

# BIG SKY JOURNAL HOME

Mountain Living and Architectural Design



\$9.50US \$14.50CAN 25>





# Eclectic Parkitecture

Combining National Park Lodge  
memories with a love of  
Modern art results in  
a Montana home  
that feels just right

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*A*long the road to Tony Eaton's and Lauren Harris' Paradise Valley home you feel a story unfold.

First you cross a narrow one-lane bridge, then turn on the dirt road that parallels the creek. A hill to the south creates a shady lane, where the cottonwoods tower over a historic log cabin and quaint carriage house that allude to simpler times. Weathered outbuildings



**Above:** Miller Architects utilized antique materials in the Harris-Eaton residence by connecting a restacked hand-hewn log cabin with a stone structure to the main body of the home. **Opposite:** The dining room is a contemporary centerpiece with a custom-designed glass topped table, reflective Philippe Starck chairs, Harlequin-patterned rug contrasting the rustic timbers, wrought iron accents and the mottled hand-waxed plaster walls.







*They walked the property and experienced the seasonal shifts, the changes of light and wind. Lauren began collecting furnishings and art for a decade before the home was built.*

constructed of stone and wood hint at the days when this was a working ranch. Follow the jack-rail fence and it leads to a house, settled in a sweet little meadow.

"We wanted to respect the roots of this property," said Lauren.

With that came a connection to Candace Tillotson-Miller, principal of Miller Architects in Livingston, Montana. Known for designing with reclaimed and rustic materials, Miller worked with the couple to meld their disparate architectural

tastes of Modern versus Montana. Having previously lived in both a log cabin here and an ultra-Modern home in California, Tony was set on a sleek, contemporary style. Lauren, who grew up in Canada, felt that a rustic home would connect with the location and give a sense of shelter during the long winter months.

Tony and Lauren lived in a cabin on the 300-acre ranch for several years and planned. They walked the property and experienced the seasonal shifts, the changes of light and wind.

**Right:** French-inspired plaster walls reflect sunlight into the kitchen, where the textures of wood, rolled tin and muted soapstone counters from Warmstone Fireplaces and Design meld with the farmhouse influences in a functional manner. **Below:** The wagon wheel chandelier from Livingston's Long Branch Saloon hangs above the cozy living room that overlooks the meadow. An Abstract painting from Jerry Iverson, hangs above the mantel and plays off the geometrical forms of Mariano del Rosario's "Bullseye" to the right.











**Clockwise from left:** The quiet section of the Harris-Eatons' is a hallway that links the guest room and small library, where a corrugated tin roof loosely echoes a traditional coffered ceiling. • Honoring the homestead roots of the ranch, the guest bedroom features antiques and traditional quilts by fiber artist Char Devine. • A classic apron-front sink adds refined contrast to the circle-sawn cabinetry in the kitchen.





*Ultimately, they found a middle ground that pulled elements of stone and timber from the ranch's original buildings and married it with a personal aesthetic that reflects years lived well in the West and abroad in France.*

Lauren began collecting furnishings and art for a decade before the home was built. When they approached Miller Architects they had a clear vision for how they wanted to live in this new house.

The answer was a log and timberframe style house that pushes the edges of contemporary design on the inside.

