



COLLECTED CABIN

Brad Beckworth is Texan through and through, but from the moment he read *Lonesome Dove* he knew he had to get to Montana. Fourteen years ago he went on a fly-fishing trip along the Yellowstone River with his father. As soon as he got back within cell reception, he called his wife to suggest they start looking at property. Stacey had never been to Montana, but when she visited she understood. “Once you see Montana, it’s really love at first sight,” she says. “It’s the perfect place to teach your children about the important things in life, like family and nature.”

The Beckworths spent fourteen years searching for the right piece of property and found it just outside Bozeman. Its 270 acres extend from the valley floor—with live water and wetlands, aspens and meadows—to forested foothills with expansive views. Despite its proximity to town, it has a decidedly agrarian feeling, with plentiful wildlife, a healthy fishery, and pasturelands and hayfields rather than visible neighbors. As a couple, the Beckworths had extensive experience in home building, and they’d learned much from Brad’s mother, an interior designer. They chose Joe Roodell of Miller Roodell Architects to realize their vision: a cabin the family could live in while a barn and the main house underwent construction on the ridge. For the primary residence, they wanted a somewhat modern home with clean interiors and extensive glazing. They envisioned something very different for the guest cabin. It would be of the region, modestly scaled and historically appropriate. And rather than some reductive version of the main home, it would be original, textured, layered, and highly handcrafted.

In designing the cabin, the architect created a low, symmetrical, cross-axis structure tucked up near the wooded slope behind it and open to the view. A timbered gabled extension off the back forms a carport, while the front extension encompasses a covered patio overlooking a pond. Materially, the home is simple: wood siding, metal roof, stone chimney. “It’s more refined than traditional rustic,” observes Roodell. “Every stone was worked to get a tighter joint pattern and tighter layup overall.” The matte finish and classic roofline, he adds, allow it to blend into the landscape.

A Texas couple spent fourteen years searching for the perfect site for a Montana home, finding it just outside Bozeman. A simple, serene palette unifies the rooms of the 1,200-square-foot home designed by Miller Roodell Architects. In the kitchen, furnishings curated by designer Abby Hetherington in partnership with the homeowner elevate this two-bedroom cabin from guesthouse to home. Details include Urban Electric pendants, Robert Ogden sconce, Rocky Mountain Cabinet Hardware, Ann Sacks tile backsplash, and a custom hood by the builder, Bolton Construction.



The 1,200-square-foot interior is simple and serene, with metal countertops, a Montana moss rock fireplace, a concrete floor, and reclaimed wood on the walls, ceilings, and cabinets. Designer Abby Hetherington of Hetherington Interiors credits the builder, fifth-generation carpenter Cass Bolton of Bolton Custom Homes, for hand-picking uniformly gray wood panels for the interior and multicolored panels for the exterior. Outside, the color is warmer, while the uniform tone of the interior creates both a quiet cohesiveness and an appropriate backdrop for decor with verve.

The furnishings represent a curated collection. Despite the cabin's demure size, there are unexpected moments in fabrics, art, furniture, lighting, and tile. One bathroom has Aztec-leaning floor tiles; the other has a custom-made textured concrete trough sink with a movable barn-board divider. Throughout the cabin, collectible items like vintage photographs and Montana history books abound, the product of thoughtful collecting on the part of both interior designer and client. Hetherington considers collecting a significant part of her job; she begins as soon as she understands the clients' lives and an often fictional backstory for the structure. Meanwhile, Stacey Beckworth is a passionate and knowledgeable collector with considerable experience and a seasoned eye. She tracked down books and Yellowstone Park memorabilia from area antique stores and auctions. She made repeated trips to the Round Top Antiques Fair in Texas to buy lights and rugs. She and Hetherington spent days working on lighting concepts, as well as brainstorming creative ways to repurpose found objects.

A guest cabin can be an encapsulation of the main home's material palette and tenets, or it can be a retreat that celebrates the romance of place. The challenge remains how to infuse one with character, personality, and soul. Hetherington suggested treating the guest cabin as an entity of its own rather than a smaller-scale iteration of the main house or a repository for leftover art and furniture. She incorporated localized artifacts to give a sense of history and legacy, although for upholstered furnishings, it was all about durability. And it should be fun, the designer adds, with a nod to playfulness: there might be candy dishes set out, or games left half played.

This collaboration between architect, designer, builder, and client resulted in a structure that is small in scale but expansive enough for entertaining. It is appropriate to the area without calling attention to itself. And despite some modern touches, it feels rooted in history and decidedly of its place, with its barn-board exterior hearkening back to the agricultural roots of the neighborhood. "We wanted the cabin to feel collected and we wanted people to feel kind of nostalgic when they were there," says the owner. "We wanted them to feel at home."

Architect Joe Roodell collaborated closely with the owners on the design, a low, symmetrical cross-axis structure that is nestled at the base of the treed foothills and enjoys a view over the open valley. The two-bedroom, two-bath home works well for the owners, while a barn and main home are constructed higher up the ridge off the valley floor.



ABOVE: A blue Kelly Wearstler chair pops against the rugged but refined stacked-stone fireplace. To achieve clean lines, “Every stone was worked to get a tighter layup,” says architect Joe Roodell. The open shelving is of reclaimed wood.

RIGHT: The living room opens up to a covered patio, which looks across a pond to the peaks beyond. A shearling chair and oversized lighting pendant decline to compete with the view. The owner scouted Montana antiques shops and the Round Top Antiques Fair in Texas for collectibles that impart a sense of history.





LEFT: Each bedroom has a cozy window seat, built-in cabinets, Warhol art, a rope chandelier, and a luxurious bed with a view.

ABOVE: An orange Saba Italia chair pops against subdued tones in a bathroom, while antler pendants from Fish's Antler Art provide an organic touch. The custom-designed concrete trough sink has a movable wood shelf.



ABOVE: Rich tones and varied textures make the bedroom a refuge. Collectible art includes Andy Warhol's buffalo nickel.

FACING ABOVE AND BELOW: The second bathroom has reclaimed-wood pocket doors, blue cabinets set against graphic tile from Sabine Hill, and an arrowhead lighting fixture.

