



# URBAN RANCH

A single dad with a working cattle ranch near Daniel, Wyoming, builds a kid- and horse-friendly modern industrial ranch-style home in Wilson.

*By Maggie Theodora | Photography by Tuck Fauntleroy*



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Healy's life was in transition when he decided to make a new family home near Wilson. He and his kids, Cormac, 11, and Sawyer, 9, had lived on the Double J Ranch, a real cattle operation near Daniel, Wyoming, with Healy's then-wife since 2004. He still has the ranch, and he and the kids still spent a lot of time there, but, "I recognized that having something closer to Jackson would make things easier now that the kids are getting older," he says. Still, he wanted to bring some of the ranch with them. "I wanted to be able to keep horses so the kids could continue working on their equestrian skills," he says.

A 3.5-acre property adjacent to open space protected by a conservation easement in the Schofield Patent subdivision just east of Wilson fit the bill for what he originally envisioned as a more compact version of the Double J. "We had this home that we loved and I thought we could just re-create it outside of Wilson," he says. But Peggy Gilday, a co-founding partner of GYDE Architects, which he chose to design the new home, quickly and gently talked him out of this. "She was helpful in inspiring me to do more than re-create [the Double J]. In a very delicate way, she pushed me to go a little more on the modern side," Healy says.

While Healy's idea to build a Double J 2.0 was abandoned early in the design process, he says he was still thinking "of just a main house and a barn with a guest unit above it." But that too evolved. "[GYDE] is big into imagery and I kept liking the images they showed me of compounds. But I was still asking for just a house and a barn," Healy says. "Then in a meeting I remember Peg saying, 'Don't hate this,' and then showing me an idea they had come up with that was a compound. It wasn't what I had asked for, but I immediately knew it was what I wanted."





The compound includes a 5,700-square-foot, two-story main house and attached garage, a 985-square-foot, two-story detached guesthouse, and a two-stall barn with a hayloft. The main house/garage is one building, but to reinforce the compound feel, it was broken into two parts separated by a glass breezeway. The result is that it looks like two buildings. An added benefit is that from the oversize sliding glass doors that make up the breezeway walls, there is immediate and easy access to outdoor living spaces.

While Healy chose not to re-create the Double J, he and GYDE did use it as inspiration for this house. “We started calling the style of this house ‘modern industrial ranch,’” he says. “That was our mantra throughout the project. With every move we made and finish and material we selected we asked, ‘How does this fit?’ Having such a well-defined theme made decisions easier. If something wasn’t true to the theme, we didn’t do it or use it.”

The forms of the various buildings are modern. Exposed metal work is industrial. The palette for siding and materials is ranch. “I think the powder rooms have all three of these in one place,” Healy says. There, the cabinetry is made from reclaimed barnwood, the sinks are very modern, and the fixtures are industrial. The combined kitchen/dining/living room is similar to the main living space at the Double J, down to the Tulikivi woodburning stove. “I like the flow of it and know that it works,” he says. But here, sitting at the built-in swinging stools at the kitchen island that are copies of the stools in the ranch’s kitchen, you look out the windows and see the Tetons instead of the Wyoming or Wind River Range. △



Top: Homeowner JJ Healy was going to do a blonde, butcher block countertop on the kitchen island, but “Peg [Gilday] and John [Stennis, of GYDE Architects] said walnut would give the space a deeper feel, and look more refined,” Healy says. “I’m so glad I listened to them.” Finding two live-edge slabs of walnut at Wilson-based furniture-maker Charlie Thomas’ Magpie Furniture workshop was icing on the cake. “They were the perfect size to make the dining table I wanted,” Healy says. “Charlie told me he had had these slabs for almost 10 years. He said they were waiting for me.”

Bottom: A glass breezeway connecting the two forms of the main house has sliding doors on both sides. These open to outdoor living areas where Healy has installed Cowboy Cauldrons. These suspended fire pits are adjustable in height and made from thick, plate steel.





Left: The mantra that guided the owner of this home in selecting finishes and the materials palette was modern industrial ranch. "I think the powder rooms have all three of these [qualities] in them," owner JJ Healy says. The vanity is made from reclaimed barn wood (ranch) while the sinks are modern and the faucet and lighting are industrial.

Middle top: The master bedroom has a wall of windows on its north side that frames the Teton Range. "I bought this property in 2005 and had always dreamed of putting a home here," Healy says. "Finally the right time came."

Middle bottom: Healy says this house shows "the importance of long-term relationships in the valley. DSM has built over 10 structures for me over the last 15 years, including the Double J Ranch. Peg [Gilday] and I have known each other for more than five; we originally met serving on the Center for the Arts board. All these house projects take years and invariably have bumps, issues. I pick partners that I like and trust."

Right: To reinforce the compound feel of the project, GYDE Architects designed the main home to look like two buildings by installing a glass breezeway.