MOUNTAIN LIVING®

Home of the Year

HAPPY DECOR

HOLIDAY STYLE

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Floor-to-ceiling draperies made with Loro Piana fabric soften the lines in the great room, where a magnificent landscape painting by Clyde Aspevig holds its own against the astonishing natural vistas.

DAZZLE US

A family invites a blue-ribbon design team to create their legacy property—named *Mountain Living*'s 2020 Home of the Year—in Park City, Utah

STORY **TATE GUNNERSON** PHOTOGRAPHY **ROGER DAVIES**

ARCHITECTURE **POSS ARCHITECTURE**
INTERIOR DESIGN **WRJ DESIGN**
CONSTRUCTION **GALLO BUILDERS**
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE **SOHO DESIGN STUDIO**

May the best design prevail. That was the idea when a Southern California family set out to create the ultimate getaway on a 14-acre property with panoramic vistas in Park City, Utah. At the suggestion of builder Frank Gallo, who had worked with them on their primary residence, the owners launched a design competition, ultimately narrowing the selection of architect to three contenders. "We sent them some photographs, a site plan and a little bit of information about the family and said, 'Dazzle us,'" Gallo explains.

"Dazzle" was exactly what happened when architect Bill Poss and project manager Keith Howie flew to California to pitch their design. "Their presentation astounded us," the husband recalls, describing the design as timeless. "This is a legacy sort of property." Indeed, the project is *Mountain Living's* 2020 Home of the Year.

Built into a slope high over a scenic lake, the expansive abode features one- and two-story pavilion-like forms clad with chiseled Indiana limestone. The main public areas are housed in a volume with soaring ceilings overlooking the 25-yard-long negative-edge swimming pool. "You can't compete with the views, so you're designing a house that captures them," Howie says.

"It sits very comfortably on the land," Poss adds. "The pool and terraces step down the hill and connect just like the indoor rooms connect."

WRJ owners Rush Jenkins and Klaus Baer with their design team furnished the space and worked hand-in-hand with Howie to select most of the materials and finishes throughout. The original plans called for a steel roof, for example, but they felt slate would be more fitting for the setting. And they flew the homeowners to Jackson, Wyoming, to show them the bronze windows by Brombal they envisioned for the project. According to Jenkins, it was love at first sight. >>

A cozy sunken conversation area with a built-in bench and a rectangular gas fire pit is perfectly situated alongside the picturesque 25-yard-long negative-edge swimming pool, surrounded by architectural native plantings by landscape designer Nick Soho. The area is ideal for the owners and their guests to take advantage of the jaw-dropping vistas of the nearby ski resort and the placid water down below. The sleek yet durable outdoor furnishings are by JANUS et Cie.

Slide the heavy metal doors open, and inside and out become one large living space. Under the covered poolside patio, chairs and a pair of sofas offer a relaxing spot to converse when the sun is overhead. When night falls, the family enjoys sitting around the fire table in a sunken conversation pit alongside the swimming pool. Structural native grasses and plantings such as salvia add color and texture. “The balance between hard and soft is pretty special,” says landscape architect Nick Soho. “The landscape flows like water through the architecture.”

The basalt stone hardscaping, cedar rain screen and chiseled limestone walls likewise flow into the front foyer, enhancing the connection between indoors and out. The same stone defines the fireplace in the double-height great room, juxtaposing the wood ceilings and imported fumed oak flooring—the result of a close collaboration between all parties involved.

It’s a jaw-dropping focal point for a taupe mohair sofa and a pair of soft blue chairs around a custom walnut cocktail table with a live edge. “The interiors should be informed by nature and the surrounding environment,” Jenkins explains, pointing to the landscape painting by Clyde Aspevig in the open formal dining area. “Otherwise, you’re not going to have that harmony.” >>

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: In the handsome entry foyer, a beautiful handblown leaded crystal pendant casts light on a modern leather-and-metal bench by Holly Hunt. A vintage rug by Mansour Modern adds a touch of pattern to the formal dining room, where leather chairs by Joseph Jeup surround a chestnut dining table with a metal base by Holly Hunt. Basalt, hardwood and Indiana limestone elevate one another in a long hallway leading to a bespoke refrigerated 800-bottle wine cellar.

