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# Wild & Beautiful

RUSTIC LUXE STYLE IS PERFECTED IN A BIG SKY, MONTANA RESIDENCE

Photography by Roger Wade Text by Deborah Donohue

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ith a desire to honor and reflect the Native American tribes of the area like the Crow and Blackfoot, as well as their reverence for the buffalo, the owners of this majestic estate set out to create a modern home both wild and beautiful. Mission accomplished.

LEFT: A set of recliners (in the foreground) from Stanford Furniture in North Carolina sport acid washed, hair-on cowhide. The ottoman in the great room, custom designed by Sheri Parker, features polished buffalo horn and a middle layer of cream colored hair-on cowhide, all topped by whip-stitched rawhide. The mantel was hand-hewn from found hardwood, left in its natural state. Glass hurricane candle holders on mantel were sourced from Montana Expressions in Bazeman, Montana. William and Wesley in Dallas, Texas crafted the dark suede sofa also designed by Shari Parker. Chenille blend cushions lend a comfortable but elegant touch to the otherwise rugged materials. An iconic chandelier of shed elk antlers is from Sua International, Nogales, Arizona. Leather chairs near the windows are from Austin Furniture. The rug is from Asia Minor carpets.

ABOVE: A cherished taxidermy wolf is a reminder of wilder neighbors. The patterned rug, part of the owner's exquisite collection, was found at an antique auction. The burl pine table is topped with a crystal bird of prey sculpture by a local artist.



LEFT: In a departure from indigenous materials, the kitchen bar stools feature a backing of axis deer hide. Seats and arms are buttercream leather, reflecting the owner's preference for lighter leathers throughout with a view toward imparting a brightness and elegance to the home. The bar is reclaimed timber with rustic metal caps. The cabinetry is knotty alder; a mix of distressed ivory cabinet faces (including the refrigerator) and darker stains adds interest and visual balance. Hardware is from Rocky Mountain Hardware. Counters and backsplash are natural stone.

RIGHT: The spectacular dining room includes twelve cream hair-on-hide chairs, affectionately called "the herd," which took nine months to acquire. The table was custom designed by Shari Parker and crafted by William and Wesley—a continuous slab of wood, split and face-matched with sanded, rough-bark sides. Parker also designed the light fixture, a dramatic piece created to complement the creamy leather upholstery of the dining room chairs. Ashore Lighting in Dallas, Texas crafted the notable fixture to Parker's design specifications. The bronze sculpture gracing the table is a signed piece titled "Renegade." The attention to detail extends to the glassware by Evergreen Glass Company, etched with images of Native Americans and bison. "Woodland" dinnerware by Spode completes the motif with wildlife themed place settings sporting elk and buffalo. Hand trowled plaster walls with a waxed finish here and throughout the home contribute to the warm feeling.

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A restful master suite includes a hand-carved leather and wood bed designed by Sheri Parker. The handsome leather headboard is a perfect match for the stunning footboard—one continuous piece of wood topped by a carved spear adorned with artistic eagle feathers. The nailhead hair-on-hide faux chest conceals a television/media unit that emerges from the top via remote control. The bronze is "War Party" from ASI Art in Dallas. A collection of pillows includes a diverse assemblage of textures and colors including suede, wool tapestry and feather embellishments among other treatments. A tangled, twig-like chandelier adds a wild and romantic touch to the ambiance of the room.





RIGHT AND BELOW: The hearth's beauty is derived from its Chief Cliff Dry Stackstone composition; this stone, native to northwest Montana, is used throughout the residence, both on exterior and interior surfaces. The masonry creates a harmonious integration of nature's beauty and strength, both within the architectural elements and interior design alike. The master bath, a retreat in itself, is a visual extension of the rest of the home, with an abundance of natural light. An antique Navajo rug, over 150 years old, graces the reclaimed fir floor. A bathtub exterior tiled in split-face natural stone features an artistic, unexpected basketweave pattern. The forged door pulls on the vanity cabinetry are in the shape of buffalo heads.





ABOVE: Gracious entertaining is an obvious amenity. This powder room with its antler-framed mirror (by local Bazeman artisan Rick Secora) and sconces (custom designed and hand-made by Cloud Bird, a Washington State Native American craftswoman and artist) ensure guests are both comfortable and delighted. The unusually textured walls are birch bark. A natural stone sink basin tops the vanity and its pressed tin doors.

RIGHT: A focal point of the media/recreation room is a vibrant rug used to dramatic effect as a wall textile. The burlwood chair and ottoman by Marc Taggart showcase his signature Molesworth style, complete with a thunderbird motif and leather legs. A sectional hair-on-hide leather sofa is by Sheri Parker (constructed by Furniture Your Way in Dallas, Texas). Clever seating squares/upholstered end tables are covered in Navajo sample rugs sourced from local antique stores. The light fixture illuminating the billiards table titled "Indian Parfleche" by Peter Fillerup, evokes the traditional colors of the Crow Indians. A variety of pillows soften the experience and include those by Cripple Creek Creations, Bandera, Texas.





## RESOURCES

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### BLUE RIBBON BUILDERS

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The home is sited in the exclusive Yellowstone Club in Big Sky, Montana, a ski-in, ski-out resort community that provides a residential experience aligned with nature, regardless of season.



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