



# SOUTHERN ACCENTS

ON 20 ACRES IN JACKSON, WYOMING, A MULTIGENERATIONAL RETREAT MIXES RUGGED WESTERN MATERIALS AND ELEGANT SOUTHERN COMFORTS WITH DRAMATIC TETON VIEWS

STORY BY **NORMAN KOLPAS**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **GIBEON PHOTOGRAPHY**



Accordion doors transform the dining room into an open-air space. An antique tin ceiling and a chandelier assembled from old iron lanterns add informality. FACING PAGE: At nightfall, a carefully planned balance of exterior and interior lighting creates a glow. Interior designer Janet Baker says, "You can't wait to get there and see what this house is all about." The major living areas face a large manmade pond and views of the snowy Tetons.



ARCHITECTURE BY **LOCATI ARCHITECTS** INTERIOR DESIGN BY **JANET BAKER** CONSTRUCTION BY **SCHLAUCH BOTTCHEER CONSTRUCTION**



When describing the idyllic 20-acre Jackson, Wyoming, setting where he was commissioned to create a three-generation family retreat,

architect Jerry Locati resorts to a Hollywood-perfect comparison: “Picture *A River Runs Through It*,” he suggests. “A river does run parallel with the site, and there’s a bird refuge, golf, fishing, hunting and skiing all nearby, plus spectacular views of the Tetons. This property has it all.”

A grand site, however, does not always translate into an inviting home. The challenge faced by Locati and project architect Darin Hoekema, both of Bozeman-based Locati Architects, was to celebrate the glorious setting with a traditional Western vernacular while combining it with the sort of elegant comforts one might associate with the homeowners’ native South.

The solution lay in finding a middle ground between rusticity and refinement. Since the house is intended as a getaway for the owners, their grown children and grandchildren, the design was sensitive to the requirements of a multigenerational family. Varied rooflines and angled walls break up the 8,000 square feet of living space into what looks like several smaller structures that might have been joined together over time. “It gives the house the feeling of a compound,” Locati explains.

Using regional materials consistent with the environment was a priority, according to Locati. The design team chose sustainably reclaimed timbers and barn boards; Chief Cliff stone, a type of >>

Off-white antique granite countertops and backsplash tiles grace the spacious, airy kitchen, which features custom cream-colored cabinetry. To maintain a sense of openness, the cupboards above the island were built with leaded-glass panels and suspended from the ceiling on hand-forged iron braces.



Varied rooflines and angled walls cleverly break up the volumes of the 8,000-square-foot home, giving it the feel of a house that has changed over time. **FACING PAGE:** A Chief Cliff stone fireplace is the focal point of the great room. An antique Italian gilded chandelier (rewired for electricity) hangs from the 18-foot-high ceiling.



## OUTSIDE INFLUENCES

Drawing from decades of experience designing homes across the nation, interior designer Janet Baker shares her tips for incorporating design influences from beyond the rustic West:

**MIX IT UP** There are many ways to incorporate your personal style. In addition to furniture and decorative touches like artwork and collectibles, consider fabrics, wall coverings and other ways to add textures and colors.

**STRIVE FOR BALANCE** Get an idea of the look you'd like to end up with, then stop, sit down and think it through. In the overall scheme, subtle touches can be as influential as the larger decorative strokes. Not every element has to be spectacular.

**DON'T STICK WITH THE STATUS QUO** Don't feel limited by the prevailing style of the region, or even of the architecture itself.

**BE TRUE TO YOURSELF** Once you have a good sense of the landscape and the home's architecture, ask yourself, "What are the colors and styles that I love, and what would be the most interesting way to bring those influences into this home?" The answer will make your home so much more fun and compelling.

“WE DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE ANY BIG STATEMENTS OF COLOR THAT WOULD DETRACT FROM THE NATURAL BEAUTY RIGHT THERE BEFORE YOU.”

*Janet Baker*



slate quarried in Montana; and custom metalwork, including hammered-steel lighting fixtures. And while the house looks genuinely rustic from a distance, a closer view reveals that the materials have been fashioned and finished with subtly smoother surfaces and cleaner lines. “We made contemporary use of old materials,” Locati acknowledges.

At every step of the building process, the architects collaborated closely not only with their clients but also, more crucially, with the clients’ longtime interior de-

signer, Janet Baker, who formally retired from the business a decade ago but nonetheless continues to work closely with the couple. With the aim of “softening all that stone and lumber and steel with a Southern flair,” she chose “light and airy fabrics” for upholstery and window treatments and combed furniture stores and antique shops for elegant old—or, at least, traditionally styled—chandeliers, chairs, armoires and other pieces that contribute touches of gracious style.

The design team also took special care to include >>





Shaded bathroom windows frame panoramic views. An antique French cabinet was repurposed as a storage chest, and its color became the accent hue for the rest of the room. A French pearl chandelier hangs from the ceiling, which is paneled in reclaimed barn wood. FACING PAGE: Shaw carpeting and Anderson mahogany flooring subtly ground the luxury of the master bedroom. A custom-made bed and settee backed by recycled-oak paneling suit the scale of the 12-foot-tall ceilings accented with recycled-fir timbers.