

TRANQUIL RETREAT

A Texas couple's second-home sanctuary in the heart of Jackson Hole is imbued with a sense of calm and relaxed sophistication

ARCHITECTURE Galambos Architects
INTERIOR DESIGN Janice McCubbin Interiors

STORY BY TARA N. WILFONG PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUDREY HALL



MASTERING THE MIX

The entry foyer (left) offers a preview of the home's interior spaces, which feature an eclectic mix of materials and a strong indoor/outdoor connection. Juxtaposing the contemporary angles of the stacked-stone walls and clear fir panels, rustic beams stand at attention and delineate the long hallway below. Blurring the line between outside and inside, glass panels between the beams allow the great outdoors to easily filter in.



PERCHED ATOP THE EAST GROS VENTRE BUTTE, OVERLOOKING THE TOWN OF JACKSON, WYOMING, IS A SPRAWLING REFUGE CALLED AMANGANI. THE NAME MEANS "PEACEFUL HOME" IN SANSKRIT, and this ultra-luxury resort with adjacent homesites is just that. A natural palette infused with indigenous materials lends each space here a Zen-like quality that naturally promotes peace and tranquility.

It was this overwhelming sense of calm that first drew a Texas couple to the Amangani. As their extended visits grew more frequent, they began envisioning a second home on the resort's breathtaking grounds. "During one of our visits, we noticed construction had begun on a home adjacent to the resort," says the homeowner. "Pangs of envy set in as we watched the home progress because the location, the lot and the panoramic views were second to none."

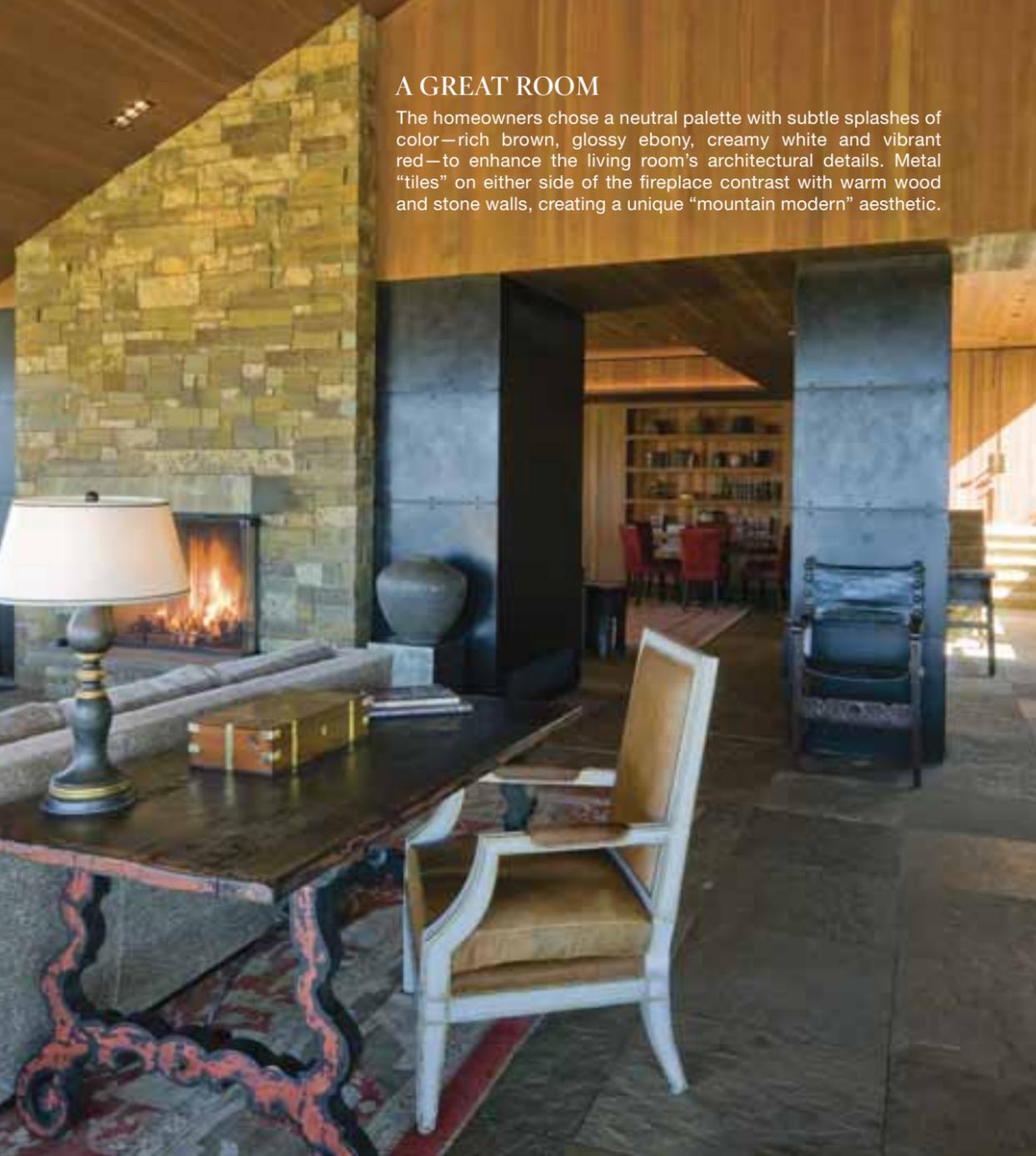
A Dutch businessman owned the home, and as time passed, the Texas couple couldn't help but wonder about its slow progress. When they learned the home was for sale, they quickly snatched it off the market. Retaining the original owner's

