

INTERIORS[®]

ART IN DESIGN





BIG SKY MOOD

ARCHITECTURE: LOCATI ARCHITECTS
INTERIOR DESIGN: KENDALL WILKINSON
TEXT: ZLATA KOZUL NAUMOVSKI
PHOTOGRAPHY: GIBEON PHOTOGRAPHY



The modern architecture, custom furniture and sublime finishes of this mountain home are lovely, however, they play only a supporting role to what lies outside the massive picture-frame windows. In Big Sky, Montana, despite the luxurious trappings of a generous house, the main attraction is the bounty above and the background beyond, brushed with celestial blues and vivid greens that not even the best furnishings can compete with.

It's the very reason why Kendall Wilkinson's clients chose to spend four years in conjunction with Locati Architects and Highline Construction building and designing their vacation home for their family, which includes three young children and multiple generations. "We have always loved to ski and wanted a home to host family and friends for both the winter and the summer," says the wife.

So what's an interior designer charged with creating a mountain ski lodge to do when she can't compete with Mother Nature? Use it as a point of reference, naturally. "We took inspiration from the outdoors for fabrics and color tones," says Wilkinson, citing her use of a muted and calm palette. "We brought the outdoors in through the scale of the picture frame windows. We invited these 360-degree panoramic views of Big Sky into the home."

Monochromatic and textural, the house—with its soaring pitched ceilings and contemporary lines—redefines mountain living. "That's what makes it so special," Wilkinson says. Conspicuously absent are antlers or any cliché accessories that both the designer and clients, who have worked together on previous homes for a decade, agreed early on to avoid. However, there are plenty of gorgeous bronze light fixtures designed by Debra Weninger and comfortable seating arrangements anchored by wool rugs. "We created a lot of seating groups—for just two people, or five, or 20 when they're entertaining other families," Wilkinson says.



In the family room, she and design principal Kristin Rowell chose a family-friendly sectional sofa from Holly Hunt in a cotton velvet aptly named Clover and a Jean de Merry side table made of opal and plaster. "The kids curl up and watch a movie while their mother is cooking," Wilkinson says. "With a fireplace, and games in the cabinet, the room feels very cozy." Nearby, in the great room, the designers introduced a pair of streamlined Holly Hunt sofas in a teal mohair by Rosemary Hallgarten. They paired them with armchairs by Kimberly Denman in a white pleated cotton fabric. The warm brown of a Hudson Furniture console table with an acrylic base and walnut top balances the stone fireplace. "Choosing the right textures and finishes has a lot to do with making the home feel intimate and comfortable," Wilkinson says.

The kitchen, a room known for hard, even cold, surfaces, is defined by Calacatta marble. "We softened it up with fabrics and dark colors," Wilkinson says. Holly Hunt's Great Plains faux leather in Vapor covers chairs by Kimberly Denman, and a black granite counter stretches over a wood island "so it's not an all-white kitchen." The designers selected handmade Heath Ceramics tiles in a creamy hue for the backsplash to offset the custom bronze hood. Custom alabaster pendants by Gabriel Scott hang like diamonds in the sky.

Wood sheathes the walls and covers the floors throughout all levels of the house, including upstairs, which houses the master bedroom. Here, a window seat and low-slung vintage French armchairs from Downtown help maximize the killer views. Opposite the bedroom, the husband takes advantage of working from home by sitting near the window with his feet propped on the Natasha Baradaran ottoman or from his Joseph Jeup desk and chair from Bright Chair upholstered in a gunmetal leather. "We love that our home balances many traditional elements naturally fitting of Montana with clean, contemporary interior design," says the wife. "It is livable and comfortable despite its size and beauty." For her part, