



Coming Around Again

Globe-trotting family designs a mountainside retreat.

Photos by Karl Neumann



Gary Rieschel and his wife, Yucca, who live much of the year in China, envisioned a family home in the United States that would blend Western rusticity with the clean lines and restraint of Asian architecture.

An art piece the couple had commissioned—a Japanese Raku ceramic wall piece representing the circle of life—seemed a wonderful jumping-off

point for the house. When the Rieschels showed the piece to Montana architect Jonathan Foote, he knew the artwork would serve as the center of the home and an inspiration for a distinctive retreat that would welcome the family in and recharge them for their eventual travels back around the globe.

The architect envisioned the art piece hanging in a dining room, which

ABOVE: The Rieschels' cliff-side site gives them awe-inspiring views of the Montana mountains. Architect Jonathan Foote specified a mix of reclaimed logs and stone for the exterior.

OPPOSITE: Guests arriving on the site are greeted by a pond and a reclaimed log cabin that serves as the home's "mudroom."

A vintage wood canoe repurposed as a light fixture draws eyes up to the great room's ceiling, which is highlighted by aged wood beams. A wall of glass brings the outside in.





A ceramic art piece representing the circle of life was the inspiration for the Rieschels' home and now hangs in a place of honor above the dining room's fireplace.

would become the soul of the home. His plan called for a perfectly square room with a coffered, wood-lined ceiling and a glowing hearth. Foote's design from the home grew from there.

In the finished house, which sits on a steep sloping lot in Montana's private Yellowstone Club, the Rieschels outfitted the dining area with a round table that seats 6 to 12. The pitched ceilings create an intimate space that's acoustically perfect, making conversation easy and visitors feel especially welcomed. "We wanted guests to know that they're special to us," Gary says.

Much of the planning for this home centered not on how it would look, but how it would feel—how the Rieschels and their family and friends would experience the house and its jaw-dropping site.

Visitors to the home first see a small cabin set at the edge of a meadow. "You see this, not the 8,000-square-foot home behind it," Gary says. The cabin, built of reclaimed logs, is the mudroom of the home and its main entrance. A covered, glass-walled walkway leads from the cabin to a shoe room where a round bench allows easy removal of shoes. Glass is the only thing separating visitors from the surrounding forest as they follow the hallway. "It's like walking through the woods," the architect says. "We wanted to celebrate the trees."

Beyond the shoe room, the floor changes from a mix of slate and wood to just wood, and the transition is made



A place for family to connect, the kitchen is open to the casual family room space.

OPPOSITE, TOP: A covered walkway leads from the mudroom cabin through the woods to the rest of the home. A circular bench with a shard of rock that serves as sculpture allows people to remove their shoes before entering the house.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: Cladding the exterior in stone helps the home blend seamlessly into its mountainside site.

from forest to home. Inside the home, which was built by On Site Management of Bozeman, Montana, the breathtaking, edge-of-a-cliff panorama is revealed. “There are views into Yellowstone and of the Spanish Peaks,” Gary says.

Local stone and reclaimed wood create a timeless feel throughout the home. The reclaimed timbers “bring life and re-

spect for history to the house,” the architect says. “They have had a life and continue to build that life.”

A second vintage, re-milled cabin is used as a study. The home’s exterior blends into the mountain, as if rising organically from the cliff.

“You can experience the elements here,” Gary says. “You feel centered.”



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