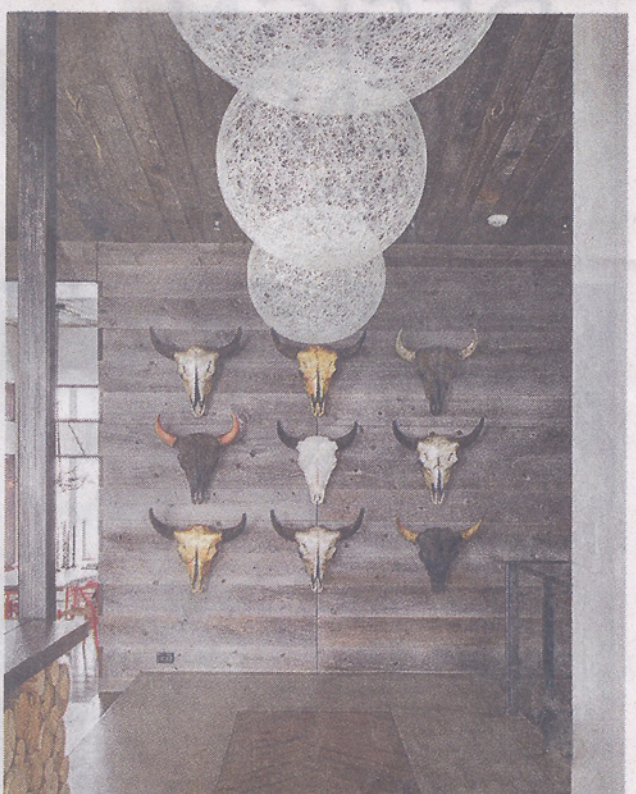
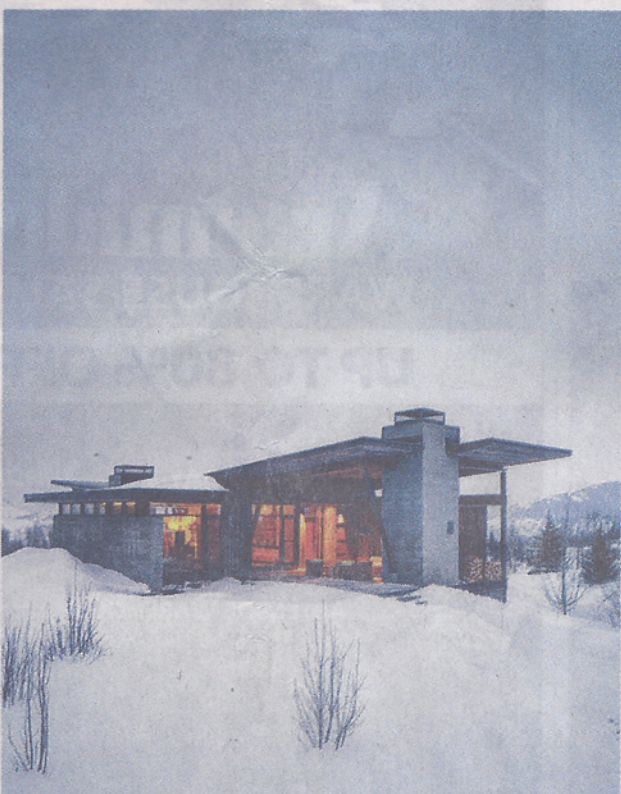


ON LOCATION
Jackson, Wyo.



In designing a house for Clay Heighten and Debra Caudy, above, Larry Pearson, their architect, took their requests for outdoor space seriously. "I decided to make the entry to the home an outdoor room rather than a porch or foyer," he said.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TREVOR TONDRO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Roll Out the Snow Carpet

The coldest room in the house can sometimes be the most welcoming. Page 6.

ON LOCATION

Jackson, Wyo.

Roll Out the Snow Carpet



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TREVOR TONDRO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

1. The furnishings in the outdoor room were chosen to withstand the elements, but Dr. Heighten and Dr. Caudy bring the cushions and the Moonlight pendant lamp from Aldo Bernardi indoors when they're not in residence.

