

RUSTIC MODERN

CHASE REYNOLDS EWALD
PHOTOGRAPHS BY AUDREY HALL





SPORTY MOD HOME

East Jackson may be the last holdout in a town besieged by the highest real estate prices in the country. An older neighborhood of modest ranch homes with very few remaining buildable lots, it is an area in transition, slowly succumbing to the inevitable gentrification of one of the West's most glamorous destinations.

With change comes evolution, a point proven by a new addition to the neighborhood. In design (boxy), materials (metal), window placement (nontraditional), and spirit (bold interior colors and a twenty-seven-foot climbing wall), the home represents a decidedly modern take on new western living.

In a way, the homeowner had been doing her research for years. As a longtime western lifestyle, design, and travel writer/editor, Dina Mishev had had ample time to ponder the art of living, develop her palate, and refine her aesthetic. She moved to Jackson from the East Coast by way of college in the Midwest. She originally gravitated to the country's steepest mountain in order to become a double black diamond skier. She refers to herself as "the world's worst ski bum," because not only did she already have a 9-to-5 paralegal job lined up, she was unaware of the proximity of Grand Teton National Park. As quickly as she had moved to Wyoming, though, she ditched her well-laid plans. Within a couple of weeks, her intention to attend law school went out the window. And it soon became evident that her year in Jackson, characterized by a rekindled passion for the outdoors (she skis a stunning one hundred days a year), had turned into a life move.

Over a fifteen-year period, Mishev lived in a succession of dwellings, each a slight improvement over the last. In 2007 she and her then husband bought an empty lot in east Jackson. The real estate market was daunting, and east Jackson, though more densely settled than some areas in the valley, was no exception.

But it had huge appeal for a dual-career couple living in the valley year round. It is within walking distance to town; it's also close to Snow King, the locals' mountain, and the Cache Creek trailhead. The couple's original intention was to build on the entire lot, but life got in the way, during which time the market changed radically. Once things had settled down again, Mishev was the sole owner of a subdivided lot. Then, in 2013, she recalls, "I felt like I was in a rut." Within six weeks, she had met with Eric Logan of Carney Logan Burke Architects to discuss designing a house. Immediately afterwards, she recalls, "I rented out my condo for two months and decided to go ski and climb a really big mountain in Asia."

In a testament to her faith in her vision and the reliability of her team, she agreed on the home's design with architect Eric Logan, hired contractor Kevin Patno of Patno Construction, rented out her condo, and embarked on her adventure. The goal was to break ground as soon as she returned.

Logan describes the project as "us trying to wring as much as possible from the budget and the site. The approach from an architecture and planning standpoint was to keep it very simple. That meant: don't make the structure complicated. The project could gain complexity, but we wanted to start simply with a two-story box."

An initial—and crucial—decision from which all else followed was to create an upside-down design, placing the home's public rooms on the second floor. This allowed for selective vistas through creative window placement, which was essential in order to maximize privacy while opening up the home to views of Snow King, the Tetons, and the Gros Ventre mountains, the range that acts as Jackson Hole's eastern boundary. It also allowed for openings in the so-called box to create exterior living spaces that accessed the views and the outdoors without being hemmed in and overshadowed by the neighbors.

The house was small by design. "I didn't want much space," says the owner. "I appreciate efficiency, and small mandates that." She did have some specifications—she wanted an office, a guest room and, for the first time in her life, her own garage—but was open to suggestions for everything else, such as the exterior.

Mishev was happy with the initial drawing Logan showed her, requesting only one small modification:







High ceilings and polished concrete floors create a feeling of volume which is exaggerated by the room's lack of unnecessary architectural detail, thin profile quartz stone countertops, open back Kartell Masters counter stools, a transparent coffee table, and Victoria "Ghost" chairs. A burst of color in the backsplash of glass subway tiles enlivens the otherwise sedate room, while the wave-like under-counter treatment from ModWalls adds organic interest.



to create a powder room upstairs located as far away from the dining table as possible. With the public rooms on the second floor, there was the question of how to handle access. After consultation, Logan chose to set the stairwell on the south side of the house for its quality of light, then designed “cat-scratch windows” that cast an interesting pattern of shadows all day long.

