

Living *in the* DETAILS

Locati Architects designed a home that responds to landscape and lifestyle

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Photography by Roger Wade Studios

Within Jerry and Kari Locati's Montana home there is a place for everything. From the prominent entry gate, to the generous expanse of front door and on to the way in which the elegant interiors seamlessly connect to the outdoor areas, it is a gracious home touched with exquisite detail. For a couple who loves entertaining and recreation, this is a place that effortlessly combines all of their interests.

"Our house is driven by our activities and lifestyle drives the design," says Jerry, founding principal of Locati Architects in Bozeman, Montana.



Clockwise from opposite, top: Reclaimed beams arching over the threshold of the Locati residence are precursors to the architectural language throughout the home. | Defining "outdoor rooms" as an extension of interior living spaces is a Locati Architects signature. | A team of landscape design professionals contributed to the extensive styling in the back yard, including Jim Saunders and Dale Deutscher of Lone Pine Landscaping and Urbani Fisheries for aquatic design. | General contractor SB Construction of Bozeman, Montana, worked closely with Locati Architects to craft this custom dream property, which encompasses a lake house, guest house and main residence.



Clockwise from above: Working with a resident interior designer from the Locati Architects firm, Jerry and Kari incorporated European antiques with lush textiles to create intimacy in the dining area. | Comfort, texture and warmth in the furnishings enhance the timberframe trusses that span the great room. | A baby grand piano and library bookshelves anchor a nook in the great room and add texture to the lodge-style interiors.





The tour begins at a threshold that gradually draws the eye toward the high, reclaimed timber trusses in the great room that eventually leads outside toward a painterly property, dappled with sunlight from the pond. Stepping deeper into the living area the scenery envelops the house, but does not detract from the lovely welcome that ensconces anyone who visits. Here, the Locati Architects' signature rustic materials — timbers, stone, metal and wood — are integrated in a refined fashion. A thoughtful art collection finishes the interior spaces with a connection to the West —

Steve Seltzer, Rocky Hawkins, Tom Gilleon and many others — combining a love of landscape, history and contemporary works. A treasured Salvador Dali sketch flanks the stone fireplace and alludes to the couple's distinguished tastes.

Jerry and Kari spent a year discussing the possibilities of this 20-acre property on the rich flats of farmland near Bozeman. Its beauty is subtle, Jerry notes; there isn't necessarily a central focus, but more of a panoramic view. That wasn't a drawback for the Locati team, but instead an opportunity to create design solutions. Layering architec-

tural and landscaping elements, the final design of multiple, low-profile roofline and natural materials that form the home created its own self-contained focal point, where ultimately the home seems to echo the length of the Bridger Mountain range in the distance.

"There's no reason you can't build your own Disneyland," muses Locati, as he surveys his backyard, replete with trout pond, flowing creeks, meandering trails, lake house, driving range and guest house. The theme-park reference infers Locati's firm belief that a client's dream is entirely



Clockwise from opposite: A Rocky Hawkins painting sets the mood for the kitchen nook, which opens via an accordian glass door to the outdoor living areas. | The Locati consider the kitchen more of a "hearth room," where everyone gathers near the corner fireplace and elegant custom cabinetry with hand-carved corbels from Mountain High Woodworks in Bozeman, Montana, become a focal point. | A dining area in the temperature-controlled wine cellar reinforces the European influences throughout the home.



Clockwise from top: In the master bedroom elegance abounds, with antiques, a French chandelier and luxurious furnishings. | Even the master bath connects to the outside landscape and continues a connection to nature. | Carefully placed artwork gives a hallway a gallery effect, where exquisitely detailed woodwork and brass filigree railings lead upstairs to a home theater and study.

possible through good architectural design. He often uses his own home as a model for potential clients to illustrate this point and that fact fostered another level of excellence in the design process.

Crediting his fellow partners at Locati Architects, brother Steve Locati, Kyle Tage and Greg Dennee, Jerry points out aspects of the house that even he marvels at regularly. General contractor Schlauch Bottcher Construction and a handful of local craftsmen were essential to Locati's vision for his home.

It is a mountain lodge, touched with European sophistication. Yet it's the personal touches, from antiques to friendly family dogs, that override the showcase elements and make it feel every bit the family abode that it is from day to day.

"We fill this house up," says Kari, who claims the kitchen as her domain. "We love having our family and friends over to share time here."

Designed to expand and recede comfortably, the house

entertains 100 guests or their own family of four. On any given night, the couple cozies up around the kitchen island to share a meal, the corner fire burning, to catch up on family life. "It could be a legacy house," Kari admits.

This is the third home Jerry has designed for their family and though they appreciate the amenities here, it's possible it won't be the last one on the books.

"Architects design their own houses at great peril, for who wants

to be trapped in yesterday's idea?" — wrote renowned architect Robert A. M. Stern, of his own cottage in East Hampton, New York. Inspired by Stern, Jerry echoes that sentiment to a degree: "As an architect, designing your own house is really hard because you are your own worst critic," he admits.

Yet he also champions the idea of home as a constantly evolving thing and something limited only by one's imagination. ■

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