



*Aspen Views*

Jackson, Wyoming | Stephen Dynia, AIA | Stephen Dynia Architects, PC | Jackson, Wyoming

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RDN JOHNSON



Angled rooflines and a sense of transparency mark the house.



**THE FIVE-ACRE SITE IS LOCATED IN AN ASPEN grove, just outside Jackson, Wyoming. The hillside setting, which is also interspersed with spruce trees, features killer views of the distant, snowcapped Teton Range.**

For architect Stephen Dynia, principal of Stephen Dynia Architects in Jackson, the challenge was to create a home that made the most of the site and scenery, yet served as a comfortable vacation retreat for a busy family.

"I decided to put the primary living spaces on the second floor," explains Dynia. "That way both the homeowners and visitors could get the feeling of being in the treetops and take advantage of the views."

Dynia nestled the two-story house into the slope of the hillside, amongst the trees. In plan, the L-shaped, 8,000-square-foot residence has a garage, game room, study and two guest bedrooms on the first level, which also includes an atrium space, entry and stairway to the second floor. The second level includes an open kitchen, family room, dining room and living area, as well as a master suite and children's bedrooms.

The home's contemporary elevation is largely transparent, thanks to view-grabbing window walls. A gable roof form shelters the larger wing. The smaller bedroom wing and an angled, tower-like structure that contains the entry and staircase are capped by angled, shed-style rooflines.

Dynia eased the house into its setting with the use of exterior stone walls, cedar siding and a zinc roof, materials with muted colors that blended into the trees. He repeated some materials indoors. A generously scaled stone wall marks the entry stairs and separates the kitchen from the dining room. Stone was also used on the fireplace in the family room, which serves as a structural end piece in the house. Another fireplace, clad in zinc and painted steel, floats between the dining and living areas, warming both spaces. Its chimney piece tapers sculpturally toward the ceiling line, visually lightening its presence. An open,



beamed fir ceiling runs the length of the upper level. Underfoot, cherry flooring adds warmth.

To further connect the upper level to its treetop setting, a deck wraps around one end of the house, allowing the homeowners extra outdoor living space during the warmer months. Though much of the property was left in its natural state, Jackson landscape architect Mark Hershberger, ASLA, shaped several garden areas close to the house, including a terraced entryway marked by stone garden walls and a clipped, formalized stand of aspens.

While the home makes the most of its site, Dynia also employed some energy-efficient strategies in its design, including plenty of natural illumination, south-facing glass for passive solar heating and operable windows to encourage cross-ventilation.

As the home has just been completed, the owners are judiciously choosing furnishings that reflect the angled lines of the architecture and can withstand the rigors of an active family lifestyle.

"This house is a balance between views and a feeling of openness, and a sense of privacy, protection and coziness," Dynia says, summarizing the project. ■

**Architecture:** Stephen Dynia Architects, P.C., Jackson, WY; (307) 733-3766 or [www.dynia.com](http://www.dynia.com).

**Construction:** Tom Dobell Construction, Jackson, WY; (307) 690-1075.

**Landscape architecture:** Hershberger Design, Jackson, WY; (307) 739-1001.

*Right: The entrance frames aspen grove and mountain views. Left: A second-level deck provides outdoor living spaces. Below: The family room's tapered fireplace serves as an end piece for the house.*