2. The hanging fixture just inside the front door is a Random Light by Bertjan Pot for Moooi.

A couple wanted their home to be open to the great outdoors. Their architect took them at their word.

By RIMA SUQI

"This is where we want to be" was the first thought that Clay Heighten and his wife, Debra Caudy, had when they stepped off the plane at the Jackson Hole Airport eight years ago. As Dr. Heighten said, "Those mountains really make an impact."

Dr. Heighten, 57, a physician-turned-entrepreneur, and Dr. Caudy, 56, an oncologist, live in Dallas with the youngest of their four children (the other three are grown), and were in town visiting a business associate of Dr. Heighten's who had built a house with an enviable view of the mountains. But then, Jackson is virtually surrounded by mountains — the Teton

Range to the west and the Gros Ventre Range to the east — so it's hard to avoid having a spectacular view.

It wasn't long before they were looking for a house of their own here. Despite the recession, however, inventory was low and prices were not. "We saw a lot of tired log cabin homes," Dr. Heighten said. "And none were what we wanted."

What they wanted was a house that took full advantage of the outdoors. What they got was one that did that to an extent that may have surprised them. But then they took the unusual step of delegating almost all the decisions to their designer.

After buying a five-acre lot for \$1.2 million in 2011, they more or less turned it over to Larry Pearson of the Pearson Design Group in Bozeman, Mont., whose firm had a 5,400-square-foot home built and furnished for them in just 16 months, for about \$4 million, Dr. Caudy said.

"Larry really just sort of took over this

whole house," she said. "We let him have the control."

To the extent that they gave Mr. Pearson direction, Dr. Heighten said, it was limited to general requests. "We wanted the home to blend with the outside," he said. "We wanted to be able to leave the doors open, and walk in and out. And have living areas outside."

Mr. Pearson took them at their word. And in place of a formal entry hall, he substituted an outdoor room.

Of course, it has a fireplace, something that comes in handy when the weather is frigid and the snow is knee-deep, as it is in Wyoming during the winter. And there are sliding barn doors, in case it gets too windy, which isn't uncommon, either.

But what's a little discomfort when you're surrounded by this kind of beauty?

As Mr. Pearson pointed out, "The entry actually has the best view in the whole house."

It also has a floor that's often covered in snow, but that doesn't seem to trouble his clients. Then again, they moved in last fall, so this is their first winter, Dr. Heighten said: "We don't have that much experience."

He added: "I think in January and February, we won't use that front area that much. But we've been out there in late October, when it was 25 degrees. And we had a fire going and the blankets, and it was great."

The furniture was chosen to withstand the elements, although he said that he and Dr. Caudy do bring the cushions and the pendant light in when they're not here.

For her part, Dr. Caudy seems philosophical about the challenges of outdoor living in Wyoming.

"The home is art, in and of itself — that's what people say: It's a piece of art," she said. And "of all the rooms, people love that front deck."



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3. After buying the five-acre lot in 2011, Dr. Heighten and Dr. Caudy basically turned it over to their architect, Larry Pearson, who had a 5,400-square-foot home built and furnished for them in just 16 months. "Larry really just sort of took over," Dr. Caudy said.

4. In the living room, an Era sectional sofa from Camerich sits on a 16-foot-square sheepskin rug; the black walnut stump coffee table was designed by the architects, and more Random Lights from Moooi hang overhead.

5. In the master bathroom, Ronbow round ceramic sinks with Purist fixtures from Kohler sit on Calacatta marble counters. The Bella Modern Pendant Light is from Niche.

6. The hand-cut plywood letters in the kitchen are from Gregory Morris's Etsy shop, SlippinSouthern.

7. The solid walnut kitchen cabinetry was custom made, with Shift knobs by Ted Boerner.

8. In the master bedroom is a Claro walnut bed designed by the architects, with Modo desk lamps by Jason Miller for Roll & Hill on either side. Over the shagreen-covered Sorin Dresser from Made Goods hangs "A Calf in Between," by Craig Spankie. The antler chandelier is by Frank Long.

9. The black walnut slab kitchen table is surrounded by Hans Wegner Wishbone chairs from Design Within Reach. The hanging fixture was made by IronGlass Lighting; behind it is "Ascension," by Rocky Hawkins.

