

THE YEAR'S BEST WINES • AFFORDABLE HOLIDAY GIFTS

# SEATTLE HOMES

LIFESTYLES™

## DECK THE Halls

Timeless decorating ideas

A magical MOUNTAIN RETREAT

Vegetarian recipes  
*everyone will love*

Discover the drama  
of BLACK & WHITE



\$3.95

December 2003



A Wiesner Publication  
seattlehomesmag.com



# mountain HIGH

An Eastside family finds serenity in Central Oregon

WRITTEN BY DONNA PIZZI PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHILIP CLAYTON-THOMPSON

THE HOME ENJOYS STELLAR VIEWS FROM THE TERRACE (OPPOSITE) AND FROM THE GREAT ROOM (THIS PAGE), WHOSE MASSIVE SCALE IS TEMPERED BY A COMPLEX CEILING WOVEN FROM FIVE LAYERS OF WOOD. CHAIRS (REPLACING A SOFA IN THIS PHOTO) CAN BE ORIENTED TOWARD THE TV, WHICH IS CONCEALED IN THE CABINET AT LEFT. CHANDELIERS FROM DANA CREATH DESIGNS, AVAILABLE TO THE TRADE AT GERALD EARLS DESIGNERS SHOWROOM, (206) 767-4454.



WALLS FASHIONED FROM NATIVE STONE MAKE THE HOUSE

LOOK LIKE IT'S EMERGING FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP.



JUST ONE ROOM DEEP, THE 5,900-SQUARE-FOOT HOUSE (ABOVE) WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO WINGS TO MAXIMIZE THE VIEW. THE OPEN KITCHEN (TOP) FEATURES SLATE FLOORS AND ALDER CABINETS. THE GREAT ROOM (OPPOSITE) IS ANCHORED BY A MASSIVE STONE FIREPLACE. MARCO SOFAS AVAILABLE TO THE TRADE AT WAYNE MARTIN INC., (206) 224-7171; CUSTOM CARPET DESIGNED BY PAMELA PEARCE AND FURNISHED BY PANDE CAMERON, (206) 624-6263.

**B**lame it on the high altitude, the great fly-fishing or the seductive snowboarding, but once an Eastside couple started working on a business venture in Central Oregon, they were smitten. Before long, they were asking their partner to scout vacation properties for them. What he found—a former fire lookout located on the edge of an extinct volcanic cinder cone with sweeping vistas of the snowcapped Oregon Cascades—took their breath away.

"The view is fabulous in the morning as the sun rises and shines on the distant mountains," says the wife. "The air is so crisp and clear that it's just a beautiful place to spend time."

Architect Dennis Marsh of AOME Architects in Seattle and interior designer Pamela Pearce of Pamela Pearce Design in Bellevue had

worked with the couple on previous homes. The close relationship enabled Pearce and Marsh to create a low-maintenance, high-comfort vacation home that's simpatico with its surroundings.

"We debated about using an Oregon architect," recalls the wife, "but since we live in Seattle and my husband flies to Oregon often on business in his own plane, it was easier to meet with our friends at AOME in Seattle and then just fly them down with us to the property."

The design team relied heavily on computer modeling to design a home that takes advantage of the spectacular views while paying homage to vernacular mountain architecture and Western barns. Marsh did this by creating a house that is only one room deep, with two wings angled outward from a central core. At the intersection of these wings lies the main entry, whose massive, lodgelike doors open onto stone outcroppings and sturdy copper-gray slate flooring

from South America.

The cavellike entry teases visitors into the home before they are swept into the magnificence of the great room, which Marsh describes as a very open pavilion that might invite one to picnic, were it not for the cedar-and-fir windows or the mammoth masonry fireplace rising out of more stone outcroppings.

"From the very beginning," says Marsh, "we knew we wanted a great deal of masonry walls native to the area, so that the house would emerge out of the existing rimrock."

Says Pearce, "The first thing we collected from the property was rocks, lichen, branches and vegetation that would help us select the stone that forms the home's exterior." The interior designer pulled soft gray-greens from the junipers and some of the deep mulberry from the stone to use throughout the décor.



STONE OUTCROPPINGS EMERGE FROM THE ENTRY HALL FLOOR, OFFERING A CAVELIKE PRELUDE TO THE SUNNY VIEW ROOMS BEYOND. THE HOUSE INCLUDES TWO MASTER BEDROOMS (OPPOSITE, LEFT) WITH SLOPING CEILINGS AND LOW SIDE WALLS TO ENHANCE COZINESS. BED FROM THE FARMHOUSE COLLECTION, AVAILABLE TO THE TRADE AT MICHAEL FOLKS SHOWROOM, (206) 762-6776. A HANDSOME GLASS SINK ADORNS A POWDER ROOM (OPPOSITE, RIGHT). BATES & BATES SINK FROM FAMILIAN NORTHWEST, (541) 389-9965.

"We have two focuses in the great room," explains Pearce, "the fireplace and the television, which is concealed in the cabinet that divides the room from the dining area. The movable high-back chairs are built for comfort and done in a gnarly textured fabric that emulates the environment."

Adds the wife, "We have tall men in our family of four boys, so we needed deep, high-backed seating."

Contractor Karl Johnson wove together five layers of wood to form the complex ceiling, which helps balance the great room's massive scale.

"We love the great-room concept," acknowledges the wife, "but we also wanted two master bedrooms so another couple could have their own base and the young people could go into the media room while we relax and watch movies by the fire."

The master suites situated at the ends of the opposing wings offer a cozy alternative to the great room. Marsh achieved this architectural intimacy by lowering the side walls, leaving Pearce to custom-fit the beds into the foreshortened space under the windowsills.

Marble fireplaces, visible from the beds, mix warmly with the western red cedar tongue-in-groove ceilings—a simplification of the great-room design that feels more appropriate for a smaller space.

Of course, no vacation home is complete without proper tribute paid to its outdoor living spaces. Here, an irregularly shaped terrace blends seamlessly with the surroundings, whose seemingly natural appearance is a tribute to the artistry of landscape designer Chris Hart-Henderson.

The owners enjoy sharing the house and its setting with others. During a recent fund-raiser for a state senator, the mountains were out, the sunset was spectacular and the flow of guests inside and out was perfection.

"It was an enchanting evening," says the wife, who overheard many guests raving about the beauty of their residence. "It reminded us just how grateful we are for the wonderful thought and care that went into our home." ■

*Donna Pizzi, a writer and stylist for numerous national shelter magazines, lives in Portland, Ore.*