"WHEN YOU GO THROUGH THE HOUSE, IT'S LIKE A FABULOUS NOVEL, AND YOU CAN'T WAIT TO TURN EACH PAGE."

—*INTERIOR DESIGNER*
RUSH JENKINS

Sleek wooden cabinetry with brushed-nickel insets by Bulthaup juxtaposes the chiseled Indiana limestone walls and wooden ceilings with steel beams in the cavernous kitchen, where clerestory windows frame scenic views of the mountains and sky.

The designers likewise left their mark on the kitchen, incorporating Bulthaup cabinetry with brushed-nickel insets and leathered quartzite countertops. Over the cabinets, clerestory windows frame mountain views while drawing the eye up to the peaked wooden ceilings with metal beams.

For informal meals, the family often defaults to a well-appointed breakfast area overlooking the swimming pool. There, a ring-like bronze-and-quartzite chandelier appears to float above a walnut table and chairs. Linen sheers soften the architectural lines, adding "a sensual quality," Baer says.

The vistas are perhaps even more breathtaking from the second-floor master suite, where a bronze four-poster bed with a branch-like motif by Juin Ho references both the natural landscape and bronze windows overlooking the magnificent pool, spa and landscape.

Facing the bed, a contemporary leather sofa with linen cashmere cushions and a swivel chair covered in a midnight-blue velvet offer a spot to take in the views of the Deer Valley ski resort and the lake below. "When you go through the house, it's like a fabulous novel, and you can't wait to turn each page," designer Jenkins says.

To ensure story continuity, he and Baer repeated many of the materials throughout—for example, using the same dark limestone flooring in all the bathrooms. In the master suite, it's accented by a mix of chiseled and smooth limestone slab walls and a quartzite countertop. Centered in front of the window, a linear soaker tub invites reflection and relaxation. >>

LEFT: One of a pair, an oil-rubbed bronze-and-lead-crystal chandelier by Johnathan Browning appears to float over the cozy seating area in the great room, which is furnished with a comfortable sofa, a pair of chairs and a tufted upholstered ottoman with metal legs by Fitzgerald Company. BELOW: The refined glass stairway railing nicely contrasts with wood paneling, Indiana limestone and basalt flooring in the front entry.

"THE LANDSCAPE FLOWS LIKE WATER THROUGH THE ARCHITECTURE."

—*LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT* NICK SOHO

Graceful handblown leaded-crystal pendants from Holly Hunt make an ideal foil for the rustic Indiana limestone wall behind the floating vanity in the relaxing, spa-like master bathroom, which offers astonishing views of the natural surroundings. Floor-to-ceiling draperies likewise play off the smooth limestone slab wall and complementary dark limestone tile flooring. The accent chair is by Holly Hunt.

