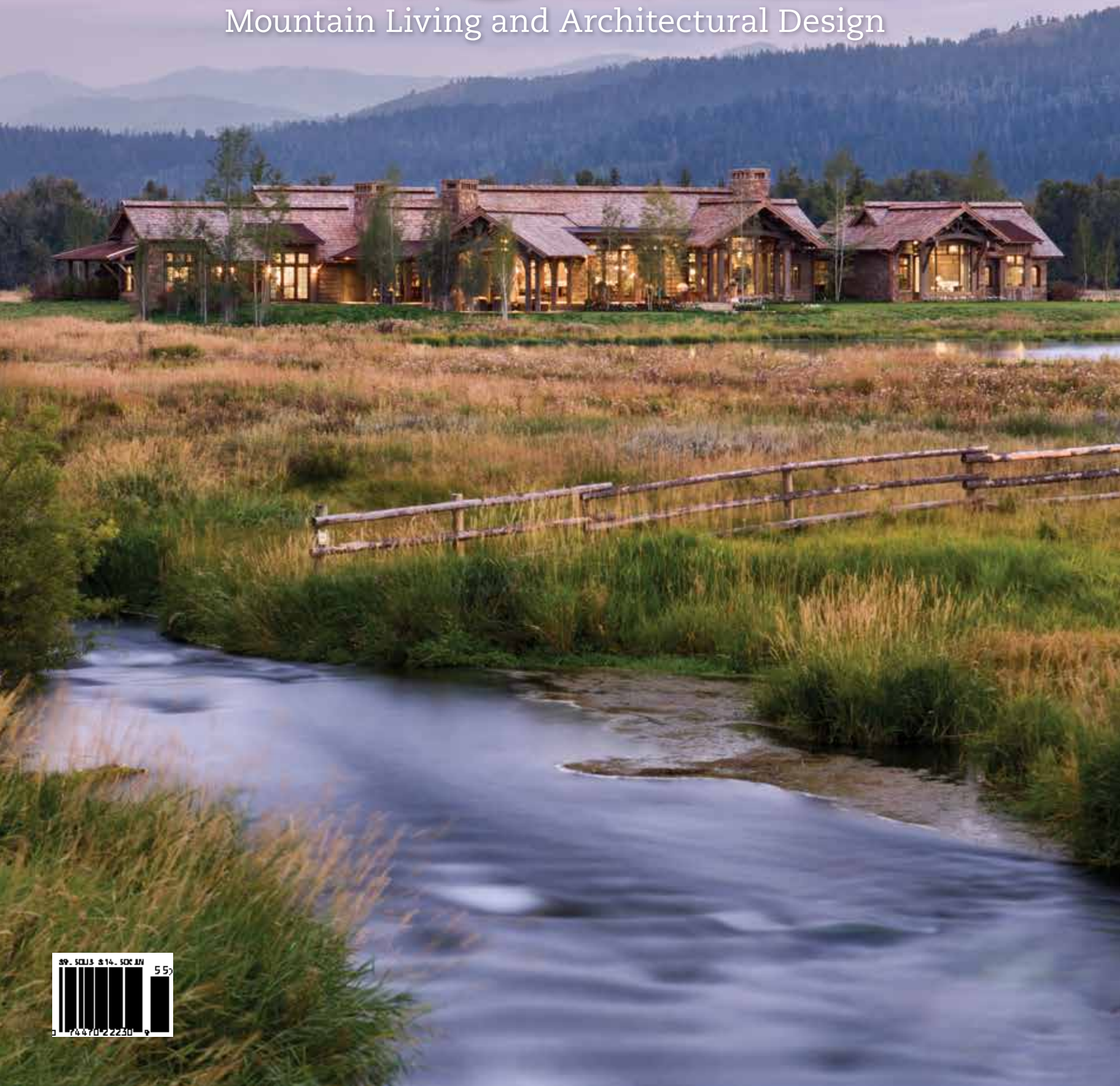


# BIG SKY JOURNAL HOME

Mountain Living and Architectural Design





**ARCHITECTURE** Carney Logan Burke Architects  
**CONSTRUCTION** Ankeny Construction Management  
**INTERIORS** Agnes Bourne and WRJ Design

# REFINED RUSTIC

**A sophisticated and whimsical retreat in Jackson Hole was designed and built to accommodate as many guests as possible**

WRITTEN BY DINA MISHEV ✦ PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUDREY HALL AND EDWARD RIDDELL

**Y**OU'RE NOT SURE WHAT TO EXPECT PULLING UP TO A HOME ON A BLUFF ABOVE Wilson, Wyoming. From the road, there's no sign of anything, other than seemingly impenetrable forest. As you wind in on the private driveway twisting through a mass of pines, a tower of stacked, moss-covered fieldstones eventually comes into view. And then you see additional buildings, clad in reclaimed timber and corral board siding. A 28-foot bridge connects the tower, reminiscent of nothing so much as the historic fire towers that dot mountain summits throughout this area, to the main house.

Inspired by the historic fire towers of the Rocky Mountains, Carney Logan Burke used a multi-level guest quarters as a focal point of this rustic home. A bridge connects the tower to the main house clad in reclaimed timber and corral board to create the effect of a Western compound.



It isn't until you approach the tower, which is part of the guest house, on foot that you get a sense of scale. It's not that the home is huge — it has seven bedrooms but is only 6,200 square feet — but the stones are massive. Some are the size of washing machines. "I flew to Bozeman [from New York City] and met Andy [Ankeny, the architect] and Jake [Ankeny, Andy's twin brother and the builder], and we spent 36 hours visiting stone quarries and looking at reclaimed timber," says owner Kirk Davenport. "It was like a treasure trove. Of course we didn't get every stone and timber picked out, but we set the bar for what we were looking for." The base of the stone fireplace in the great room spans 10 feet and consists of only three rocks.