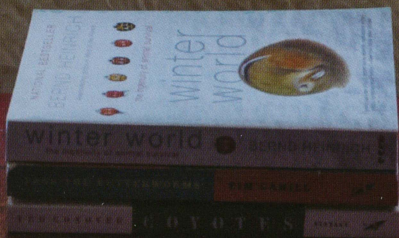
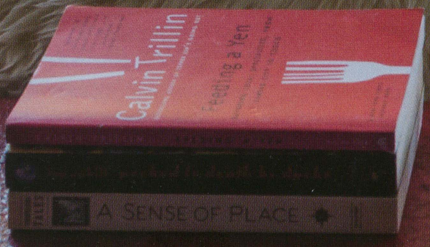
Mishev discussed the budget with her contractor then set off on her trip. Many weeks later and once off the mountain, Mishev made her way to Kashgar, China, where she had a Skype session with both architect and contractor. One week after her return to Jackson, they broke ground.

With construction under way, Mishev was excited to select her color palette and design her interiors. After writing about design for years, she had some ideas. She chose green glass tiles for the kitchen backsplash as her starting point, and used the same color downstairs on the walls of her office. Her use of bold blue and orange on some walls (with trim painted the same color as the rooms, to make it disappear), offset



Homeowner Dina Mishev's bold color choices throughout the house brighten and energize the spaces during Jackson Hole's occasional blizzards. In such a minimalist interior, the colorful zigzag fabric shade of YLighting's Missy suspension light stands out as a graceful artistic statement. The large format artwork is by Monica Aiello, a painter inspired by geological processes.





◀ A more subdued shade of blue is appropriate for a room devoted to repose. The white resin moose head represents a playful nod to regional mores.

▶ The homeowner made thoughtful budgetary decisions on items like Ikea cabinets, then devoted significant resources to important focal points such as lighting. The dramatic Ango Cascade Suspension Light from YLighting—inspired by and comprised of silkworm cocoons—lights the way for visitors to this upstairs/downstairs house and does double duty as a hanging sculpture.







by white ceilings, lends vibrancy to the space, especially in the winter when light levels are low.

“Color is the most exciting thing for me,” she says. “I thought I was using quite a bit of restraint because in my condo there wasn’t a single neutral color. In this house I have a neutral color on some of the walls; when I wanted a neutral, I used the same one throughout the home. I was proud of myself for not putting color on every single wall, but then the painters said they’d never seen so many colors in one house before.”

Mishev was able to wring the most out of her budget by choosing all the fixtures herself and weighing her choices carefully. But she happily blew her budget on light fixtures. These, she points out, can transform a space.

The outdoor rooms, one private, one public, enhance the home immeasurably. The deck off the master bedroom enjoys the morning light from the east and looks out over one of the owner’s favorite hikes. The second deck doubles the square footage of the living room. Partly protected from the sun and weather by an overhang, it gets a lot of use for dinner parties and is a great place for a nap in a hammock. For her dog and cat, it offers the perfect sunbathing spot while providing a strategic vantage point over the neighborhood.

One of the home’s most arresting features, the outdoor climbing wall, was a spontaneous decision as well as a practical solution to the question of how to access the roof. While the remainder of the house is clad in black corrugated metal, the climbing wall is made of five-foot-wide strips of plywood painted black; colorful purchased climbing holds are affixed to the plywood. It being Jackson Hole, of course contractor Kevin Patno is also a climber; he placed the holds so the climb would be challenging but manageable, and allowed for more than one route to the top.

Mishev’s years of writing about other people’s design projects proved invaluable as she assembled her team, crafted her budget, and chose her color palette, fixtures, and furnishings with decisiveness and authority. Small does not mean easy, yet the entire process was completed in nine months, a blink of the eye by home-construction standards.

“I’ve been writing about Carney Logan Burke projects for over a decade,” she reflects. “It helped that they knew me and knew my personality.”

It also helped that she instinctively knew how to design small to live large.

◀◀ Mishev’s skillful juxtaposition of color and minimal detailing create vibrant transitions between living spaces.

▲ Strategically placed windows allow carefully edited views of the nearby mountains while screening neighbors’ homes. White pendant lights pop against colorful walls and add a sculptural, organic touch to the interiors. Light fixtures, says the homeowner, can transform a space.