architect, the new homeowners continued their predecessor's vision, with a few minor tweaks, taking the home from an empty shell to completion. "When they purchased the home, the inside was practically a blank canvas for them to add their personal touches to," says John Galambos, principal of Aspen-based Galambos Architects. "They were very savvy about the vision of their home, particularly how it would function and complement their lifestyle."

The couple envisioned a cozy retreat brimming with architectural detail. Like many mountain homes, it features soaring ceilings and huge, unencumbered windows designed to capture mountain views. But the similarities end there. Unique and unexpected elements, from hidden door hinges to metal accents, give the home a contemporary Asian flair. "When most people think of contemporary design, they visualize starkness, but there is nothing stark about this home," Galambos says. "There is simply a coherence and a calm that is very powerful. I would almost call it a 'natural contemporary' style, meaning that it's rooted in nature and uses natural materials, but in a cleaner, more contemporary way." >>

A GREAT ROOM

The homeowners chose a neutral palette with subtle splashes of color—rich brown, glossy ebony, creamy white and vibrant red—to enhance the living room’s architectural details. Metal “tiles” on either side of the fireplace contrast with warm wood and stone walls, creating a unique “mountain modern” aesthetic.



KITCHEN CREATION

Although the original design called for a small European-style kitchen—complete with a bar-sized refrigerator and a small table tucked between the island and the cabinets—the homeowners knew it wouldn’t fit their American sensibilities. Reconfiguring the space to include full-sized appliances and plenty of cabinets, they created an inviting yet hard-working space.

CABINETS To maintain an element of European sophistication, Galambos chose ebonized oak cabinetry to complement the home’s metal accents. Single-panel doors and brushed-nickel hardware are unobtrusive yet visually stunning.

APPLIANCES A modern stainless-steel side-by-side refrigerator and freezer are the perfect foil for the French La Cornue cast-iron stove.

FIREPLACE A countertop-height wood-burning fireplace causes visitors to do a double-take. “Although we haven’t used the fireplace yet, we thought it was a cool addition to our kitchen,” the homeowner says. “If nothing else, it’s a conversation starter and an element that adds a little more atmosphere to the space.”

COUNTERTOPS Honed black granite countertops give the kitchen a clean, polished finish and allow ample space for food preparation.





THE SUITE LIFE
Natural materials, an earthy palette and spectacular mountain views give the master bedroom (opposite) a peaceful, spa-like ambience. Unique sliding doors that appear to float in midair lead into one of the home's stylish en suite bathrooms (this page). To create the illusion of depth, clear vertical-grain fir paneling covers the walls and ceiling. Sleek Boffi faucets are mounted above basins from Hastings Bath Collection.

The canvas for this design is the walls. Shying away from rustic, knotty panels, Galambos opted instead for clear fir panels in variegated sizes, with which he covered the walls—and the ceilings—to add depth. Foregoing the traditional crown moulding and baseboard, he instead anchored the panels with one-inch recessed bands of black metal that give the illusion that the walls are floating. For even more impact, Galambos meticulously paneled the doors to perfectly match the walls. Thanks to hidden Rixon hinges, when the doors are shut, it's unclear where the walls end and the doors begin.

To add interest to the planes of wood, Galambos chose an unorthodox blend of metal, stone and glass that creates a funky yet sophisticated backdrop. Stacked-stone mantels and accent walls, as well as large slabs of naturally quarried stone for the floor, bring the outdoors in, while huge tiles of opaque metal add definition and character to the design. Metal niches tucked in the walls along the hallways provide a contemporary frame for antique photos, prints and drawings. "The major idea that ties all of these details together is subtlety," Galambos says. "In any design, if you add flair in subtle pockets, the end effect is not only strong but precise. The best thing about this home and its unique blend of materials is that it has a pure, natural beauty that makes it feel like it belongs to the West." ●

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