RHAPSODY

February 2017

David Oyelowo

A serious man

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Mountain

WRJ Design

From Aspen to Tahoe, mountain-style homes typically incorporate their landscape's rugged natural materials, such as wood beams and stone fireplaces, as well as rustic accents like antlers and fur pillows. For Rush Jenkins, founder of Jackson Hole–based WRJ Design, achieving a sophisticated high-alpine look is a matter of combining the West's natural beauty and rich history with internationally sourced pieces—from Turkish textiles to German furs—and a distinctly modern sensibility. An Idaho farm boy who studied landscape architecture and fine art and previously worked as a design curator for Sotheby's New York, Jenkins brings a unique high-country-meets-fine-art background to the work he creates. Last year, he and co-owner Klaus Baer won *Mountain Living* magazine's "Home of the Year" award for a project that incorporated Montana stone and reclaimed wood from snow fences. "I think there are those rustic elements that are part of the region that can be brought into the architecture and interiors in creative ways that don't feel heavy," Jenkins says.

In the seven years since WRJ set up shop in Wyoming, Jenkins has noted a shift in mountain style toward the contemporary. "I think we brought a much cleaner aesthetic—more of an alpine rustic aesthetic that was a blend of, say, East Coast or European, and some of the West." The pursuit of this blend leads Jenkins to create understated yet layered interiors with pieces like 19th-century stag heads from Kaiser Wilhelm's collection or fur pillows harking back to the West's trapping heritage. "I think an interior should unfold like a wonderful novel," he says.

Clockwise from top left: retractable windows allow for dining on the river in this home by JLF Design Build; clean silhouettes meet mountain elements; a Jackson living room opens onto the landscape; a Kaiser Wilhelm stag head hangs above a client's fireplace

Ryan Christopher (opposite page, top); Audrey Hall (all others)