



## BLUEBIRD POWDER DAY

Mountain homes tend to be characterized by their materials, usually log, timber, and stone. In a ski house for a young family within Montana's Yellowstone Club, it is glass—applied judiciously, strategically, and creatively—and a touchstone shade of blue that sets the tone for a contemporary approach to the ski-cabin experience.

This approach is announced at the home's entrance. Set within a traditional mountain architectural facade, a blue door is flanked by tall, narrow windows with trim in the same color. The entrance opens into a jewel-box foyer: dusky blue walls matching the front door; a luxurious sheepskin pouf ottoman and matching chair on modern legs; a white lacquer console with gold-toned hardware; a metallic chandelier; and one serene black-and-white painting of aspen trunks in snow. This low-ceilinged, curated experience allows for the joy of discovery in a transitional space before one is drawn into the great room. As the guest moves into the heart of the home, propelled by its sense of space, its remarkable vaulted ceiling and a picture-perfect view of Lone Mountain centered in the window, there's a double-take moment. Three panels of glass set into the wood floor force one's attention away from the view. One looks down and there is the briefest of moments before realizing the floor is glass (rather than, say, a gaping hole). This provokes a frisson of adrenaline, an instinctive reaction to the fear of falling. The scenario, then, is this: One is propelled forward by the promise of the spectacular room and view ahead, stopped abruptly, caught by the surprise, made to laugh. When one does eventually enter the great vaulted space, it is made even grander for having had one's attention interrupted. The glass floor is fun, it's unexpected, and it sets up the newcomer for the experience of the house.

The trick panels, however, are merely a precursor to the big move. The defining feature within the house is a three-story glass staircase. Beautiful, sculptural, and precision crafted, on a practical level it serves as a light well and ties the three stories together. On an aesthetic level it creates drama and promise. And it sends a clear message: This is not just another mountain house.

The high-elevation structure (at 8,500 feet) was designed by Corey Kelly of Locati Architects in a traditional refined rustic style appropriate to the neighborhood, with reclaimed-wood siding, reclaimed timbers

Within an outwardly traditional home designed by Locati Architects at Montana's Yellowstone Club, surprises abound. Architect Corey Kelly and Susie Hoffman of Envi Design collaborated closely with the owners to craft a custom experience, one with vibrancy and verve. It starts at the entry, with Mongolian sheep wool Baxter chairs, a Terzani chandelier, and a console designed by Envi and fabricated by Earth Elements set against a blue paint from Sherwin Williams called Moscow Midnight. The Glacier rug is from Rosemary Hallgarten, the artwork a photograph by Tracie Spence.



and trusses, and stone. It is built for comfort and, in classic ski-house style, is able to accommodate a crowd: It has seven bedrooms (including two bunkrooms) over three levels, each with its own relationship to the outdoors.

For the interiors, the owners brought in Susie Hoffman of Envi Interior Design Studio to execute a complete bespoke customization, from the macro—the glass staircase—to the micro, such as hardware. Hoffman worked closely with her clients throughout the project. “This family has a strong passion for Montana and it was so enjoyable to work with them,” she says. “They have a vibrant sensibility and approached the project in a way that was fun and whimsical.”

The fun appears in elements like the blue kitchen island, doorbells made of chairlift cable, charismatic and playful lighting fixtures, and contemporary art pieces. Striking and unusual colors, patterns, and textures can be found in tile in the living room wet bar, in the bathrooms, and in the kitchen—where, in an

unexpected application, the tiles extend from the backsplash, travel around a corner, and continue up to the edge of the ceiling. A neon sign urges, “Choose Happy!”

The whimsy makes its play in bold graphic wallpapers in the bunk rooms and guest rooms, fabric “mounts,” and a meticulously executed ski wall. In a brilliant play on retro ski cabins, where old skis are often mounted on walls as decor, Hoffman enlisted her husband, blacksmith and furniture maker Ira Cuelho, to craft an art piece at the base of the glass stairs. Two rows, one facing up, one facing down, of edge-to-edge skis are carefully arranged in an undulating chevron pattern. Hoffman spent hours searching for vintage skis (they had to have been manufactured before curved silhouettes were introduced) in the right length and, together with her husband, balancing the resulting colors and patterns when aligned. The statement is fresh, bold, and contemporary while speaking to the ski-house experience in a new and unexpected way.

