Adnet chairs upholstered with taupe snakeskin encircle the table, and a linear 1960s Italian chandelier sparkles above. “I wanted the light fixtures in this house to be particularly special,” says Roberts, who hung a striking vertical metal-and-glass fixture in the hallway and a 1960s Stilnovo chandelier in the master bedroom. To give the bedroom a distinct, luxurious feel, the designers had a graphic silk-and-wool carpet made in a warm bronze tone and upholstered a custom bed with a silk-velvet fabric by Clarence House.

“The design wasn’t meant to feel modern and jarring,” Roberts explains. “It was meant to feel exciting and sophisticated.” While it doesn’t fit the typical image of a rustic Western home, the house is still thoughtfully tailored to its mountain environment. “It has a sense of timelessness, like it’s always been here,” adds Bertelli, “but it doesn’t respond to what people think the West should be, but more what the West really is.” >>



ABOVE: A small banquette offers additional seating in the kitchen. RIGHT: The island’s grey concrete countertop blends with the reclaimed wood surfaces of the kitchen. FACING PAGE: Warren Platner lounge chairs upholstered with Knoll fabric pull up to a custom black-lacquer game table to form a second sitting area in the living room. The rug was custom-made by Beauvais.



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The use of regional materials was carried into the bath, where a stone wall and wood beams warm the space. FACING PAGE: "I didn't want the master bedroom to feel like you'd changed ZIP codes," says Roberts, "but I wanted it to have a luxurious feel." Rich textiles, including the silk-velvet fabric from Clarence House covering the bed frame and custom wool-and-silk carpet, add a layer of softness.



## MODERN IN MONTANA

"In New York, modernity has been embraced and accepted," says Kevin Roberts of Haynes-Roberts. "In Montana, that's not necessarily so." But that didn't stop the designers from appointing a timber-and-stone residence in Big Sky with streamlined midcentury furnishings. By keeping these simple guidelines in mind, Roberts and his partner Timothy Haynes were able to create a modern interior that, while unexpected, feels right at home.

### DON'T TAKE IT LITERALLY

Choose pieces that reflect the feel of the region in a modern way. Replace antler chandeliers with glass light fixtures that evoke the feel of snow, and try a geometric cowhide rug instead of the typical bearskin.

### STAY DOWN-TO-EARTH

"The most beautiful thing about Montana is the outdoors," Roberts says. "I felt that the blue of the sky and the green of the trees should really provide the bulk of the color."

### MATERIALS MATTER

Give your project a sense of authenticity and timelessness by reclaiming building materials from the region. "This could have been done with new wood stained to look old," says Roberts, "but it wouldn't have been nearly as successful."

### DON'T OVERDO IT

"I find that in Western ski areas, people tend to clutter things up," Roberts says. "In a house with this much texture and strength in terms of the view, it's really important to pull back and try to keep things spare." ○



"IN THIS HOUSE YOU REALLY HAVE A SENSE OF WHERE YOU ARE ALL THE TIME. AND I DON'T MEAN WHICH ROOM, I MEAN MONTANA."

PAUL BERTELLI