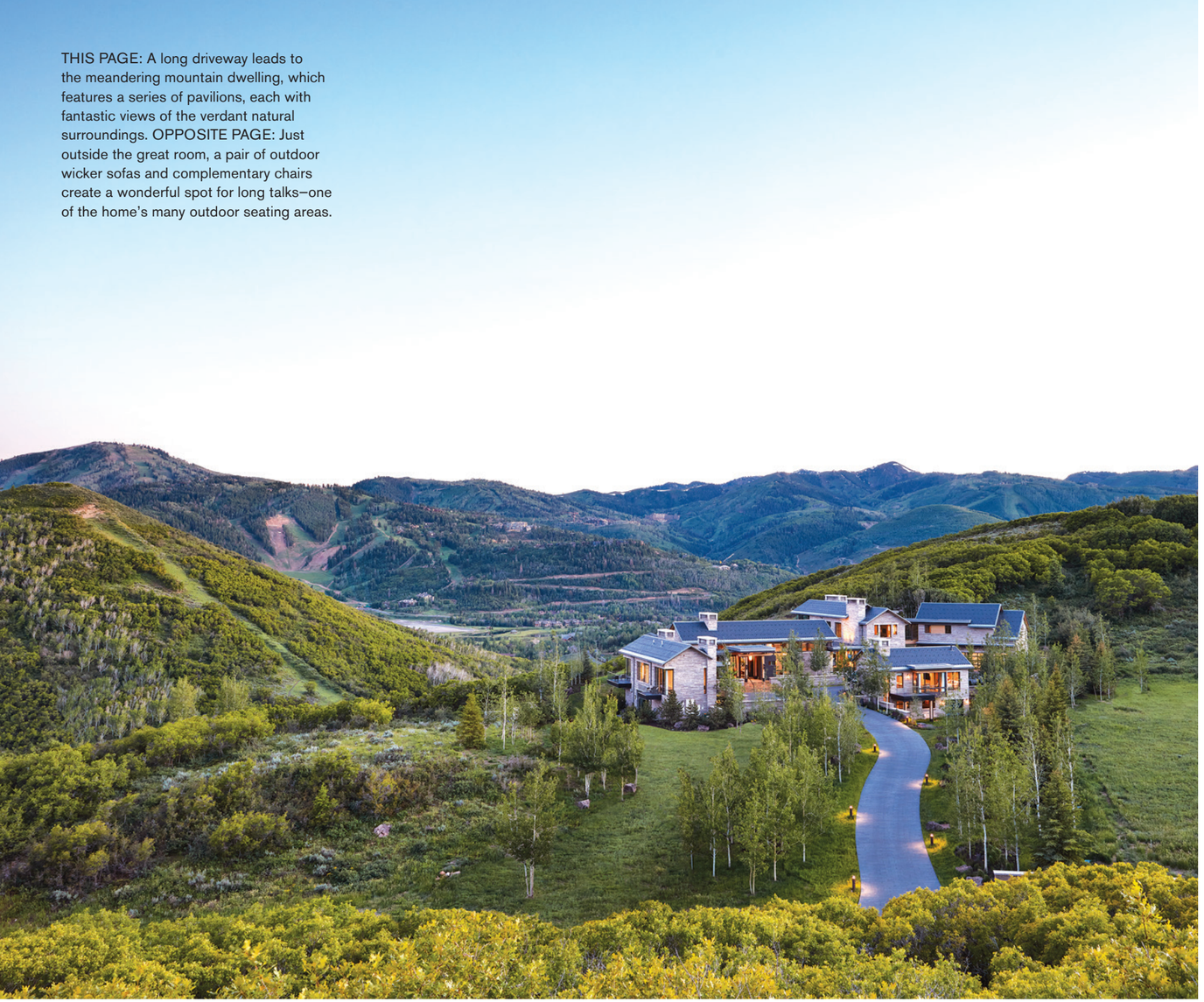
According to Gallo, teamwork was key to achieving such a cohesive result. "This was an incredibly smooth project," the builder says. "We were all on the same page from the beginning."

The owners are equally pleased with their home away from home, spending up to three months a year there, often accompanied by family and friends. While skiing is the big draw, they have also enjoyed horseback riding, fly-fishing and other outdoor activities. Not to mention a lively New Year's Eve bash attended by about 100 guests.

"Our children are really excited about it and want to spend time there with their friends, which makes me happy," the husband says. "We're very pleased with the result and are grateful we have the opportunity to have a home like this." ○

TOP: In the serene master bedroom, a branch-like cast-bronze bed with a wool headboard by Jiun Ho pays homage to the natural setting. BELOW: Illuminated steps lead to the mountain manse's tall glass front door, offering arriving guests a tantalizing glimpse of the panoramic views that await inside.

THIS PAGE: A long driveway leads to the meandering mountain dwelling, which features a series of pavilions, each with fantastic views of the verdant natural surroundings. OPPOSITE PAGE: Just outside the great room, a pair of outdoor wicker sofas and complementary chairs create a wonderful spot for long talks—one of the home's many outdoor seating areas.



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