

# a story in STONE & TIMBER

In the 12-by-12-foot foyer, massive reclaimed beams of Douglas fir and masonry in local Chief Cliff stone form arches overhead that align perfectly with those framing the exterior entry portico (opposite page). A Persian carpet adds warmth to a floor of Jerusalem limestone.



## *home of the year*

IN THIS YEAR'S  
WINNING HOME, OLD  
WORLD STYLE MEETS  
THE AMERICAN WEST,  
CREATING A GRAND  
SENSE OF HISTORY  
WORTHY OF ITS ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN SETTING

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Great residential design does more than merely create a living space and endow it with style and comfort. When all the many factors that go into realizing a home—architecture, construction, craftsmanship, interior design and a client with vision—come together just right, the result can be a structure that dynamically responds to and interacts with its environment. That rare creation conjures the uncanny impression that it was always meant to be where it is—or indeed has always occupied its setting.

Such is the case with the *Mountain Living* Home of the Year 2006, a 7,500-square-foot residence that both literally and figuratively stands above its surroundings in the elite Yellowstone Club community in Montana’s Big Sky country.

Like many great homes, this one began with the land itself, almost eight acres atop a private plateau with several-hundred-foot drop-offs all around and vistas sweeping almost a full 360 degrees. To the west rises Pioneer Mountain, Yellowstone Club’s own ski resort. Off to the northwest is Lone Mountain, part of the Big Sky Resort. Views to the north-northeast take in the beautiful Spanish Peaks. Due east stretches the Gallatin Valley, with a distant glimpse of Yellowstone National Park. Across a private canyon to the south and southwest lie the club’s private links, designed by golf legend Tom Weiskopf.

A setting of such scope and grandeur called for a design that, if possible, felt even older than the Old West. “We wanted the house to look as if it had been there for a very long time,” recalls one of the owners, a Florida-based couple that viewed the property as their opportunity to build the ideal summer-and-winter family retreat. “So it had to blend Old World characteristics with a Montana look.” >>

OPPOSITE: The living room features a 16-foot stone fireplace with a massive timber mantel set at a 7½-foot height. Custom windows by Montana Sash & Door ([mtsashanddoor.com](http://mtsashanddoor.com)) frame the view. ABOVE LEFT: An outdoor dining room with bentwood dining furniture by La Lune ([lalunecollection.com](http://lalunecollection.com)) takes in the Pioneer Mountain ski area. ABOVE RIGHT: Easy-care cotton floral upholstery adds warmth and comfort to seating.

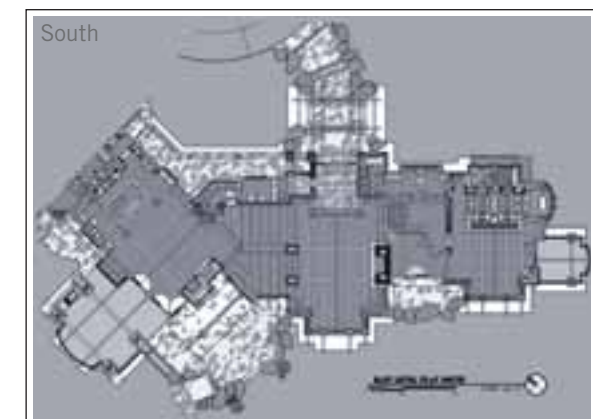


## With that initial directive,

Jerry Locati, AIA, principal of Locati Architects in Bozeman, and his associates—including architect-in-charge Darin Hoekema, AIA, and team member Brian Tolstedt, AIA—set out to design what Locati describes as “a traditional mountain lodge with European flair.” The sprawling residence that resulted features extensive antique and recycled woodwork, including massive timbers. Walls were fashioned from Chief Cliff stone, quarried in Kalispell, which displays a rich and varied palette of earth tones. Positioned amid a landscape that was largely left in its natural state, with a floor plan that pivots many of the living spaces away from strict right angles in favor of optimum views, the entire residence seems to have emerged organically from the earth over time, much as the surrounding Rockies rose through the eons.

Inside, that grand scale impresses all the more, as an entry foyer framed with Douglas fir timbers gives way to a baronial 25-by-35-foot living room with a 25-foot ceiling. Yet, every element of the architecture in this room—the arched stone transition >>

OPPOSITE: The peaked roofline of the house—including a living room, at left, rising to a height of 25 feet, and the master bedroom to its right—echoes the bold profile of the Rockies. Surrounding the house, a border of manicured flowerbeds and lawns yields to natural native vegetation, including blue spruces, aspens, and lodgepole pines.



### Floor plans

The house follows the terrain of its promontory setting, with the master suite (on the right in the “South” plan) six steps lower than the living room. The plan optimizes views from the living room and master bedroom, and rotates the wing containing the kitchen and dining areas toward the best views. Beyond the kitchen (“North” plan) is a three-car garage, above which are a bunk room, media room, and billiard room.

from the foyer, the ceiling beams and trusses, the bold stroke of the fireplace's massive beam mantel—surprisingly draws the eye away from itself, directing the gaze instead toward the window wall, which frames breathtaking natural views. “We’ll just sit by that window,” says the lady of the house, “and have a glass of wine and talk at the end of the day.”