Creativity is important, but comfort was a key driver of design throughout the house. Furnishings needed to be both luxurious and durable (this is, after all, a ski house, meant to handle a lot of people and activity and able to tolerate ski wear, clunky cowboy boots, excited kids, and food in the living room). This was balanced by touches of glamour which make an appearance in the foyer chandelier and lacquered console, the tufted suede seating in the mudroom, the vivid magenta fabric on dining chairs and living room ottomans (designed to conveniently tuck under the coffee table), and the Lucite bed in the master bedroom.

Architect Corey Kelly credits the homeowners for bringing energy and style to the project; he recalls “a huge Pinterest

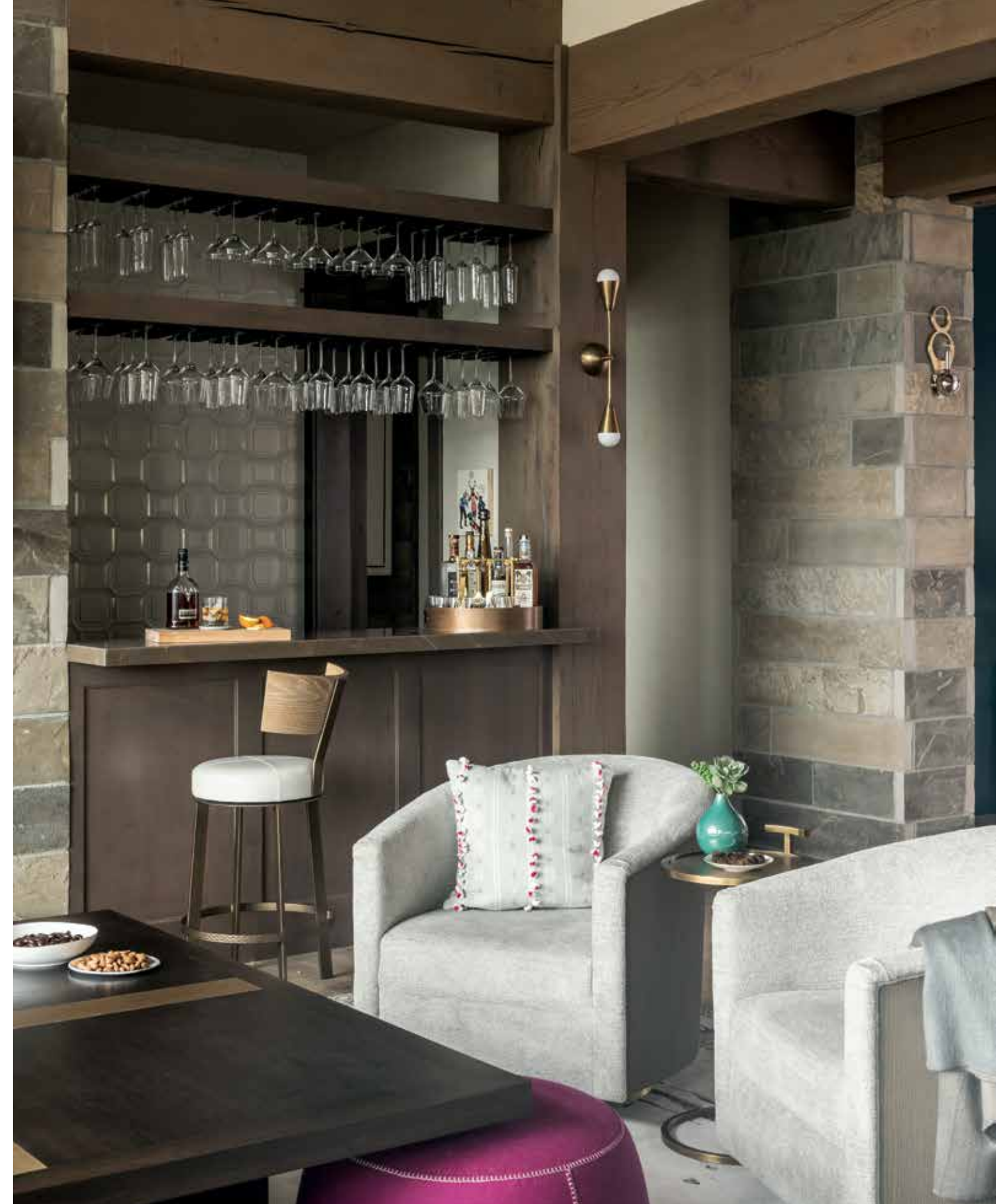
board and a million different ideas.” For an interior designer, says Susie Hoffman, it was a dream collaboration. “This was a project where I could really stretch my legs,” she says. “They were open to so many cool ideas, and came up with so many cool ideas of their own.”

