

WESTERN Interiors & DESIGN

indoor
· outdoor
living

fresh!

Bringing Summer Inside

BATH MAKEOVER
Luxurious Natural Textures

KITCHEN CHIC
A Designer's
Light-filled Space

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SMART
WATER-SAVING
SOLUTIONS



opposite “The house is sited to maximize views and solar gain,” Heliotope Architects’ Mike Mora says of a contemporary house he designed for Paul and Jeanne Moseley in Missoula, Montana. **this page** Jeanne and her daughter, Bennett, read in the playroom. The wall covering is from The Map Shop.



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left Designer Stephanie Sandston brought “a warm modernism” to the interiors with pieces from her Bozeman shop Shack Up. In the living room, she paired a sofa and daybed from Bombast with midcentury classics. Lance Hossack’s walnut low table adds an organic edge. **opposite** Paul and Bennett in the kitchen, where bamboo cabinetry plays off Heath Ceramics tile. Komplot’s Non chairs encircle a Saarinen table.

ventional but also fun, with great open family space,” Paul says.

Mike Mora, a principal with Heliotrope Architects in Seattle, whom the Moseleys brought in for the project, knew that Montana had a strong log-house building culture, but he wanted the residence to be grounded in the twenty-first century. “And we knew it needed to be a structure that wasn’t too precious or delicate, a place for a young family to live, grow and bang around in,” he explains.

Mora evolved the architectural language for the Moseleys’ house by turning western Montana’s cold climate and vertical landscape into a design advantage. Since snow is a good insulator, he used a shallow-pitched copper roof to help hold the snow longer. The sloped site also allowed him to put the lower level into the ground for thermal advantage. He oriented the red-cedar-clad house to the south not only toward the sun and

the best views but also away from the nearby road. A grassy lawn that steps down to a pool terrace paved with Pennsylvania bluestone makes the most of the property’s protected side.

“Mike did a beautiful job of creating a discreet and unpretentious entrance and nestling the house into the hillside,” Jeanne says. “But I was a little nervous about going this modern. I didn’t want our new home to feel cavernous and cold.”

To address that issue, Mora chose materials that added warmth to the interior. Paul had spent two years living in Japan, and he wanted a bit of that history reflected in the residence. “We used blonde bamboo and vertical-grain fir to complement each other and bring an Asian influence and a wood-grain warmth into the house,” Mora says. He also articulated the shed-roof-style ceiling with the softening effect of fir slats.

As a functional and aesthetic contribution to the main living





left Mora created a Japanese-inspired “dining box” to be an engaging design element, even when empty, within the living area. The custom table was made by Urban Hardwoods, and the sculpture, *Horse*, is by Bill Drum. Two-inch-thick tatami mats cover the banquette. **opposite** A built-in niche, lined with bamboo casework by O. B. Williams, anchors the master bedroom. The bed is dressed with pillows by Del Cerro and K Studio and a Peacock Alley coverlet and shams.

“WE DIDN’T WANT THE BED TO BE JUST PUSHED UP AGAINST THE WALL,” SAYS MORA. “WE WANTED IT TO BE SETTLED INTO PLACE A LITTLE MORE SECURELY.”

area, Mora designed a “tatami dining box,” loosely inspired by traditional Japanese dining. “We wanted it appealing as a dining room but also engaging as a design element even when no one was in it,” he notes. The space is outfitted with thick tatami mats and a salvaged-madrone-wood table. Sliding doors made with horizontal fir slats afford privacy.

When principal designer Stephanie Sandston of Shack Up Design in Bozeman, Montana, joined the project, she brought a unique style informed by twenty years of experience as an art director and designer in the film industry. She immediately responded to the indoor-outdoor space Mora had created. “I felt the interior needed a relationship to those forest colors and the creek water reflected through the branches, so we went with wood grains and greys and greens with accents of red and orange,” Sandston says. “My job was to choose pieces, materials and art that would tell the story of the Moseleys’ lifestyle in the context of Mike Mora’s architectural design.”

Through her Bozeman design and art gallery, Shack Up, she

introduced modern furnishings and pieces by local contemporary craftsmen—including furniture maker Lance Hossack, glass artist Richard Parrish and the Gillia brothers of Bottega Montana—that are both kid-friendly and elegant. “It was so much fun to be able to use classics like the Saarinen Womb chair,” says Sandston. “We put on double the thickness of wool mohair, and now it’s Norton’s—the dog’s—favorite spot.”