It’s in creating such human-scale moments at which the home especially excels (see sidebar, page 133). Credit for that goes not only to the architecture but also to the team of some 300 local craftspeople who spent more than two years building it under the supervision of Schlauch Bottcher Construction in Bozeman. The painstaking nature of the work can be seen not just in its realization of the grand design but also in myriad small details. Pegs in the beams and trusses throughout the house, for example, give the wood an almost Arts-and-Crafts style; yet, they also cleverly conceal the steel bolts and sheer plates required in the beams to help bolster the massive structure in a seismically active zone. In the family room, a chunk of Chief Cliff stone weighing more than a ton was lifted in by crane to

become the fireplace hearth, left unfinished to look as if the fireplace and the room itself had been built around an immovable boulder already on the site.

Completing the look of a grand home created to revel in the beauty of its surroundings, the owners worked with interior designer Lynnelle Oseroff-Stoner, assisted by Jean Mickelson of Locati Interiors, to give every living space a warmly human touch. “They wanted it to feel more intimate than grand,” says Oseroff-Stoner, who worked with the owners to fulfill that goal with such touches as sofas and chairs comfortably upholstered in richly colored and patterned cottons, and an assortment of antique and new Persian carpets on the hand-finished walnut floors. Throughout the house, walls display a collection of art the homeowners assembled by visiting artists and galleries both locally and in the greater Rocky Mountain environs.

The result of all these efforts is a residence that not only well deserves its accolades as Home of the Year but feels innately like a home for the ages. “It’s so much fun,” concludes architect Jerry Locati, “to bring people’s dreams to life, and to create a structure that is going to be around for a lot longer than we are.” ●

OPPOSITE: In the kitchen, cabinetry by Mountain High Woodworks ([mountainhighwoodworks.com](http://mountainhighwoodworks.com)) was custom-built to look as if the room had been furnished over time, with bases designed like furniture legs, and a mixture of styles and hardware. The chef-grade gas range sits in a recess resembling an old-fashioned kitchen hearth, complete with an 8-foot-wide stone beam that conceals exhaust ventilation. Paneling to the stove’s left hides a Sub-Zero refrigerator.

THE PAINSTAKING NATURE OF THE WORK CAN BE SEEN NOT JUST IN ITS REALIZATION OF THE GRAND DESIGN BUT ALSO IN MYRIAD SMALL DETAILS

**CEILING BEAMS** Reclaimed timbers of Douglas fir found across North America provide structural support and aesthetic appeal while endowing the house with an aura of history.



**STONEWORK** As well as forming massive walls and columns, blocks of Chief Cliff stone quarried in Montana also describe arches over the doors and the passages.



**IRONWORK** Forged-iron fire screens custom made to the architects’ designs add old-fashioned craftsmanship to the fireplaces in both the living and the family rooms.



**LIGHTING** In both the outdoor and indoor living spaces, electrically wired wall sconces made of iron and glass evoke the rustic ambiance of a traditional Rocky Mountain lodge.





## { DESIGN BOOK }

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**BUILDER** Schlauch Bottcher Construction, Bozeman, MT, (406) 585-0735, sbconstruction.com

**INTERIOR DESIGN** Lynnelle Oseroff-Stoner, in association with Locati Interiors, Bozeman, MT, (406) 587-1139, locatiarchitects.com



OPPOSITE: Subtle floral and striped fabrics in soft shades of beige, rose, and green give the master bedroom a restful, intimate aura. ABOVE LEFT: The adjoining master bath includes his-and-hers vanities and, in its own window alcove, a platform spa tub with views of the Gallatin Valley. ABOVE RIGHT: Local boulders help define the perimeters of firelit outdoor living spaces.

## Restoring a Human Scale

Large-scaled though the Home of the Year's surroundings and structure may be, its architecture and interior design incorporate ingenious strategies that keep life within its walls on a human scale:

**DROP THE CEILING** Though the ridgeline in the living and family rooms may rise as high as 25 feet, arched beams visually drop its level. "A lot of times, and at night in particular," says architect Jerry Locati, "it can feel like the ceiling is only 10 or 12 feet high."

**INVITING MATERIALS AND COLORS** Although the timber-and-stone construction feels massive, the earth tones of the materials chosen and their finishes keep the rooms feeling warm and inviting. Upholstery in colorful and comfortable cotton fabrics puts everyone at ease.

**CREATE ROOMS WITHIN ROOMS** Interior designer Lynnelle Oseroff-Stoner deliberately arranged smaller groupings of furniture within the large-scale floor plans, creating spaces that are both intimate and approachable, perfect for encouraging conversation.

**ADD PERSONAL TOUCHES** From the art collected by the owners expressly for their home, to carefully selected antique furniture, artifacts and rugs, every view within the house reveals items that seem to have their own history, building a sense of pedigree.