It’s the result of this attitude that led to the installation of a kid-friendly trapdoor creating a secret passageway from a bunkroom to the great room above. When considered in conjunction with the custom leather poker table, it seems this house offers something for everyone—whether they’re staying in by the fire or bursting out from the ski room in pursuit of what became the guiding motif for the house: the ultimate bluebird powder day.

The kitchen is scaled for family gatherings and entertaining, while a photograph by Nine Francois draws the eye down the hallway. Blue tones extend throughout the space—on the base of the kitchen island, in the tiles, and on the leather banquette cushions. The placement of the outdoor lounge adjacent to the kitchen and dining room gives it the feel of another room and makes it a natural extension of the indoor areas.







FACING: The vaulted great room is centered on a drop-dead view of Lone Mountain. There, two comfortable A. Rudin chairs face the view. The unexpectedly bright Bernhardt Design poufs tuck under an Envi-designed coffee table fabricated by Earth Elements. The sofas are from Baxter; the rug is Tai Ping.

ABOVE: The built-in bar in the corner of the living room combines Walker Zanger tile and sconces from Apparatus. The graceful backs of the Bon Bon stools from Berman Rosetti add a sculptural touch.





LEFT: The dining area enjoys immediate outdoor access and 180-degree views of the mountainscape. Magenta houndstooth fabric on chairs from Bright Furniture pop against the gray of the Madeline Weinrib hand-knotted silk rug. The Tod Von Mertens maple buffet, stained silver, separates the dining and living areas. The bear-on-cabin painting by Anke Schofield is a custom commission.

ABOVE: Diners benefit from a dinner setting curated by Envi atop a maple slab table under the Calla Mobile chandelier from John Pomp.





ABOVE: Tubs from Blu Bathworks are centered on the view. One bathroom has custom concrete countertops with integral sinks by Elements Concrete. The spa-like master bath combines a graphic-patterned tile with a black travertine floor, Taj Mahal countertops, and a Terzani chandelier.

ABOVE: In the junior master bedroom a Poltrona Frau bed is topped with custom-designed bedding by Envi. The rug is by Angela Adams, the Redondo chair is by Moroso. The painting by Robert McCaully is centered over a gas fireplace that has been elevated to the level of the bed.





LEFT: Playful, whimsical style is on vivid display in the lively bunkroom, where beds custom designed by Envi are accessed by an ombre stair. Envi also designed the bedding; the fabrics and wallpaper are from Spoonflower. Bernhardt Design made the Mitt Chair.

FACING: The guest room has fun with shape and texture through wallpaper from Knoll and a rug from Madeline Weinrib. Envi designed the bedding, as well as the deer mounts, which were made by Near and Dear.







ABOVE: A unique glass staircase runs through all three floors, serving as an artistic statement and carrying light throughout the home's interiors.

BELOW: An art wall of '80s-vintage skis was custom made by the designer's husband, artisan Ira Cuelho. The custom card table in the rec room was designed by Envi and fabricated by local craftsmen Russ Fry and Brian Pickering.

ABOVE: The outdoor living area has the feel of a comfortable lounge, with furnishings from Sutherland, dining for eight, a massive fire pit, and a killer view.