Both inside and out, the house helps redefine traditional western expectations. “It was a large, secluded site so we could pretty much do whatever we wanted,” says Mora. “But it was important for us to do a house that looked like it belonged in Missoula.” The architect achieved that, but not by following the region’s more conventional log vernacular. “That style is sort of self-perpetuating in a way,” he explains. “People think that’s what they need to have here. But we’re young architects in the beginning of the twenty-first century, and we’re interested in a more contemporary vocabulary. Just because it’s Montana, there’s no reason you have to do a log home.” +

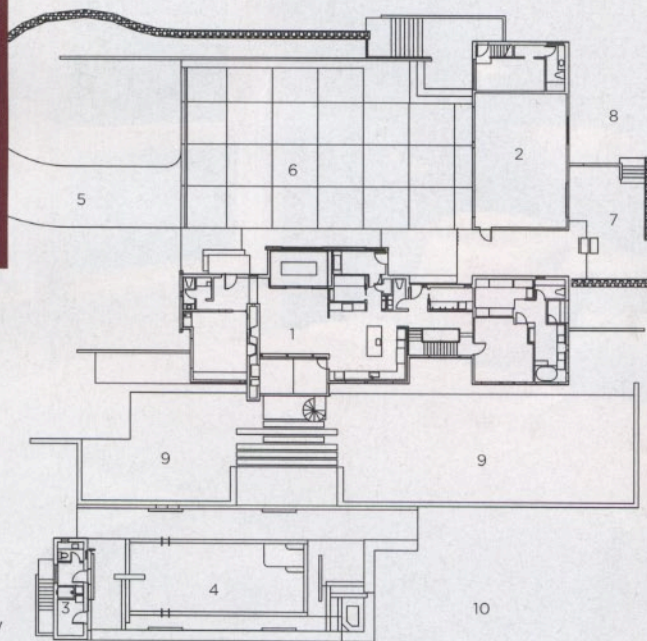




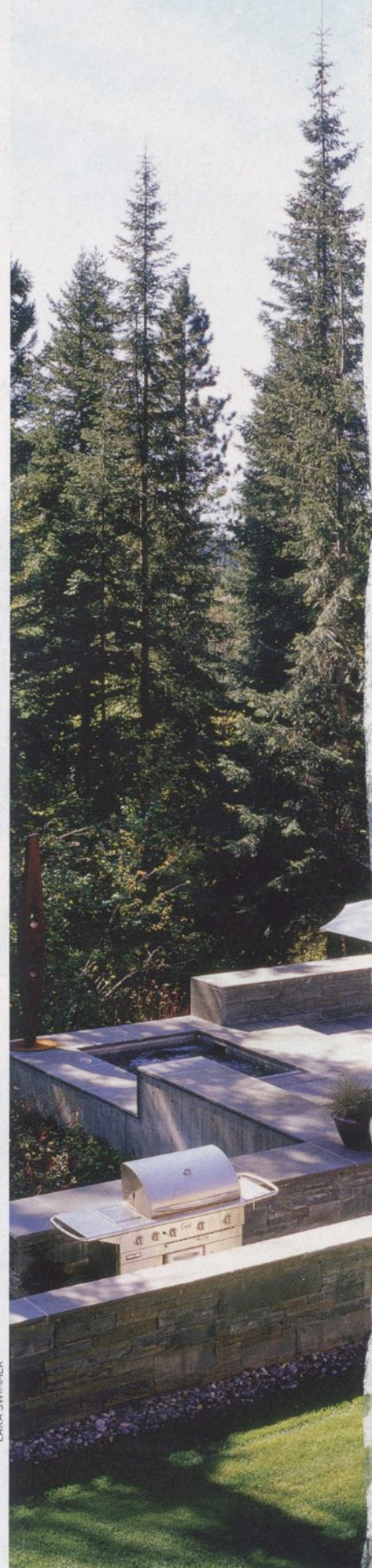
how a
site sets
the scene

DESIGN DETAILS

“Creating an indoor-outdoor experience in Montana is always a challenge,” says Mora. But for the Moseleys’ house, the seven-acre site provided unexpected opportunities. “It’s flat and has a long running slope right through the middle of it.” Mora knew immediately he wanted to position the house directly on the slope and “save the flat land for other uses.” That way, the house “faces the creek and the sun, and it opens out onto a meadow area where we put the pool,” Mora says. And for the flat land behind the house, Mora found a dual purpose. “We heated the auto court so the kids can ride their skateboards all winter.”



- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Main residence | 6 Auto court |
| 2 Garage | 7 Service court |
| 3 Pool house | 8 Garden |
| 4 Pool | 9 Lawn |
| 5 Driveway | 10 Meadow |



LARA SWIMMER



opposite Red cedar siding, Marvin windows and a concrete-block chimney mark the structure's southern facade, which overlooks the pool. Sandston appointed the terrace with Case Study furniture and a Rals grill/fireplace. **these pages** A pool house clad with Pennsylvania ledgerstone has a garden roof and a Boffi "pipe" shower. The landscape design was by Chris Moritz.