







**Above:** Large girder trusses are held up by stone masses, such as the fireplace, which replicates the stonework used throughout the home.

**Left:** In keeping with the home's contemporary look, the wood-burning fireplace fits comfortably into a triangular alcove facing the great room. Sitting on a foundation of Montana moss rock, the fireplace and chimney were constructed from rusted plate steel, a favorite building material of the architect, Stephen Dynia.

**Opposite:** Since this house is actually attached by a bridge to a guesthouse, the couple designed the pavilion-style home with plenty of open living spaces since only they will be using it. The rooms on the main level flow one into another, from the spacious great room and dining room to the kitchen at the far end.





Left: A home constructed with walls of stone and glass may seem like a cold place to spend the winter, but all of the glass was enclosed inside a double-paned commercial window system. Since the windows come with a thermal break in their frame, cold air is prevented from penetrating the home, allowing large volumes of glass to be used throughout. Contemporary-styled purlin trusses, with metal plating and steel rods, support the ceiling over the main body of the home. The loft, seen in the upper corner, is suspended from trusses.

Opposite: The timbers in the home are made up of engineered rough-sawn fir, also known as glulams (or glued laminated timbers). Unlike traditional post-and-beam homes, which use timbers and metal joinery, the beams rest on massive stone pillars and are held together by steel plates and attached to diagonal steel rods anchored to the roof structure.

spending an increasing amount of time in the state visiting their children and grandchildren.

After searching for two months, the couple's daughter, working with a local Realtor, found a property on a little over three acres in an older subdivision in Jackson Hole. "We wanted something that was well-located and a good value," David says. "Meaning a good value because it might need a lot of work."

timber beams. To David and Lisa, the fact that it not only lives well, but also won a regional architectural prize, due to their joint efforts, gives them special pleasure.

So it was no surprise that shortly after David and Lisa built their second home in Wyoming, it, too, won recognition: a highly coveted American Institute of Architects of Wyoming award. One reason the home won the award is because it puts a fresh face on an old classic: the Western retreat. Working with Stephen Dynia Architects in Jackson Hole, David and Lisa together created a home that marries a variety of natural materials (steel, wood and stone) and exposed architectural elements that, when combined, form a truly modern but clearly rustic retreat.

The story of this home began when David and Lisa decided they wanted a home away from home in the Jackson Hole area. Their daughter and son were both living in Wyoming, and the couple found themselves

take years to find such a lot in upscale Jackson Hole, so they were surprised when their daughter called with the good news after such a short period of time. The only hitch was that the property came with a small home already built on it. Although the house was not typical of the style of homes in the surrounding area, David and

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Lisa decided to keep the older home and make it into a guesthouse for friends and family. They thought that if they could link it somehow to the new house that they wanted to build, they could have privacy and provide their guests with a comfortable place to retreat to as well.

When the time came to find an architect, the couple asked around town for recommendations. While they wanted a rustic home, they also were looking for an architect that would create something out of the ordinary. "We wanted something contemporary, but also reminiscent of Wyoming and its past history," David says.





**Left:** A massive bar made from cherry by cabinetmaker Andy Olerud of Dovetail Design in Driggs, Idaho, acts as a partition wall for one side of the open dining room and provides additional storage space with plenty of built-in cupboards. The unit rests on a concrete floor, which is stained to resemble terra cotta. An in-floor radiant heat system keeps the home warm even on the coldest winter days.

**Opposite:** The master bedroom in the loft radiates warmth. In the space, moss-colored walls are paired with tongue-and-groove straight grain Douglas fir boards on the ceiling to give the room a cozy feel. In a far corner, a wood-burning, cast-iron stove sits just outside a second-floor balcony that lets the morning sun flood in.

"Stephen Dynia's name kept coming up on top of the list," Lisa recalls.

Because of their interest in architecture, David and Lisa were intrigued to learn about the work Stephen was doing. He is known in Jackson Hole for building homes that exhibit characteristics of industrial architecture, meaning that the structure of the home is exposed throughout. "That is something that I explore in most of the projects that I do," Stephen says. "There is the sense that the buildings have something, like a bridge or truss, that clearly acknowledges how it is being held up."

While most of the homes he designs are modernistic, they also contain elements, such as stone, steel and wood, that tie them to the rustic environment in which they are built. For David and Lisa's home, Stephen combined these elements in the contemporary purlin wood trusses, held together with metal plating and steel rods, that support the ceiling over the main body of the home.

The wood used in the trusses is composed of engineered rough-sawn fir, also known as glulams (for glued-laminated timbers). Unlike a traditional post-and-beam home, which uses wooden posts and beams and metal joinery, the beams in this home rest on massive stone pil-

lars. They are held together by steel plates and attached to diagonal steel rods anchored to the roof structure. Large girder trusses are held up by stone masses, such as the fireplace. The master bedroom loft overlooking the great room is actually suspended from these trusses.

Stephen also incorporated an abundance of glass in the house, enabling the structure inside the home to be clearly seen from the outside, particularly at night when all the lights are turned on. The idea is that the structure holding up the roof system would be exposed throughout the house and visible from the outside, too.

Using a lot of glass in Wyoming where a good portion of the year is spent under a blanket of snow, Stephen needed to find a type of window that would keep the cold air out and the warm air in. In keeping with his use of modern materials, he opted to install a double-paned commercial window system. Since this type of window system comes with a thermal break built into the frame (meaning that the frame doesn't allow cold air to infiltrate past the window sill), he was able to build the home with large volumes of glass throughout its structure and keep the interior at a comfortable temperature.

Stephen was also careful to make sure that structural



elements visible on the inside of the home were echoed in the exterior facade as well. "The elements that are stone are stone inside and outside," he explains. "So that you're not walking into a shell that has a different finish inside."

The meshing of steel rods, stone columns and wooden beams gives the home an industrial look that belies the warm feeling of the home on the inside. It's a combination that gives David satisfaction in building

yet another home that is of some architectural significance and Lisa a comfortable home in which she can entertain friends and family. "I always wanted my houses to be cozy and warm," Lisa says, noting that the design of this home "scared me to death because by the time we got all this up and there was all this stone, I thought, 'Oh.' But it has worked very well and the home is very warm and livable." **THI**