

SPECIAL ISSUE: ANNUAL GUIDE TO INDIAN ART

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Jeff Bridges

ON STARRING IN
SEABISCUIT AND FINDING
BLISS IN MONTANA

- JACKSON HOLE: LOG HOME STYLE
- 12 HOT NEW JEANS TO GET INTO
- GREAT COWBOY MOVIE HORSES

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The Great Room is geared for entertaining with plenty of comfortable seating and tables for playing cards and other games. Here, and in every mountain-facing space, architect Ellis Nunn positioned the windows so that the namesake peak of the Grand Tetons is dead-center.

Grand Views of the Tetons

THIS JACKSON, WYOMING, LOG HOUSE
IS A SHOWCASE OF LOCAL CRAFTS
AND MOUNTAIN VISTAS ALL YEAR LONG



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I N T E R I O R

By

Jim Kemp

Rugged Alpine scenery. Exciting outdoor activities. Celebrity neighbors. No wonder the owners of this beautiful spread find as many opportunities as possible to visit their seasonal retreat in Jackson, Wyoming.

During their annual three-week winter holiday sojourn, the owners, an active young couple with 6-year-old boy-and-girl twins, make certain they get in plenty of snowmobiling. Another favorite sport is skiing at the stone-throw-away resorts of Jackson Hole, Snow King, and Grand Targee.

Summers are so pleasant that the family spends the entire season in Jackson. It would be hard not to envy their list of things to do: hiking, white-water rafting, horseback riding, golfing, and fly-fishing. And, as the owners are quick to point out, the schedule also calls for attending frequent social events and hosting family and friends from all over the country.

photography by Roger Wade



A rock etched with elk is snuggled into a niche in the fireplace of the home office. The matching firebox opening below is decorated with a custom cast-iron screen made in Utah, while a cowboy statue on the raised hearth was purchased in Dallas. The buckskin tab curtains were made locally.

"We have a pretty active summer," says the wife, in a classic example of understatement.

If their energy runs low, the owners can simply entertain their guests and themselves with a VIP-sighting tour. Hands down, the best-known local is Vice President Dick Cheney. Actor Harrison Ford owns a house down the road toward Jackson Hole. And actress Connie Stevens, from whom the owners purchased their land, lives across the street.

Sloping sharply downhill, the five-acre plot is part of the Indian Springs gated development. Of the subdivision's 1,200 acres, about half are devoted to home sites of varying sizes as well as recreational facilities, including an equestrian center. The remaining land is owned jointly as a nature sanctuary that includes a resident herd of elk.

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*At Elk Camp,
massive stone fireplaces
and beamed ceilings are
icons that honor and preserve
the Western tradition.*

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Named in honor of the wildlife, Elk Camp sits in a sort of amphitheater carved out of the hillside. To the north and west are one-of-a-kind views of the Grand Tetons. The Snake Range of mountains is to the south, and to the east is yet another mountain. Gros Ventre, or "Big Belly."

Architect Ellis Nunn of Jackson Hole designed the two-story, 11,000-square-foot dwelling as a combination of new and old, both stylistically and technologically. Logs imbue the house with the look of a venerable Adirondack lodge. In contrast, contemporary prow windows open the interior to the dramatic mountain vistas.

You'd never know it by looking, but the logs are largely for aesthetic appeal. In actuality, the house is a hybrid of conventional and log construction. With this method, log beams, exterior siding, and architectural details are combined with everyday plaster board interior walls. This technique avoids creating the effect of the dark and dreary rooms often associated with traditional, or full, log construction. It also helps to accommodate amenities—electrical wiring and indoor plumbing, to name only two—unknown to the original pioneers of the West.

Planned in a thoroughly modern manner, the interior of the home boasts a large family room, separate living room, club room, five bedrooms, six full baths, and four half baths. In addition, it offers other features such as a wine cellar, home office, outdoor dining decks, a sprawling patio with a built-in barbecue, and a guesthouse.



A soft sage color scheme and small-scale furnishings distinguish the daughter's room. Friendly bears carved into the bedposts keep her company throughout the night. During the day, she can gaze out a bay window in the direction of the home of neighbor actress Connie Stevens.



When the owners belly up to the kitchen breakfast bar they sit in bronco-backed bar chairs by craftsman John Mortensen of nearby Wilson, Wyoming. The chairs' rustic flair is the perfect complement to the custom wooden cabinetry and granite countertops.



Reminiscent of an Adirondack retreat, Elk Lodge is dotted with balconies and decks along the mountain-facing rear wall. These expand usable living space for entertaining or simply relaxing with a good book or viewing the wildlife that call the Grand Teton's home. A large patio boasts an in-ground hot tub that's popular any time, especially after a hard day of winter skiing. Fitted with a built-in barbecue, the patio is an informal "summer" kitchen where the owners prepare dinners featuring grilled steaks and turkey breasts.

Then there's the kitchen.

"We entertain a lot and I enjoy cooking," says the wife, building up to an explanation of what's to come. "My problem with other homes we've had is there were never enough sinks and dishwashers."

It's doubtful that will ever be a problem here. The kitchen work area is home to four sinks, two dishwashers, two ovens, a microwave, a warming drawer, a commercial range, and one very large refrigerator. By any estimate, the kitchen can handle the work of making the family's pancakes-with-all-the-trimmings breakfasts and pasta dinners with ease.

An unabashed tribute to the Western tradition, the interior features architectural details such as beamed ceilings and massive stone fireplaces. Designers Stephanie

Dandridge of Indian Harbor Beach, Florida, and Laurie Interiors in Jackson expanded the regional look with large hanging light fixtures made in Utah that are embellished with pine cones and other rustic motifs. Custom fireplace screens by regional craftsmen vividly portray bucking broncos and other regional icons.

The decorating veers toward the lighthearted and whimsical in the twins' quarters. Cowboys rule in the son's retreat, where a faux-painted Western lariat extends entirely around the room. It complements a restored 1940s coin-operated riding horse. Images of cowboy hats, boots, and spurs highlight the son's bathroom tile.

The daughter's room is akin to a fanciful bear den. Carved cubbies adorn the

bed posters as well as a floor lamp. These accents supplement other small-scale chairs and other furnishings that unmistakably mark this room as being a young lady's domain.

Naturally, encounters with wildlife occur more frequently outdoors. Last year, for example, the subdivision's herd of elk barged into the backyard and onto a large patio housing a hot tub. "They broke the tub cover and even got the children's swings going by pushing them with their noses," says the bemused owner.

Besides the elk, the house has proved popular with weekend guests. One couple visiting from Florida enjoyed their stay so much that, says the owner, "They ended up buying a lot in Jackson and plan to build a house of their own."