Given the level of teamwork and the meticulousness of each team member, including Mr. Davenport himself, it wouldn't be surprising if they *had* hand-picked every stone and timber. Naturally architects pay attention to details. As do interior design-



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ers. (Agnes Bourne was brought on board early in the design process.) But owners can go either way. Not Davenport though. "There isn't one thing on this house he didn't question and that he didn't want a reiterative approach on," says Andy Ankeny, a partner at Jackson's Carney Logan Burke Architects. "Which is what we love. We put ideas out there and love clients to challenge them." The teamwork was such that Davenport says, "I was sad when the house was done, on time and on budget."

Davenport went to Carney Logan Burke with the idea of a rustic home built for entertaining, but not big. "We wanted a house that could accommodate lots of people for holidays and parties, but we also wanted a house that just my wife and I could enjoy and not feel like we were rattling around in," he says. Carney Logan Burke's solution was a collection of buildings. "Because the guest wing is off to the side, you don't feel like it's part of the main house. The main house is essentially a

**ABOVE:** Inside, the open living-dining-kitchen layout lends a modern air to the home's exterior rustic materials. Built for entertaining, the space can comfortably fit a party of 50 or just the couple without feeling alternately crowded or cavernous. WRJ Design and Agnes Bourne worked together on the interior design to create a delineation between living spaces by using custom lighting and classic furnishings. **LEFT:** In the kitchen, a custom-made hood reinforces the steel palette that accents structural joinery throughout the house. Reclaimed pickle barrel cabinetry punctuates the color of the granite countertops.



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three-bedroom house — perfect for us or us and the kids," Davenport says. "On the other hand, the place absorbed 75 people on a New Year's Eve party. It's a compromise between an absurdly large house and a cozy little love nest for retirees."

Where it doesn't compromise is its sense of place. "He wanted the home to look like it had been there for fifty, one hundred years," Ankeny says. The first time Davenport and the architects snowshoed around the 16-acre property, it was not the healthy forest it is today. "Trees were choking each other out," Ankeny says.

Rather than clear an area to site the house on, the team removed trees slowly and methodically.

**The majority of the interior walls are reclaimed lumber, but paired with exposed structural steel, the overall vibe is refined rustic.**



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**ABOVE:** Walking under the "bridge" to the main house the textures and materials of the house can be tangibly experienced by a visitor. **BELOW:** In the great room, the warm hue of the upholstery in the furnishings echoes the red-brown tones of the timbers, floor and walls. The elegant span of native stone in the fireplace creates a streamlined effect in the rustic palette.



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“We first went in and flagged 20 unhealthy trees, opening views up in a layered way,” Ankeny says. It took removing about half of the trees on the property before the house revealed where it should be. Even with half of its original trees

removed though, the property today retains a wild feel, with moose wandering around huge, mature trees that are still as close as 10 feet to the home.

Inside, the home is as cozy as the forest around it. “Fun, complete, functional, beautiful, graceful, playful — these are what the Davenports gave me when I asked for words that they wanted to show up in the home,” says interior designer Agnes Bourne. Running down the middle of the winding, open staircase in the guest area’s tower is a brass fire pole. “That was one of the first things Kirk mentioned,” Ankeny says.

The house also has ladders from a kid’s room directly to the pool room, a secret



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**ABOVE:** Hand-picked stone stacked to accent different sections of the adjoining buildings adds visual contrast to the vertical lines established by the reclaimed wood siding. **BELOW:** An outdoor seating area connects to Wyoming’s trapper history with furs as accents to the hewn outdoor furniture.

passageway, and a sliding bookcase. “The theme was whimsical,” Bourne says. Davenport says, “There are lots of reasons not to do these things — I think there are lots of people who might initially like the idea of stuff like this but then they get talked out of it. Once the team realized I wasn’t backing down, they all got on board and it was really fun to do these crazy things. They



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A single slab of rough-edged fir was used to create a streamlined, built-in desk in an office. A custom rug from Kismet Gallery in Jackson adds sophistication to the space.

make no sense economically, but they are what make people love the house.”

Although it has whimsical elements, the house is not gimmicky. Elegance and fine craftsmanship underlie everything from the extensive custom rugs Bourne, working in collaboration with WRJ Design, designed locally with Kismet Gallery, the colorful Heath Ceramics tiles in most of the bathrooms, a Belgian-made stone top table (sourced by WRJ in Paris), the reclaimed pickle barrel kitchen cabinetry, the wooden “painting” made by Idaho-based artist Tim Groth hanging in the powder room, and the entrance to the grand staircase, built of stacked timbers. Some showers have walls of natural stone — not stone tiles, but single slabs. “I toured stone yards in Salt Lake City to find those and they’re incredible,” Bourne says.



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The majority of the interior walls are reclaimed lumber, but paired with exposed structural steel, the overall vibe is refined rustic. “Rustic can be done in a clean, linear way,” Ankeny says. “It can mean symmetry and alignment and doesn’t have to be haphazard.” And it can include contemporary materials. Originally, steel was not on Davenport’s material palette. “We ended up exposing some blackened steel in the



Continuing the material palette from the exterior to the interior, Ankeny Construction Management expertly incorporated reclaimed wood in the bathrooms and bedrooms. Carrera marble countertops in the bathroom lighten the space, while in the bedroom, off-white plaster highlights the mullioned windows.

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structural system and that was carried through into light fixtures and the hood over the stove,” Ankeny says. Davenport now says the hood is one of his favorite features in the home. And of course the kitchen and adjoining great room are the guests’ favorite spaces. 🏡



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