10. The black walnut staircase has LEDs mounted beneath each riser to light the way at night.

11. The Barcelona tub in the master bathroom is from Victoria + Albert, with Purist fixtures from Kohler.

12. In a corner of the living room is a New York Chair from Alchemy Collections; the vintage arrows next to it were found at the GallivantingGirls shop on Etsy.

13. Each of the indoor and outdoor fireplaces is anchored with a slab of Two Dot stone. "I love the idea of something as fundamental as a big stone," said Mr. Pearson, the architect.

14. The custom made cabinet in the master bedroom has Brut Pendant pulls by Ted Boerner for Rocky Mountain Hardware.

15. A Siena Tamburo Vessel sink from Stone Forest is set into a counter custom made of Claro walnut.

16. Mr. Pearson sees the house an "extension of the landscape," he said. "A mountain home is part of something much grander."



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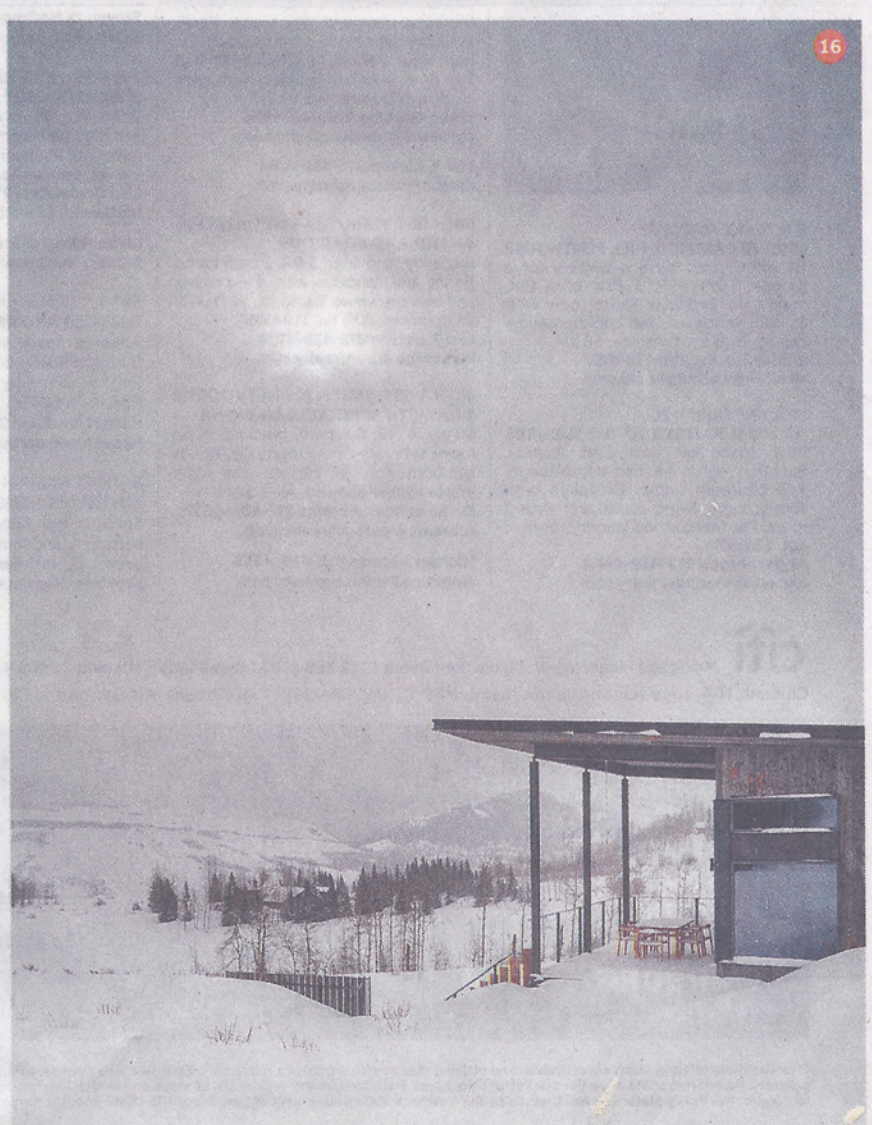
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