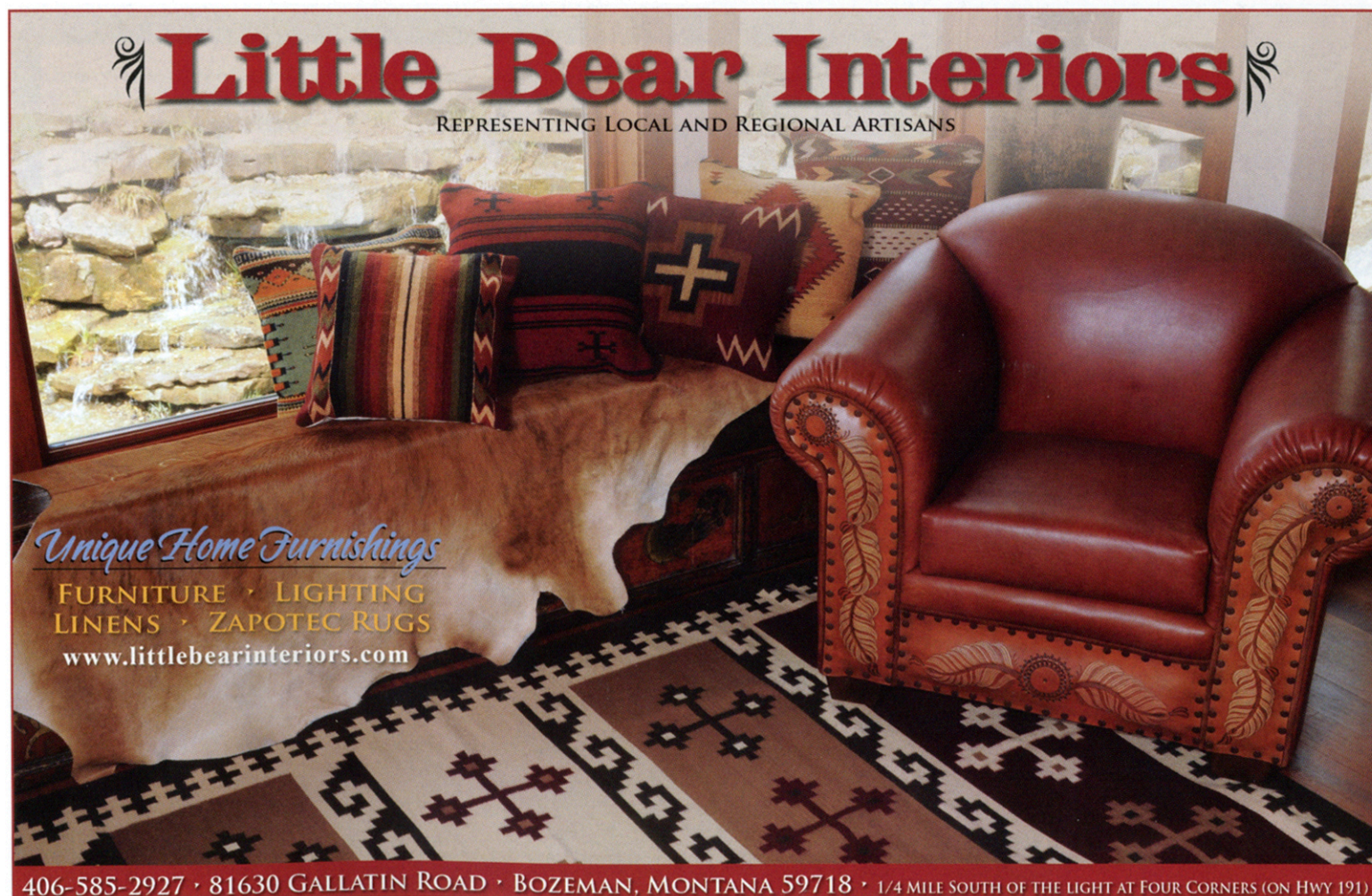
"They loved the idea of creating a home that was one and a half stories, utilizing light and space to create intimate nooks for reading, playing music or gathering with friends."

Ultimately, they found a middle ground that pulled elements of stone and timber from the ranch's original buildings and married it with a personal aesthetic that reflects years lived well in the West and abroad in France. For Tony the stone accents were essential and for Lauren, the natural tones of wood equated to a sense of shelter.

"I've always liked national park buildings," admitted Tony, who fondly recalls family vacations as a child to America's national parks. "This has the vibe and bones of the Parkitecture Style."

Parkitecture with a twist. The entry of the home says a lot about their style — through the heavy, rustic wooden door the first thing you see is an industrial cityscape painting hanging on a stone wall above an antique metal sideboard found on the property. From there, reclaimed fir floors with a dark stain accent the silvered trim and other wood elements throughout the house, while Miller Architects' signature tall, broad mulioned windows draw daylight and showcase pastoral views in the meadow where elk and deer rest and bears saunter by.

One of Tony's and Lauren's requests was that the kitchen, dining and living area be functional for entertaining. The



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