



DESIGN BUREAU™

**SPECIAL  
ANNIVERSARY  
ISSUE**

# INSIDE THE MINDS OF CREATIVE FANATICS

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## INSPIRED BY PLACE

*The rugged Wyoming landscape is a tough act to follow, yet Carney Logan Burke continues to build on perfection*



By Christopher Moraff, a Philadelphia-based freelance writer and photographer  
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The architects and staff at Carney Logan Burke have a pretty nice gig. Headquartered in the western resort community of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, they design buildings that sit in some of nature's most pristine locales, all while gazing out the window at their own majestic mountain view. But the catch-22 of architecture—that in order to live somewhere beautiful, you risk spoiling what makes it beautiful—is not lost on the firm. “There is this lure that this place has, and a power it has over people,” says Eric Logan, an architect and partner at the firm. “We are given these opportunities to build here and alter the place, and frankly, the responsibility weighs heavily on us.”

The firm's approach, Logan says, is to use appropriate materials and composition to draw out the natural equilibrium between a project and its surroundings. “We feel like we're doing our job if the buildings are functional as well as beautiful, and complement, not compete with, the environment.”

Founded in 1992 by Harvard-educated architect John Carney, CLB has imparted its vision on community facilities, commercial buildings, resorts, and mixed-use complexes throughout the rural West. Today, Logan and Carney—together with a third partner, Kevin Burke—make up CLB's core team. All three

live in or around Jackson Hole and emphasize that a strong connection to the community is a key element of CLB's design mission.

“We feel responsible to serve the community,” Logan says. “We regularly do second homes, but we balance that by maintaining a workable presence in the community, meaning we won't turn down work for the guy across the street that just needs a remodel.”

Logan and his firm are challenged with facing a rugged traditionalism that requires anyone wanting to alter the environment to navigate a gauntlet of design-approval boards, protected wetlands, and stringent regulations designed to protect wildlife corridors. As such, CLB's residential buildings veer from the archetypal “Western” look to embrace a “less is more” reductivism that imparts an almost Zen-like clarity. “One of the basic principles of design is to be a sort of editor, trimming the whole until there is not too much and not too little.”

So if, like Joni Mitchell, you lament the paving of paradise, rest assured that Carney Logan Burke is taking its job as architect and editor seriously. Because when all is said and done, it's precisely this formula of thoughtful restraint that results in a structure seamlessly integrated into the breathtaking Wyoming landscape. ❖

### ◀ Mosquito Creek Cabin Wilson, Wyoming

During a down time in CLB's work load, the team assisted a Minneapolis-based homeowner in a comprehensive renovation of a cabin in Wilson, WY. After finding a suitable site, the cabin was dragged off another piece of property and repurposed to suit the art-collector owners' sophisticated tastes. Refined finishes and fixtures contrast nicely with the texture of rustic barn wood.

Clockwise from top: Mosquito Creek Cabin, photos by David Swift; CLB principal John Carney snapped this photo of an old service station in Daniel, WY





## LSR Preserve ▲

*Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, Wyoming*

Comprising some 1,100 acres on the shores of Phelps Lake, the Interpretive Center and its related trails were a gift from Laurance S. Rockefeller to the National Park Service. Because this project tells the story of environmental stewardship and conservation, the client wanted a “quiet” building designed to fit gently into the landscape and encourage a closer understanding of the ecology of place.

The LSR Preserve is the first to achieve LEED-Platinum status in the National Park Service and in the state.

## Logan Pavilion ▶

*Jackson, Wyoming*

The Logan Pavilion is a private residence located on a sagebrush plain north of Jackson, WY. The 2,475-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath home borrows its form from the vernacular hay shed. Exterior materials include cedar shingles, siding, and decking, and rusted sheet steel, each chosen for their ability to weather gracefully and blend with the colors of the landscape.



*Above: LSR Preserve, photo by Nic Lehoux  
Right: Logan Pavilion, photo by R. Greg Hursley  
Opposite page: CLB staff, photo by David Swift*

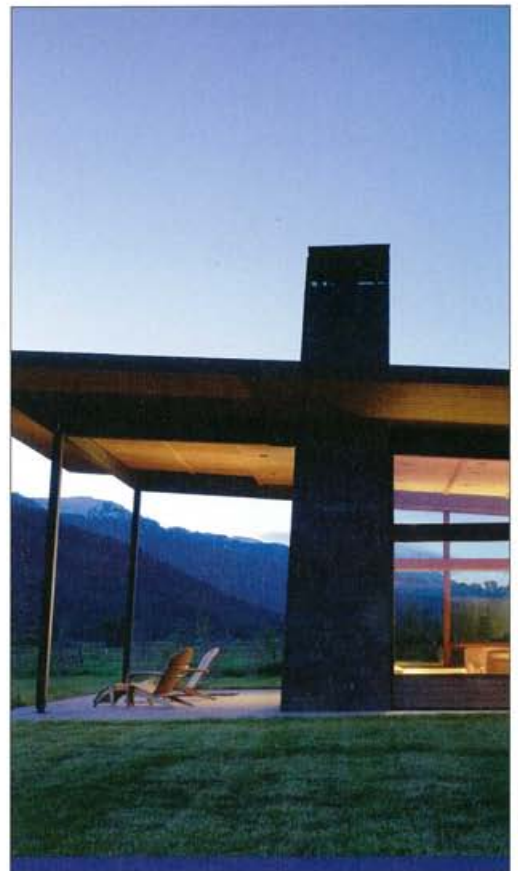




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## Four Seasons Hotel ▶

Denver, Colorado

CLB and interior designer Mauricio Salcedo were charged with designing a space that reflected both the opulence of a five-star establishment and the organic warmth of a mountain retreat. "The challenge was to combine an urban hotel with the locale of Denver and the mountains and to translate that into the character of the hotel," Salcedo says. "We needed to bring some of those more earthy elements into the design in a luxurious way."

Salcedo's team at Bilkey Líneas installed fireplaces and made ample use of stone and wood. With the help of Denver-based LewisGraham Art Consultants, the team brought in a collection of nearly 1,200 works of art, most of it from Colorado artists. Liz Graham, co-owner of LewisGraham, says the artwork was selected specifically to complement the design, which she calls "sleek and contemporary, with an organic feel."



Above: Four Seasons, Denver, photo by John Carney

Below: Peaks View residence, photo by Matthew Millman



## Peaks View ▼

Wilson, Wyoming

CLB needed to create a house that fit into a conservative neighborhood while satisfying the owners' penchant for modern rustic design. "They weren't looking for the typical Western house with log walls, small windows, and antler details," Logan says. "It needed to be unique to them, their family needs and desires."

He used two types of cedar siding to create pattern, texture, and depth on the exterior. Inside, he used an heirloom kimono, part of the family collection, to guide the design. "We made a conscious effort to find an appropriate place for it, and that really had a lot of influence on the way the interior detailing came together," Logan says.

The success of the project was due in part to the synergy between the team and the homeowners. "Custom home builders always hope that they will work on a team where the artistic vision is not only well received, but encouraged," says Don Frank, president of Dembergh Construction. Frank worked with CLB on completing the Peaks View Residence. "These owners had a very clear idea of how the home should serve the family and worked with CLB to come up with an original design that was clean and functional."

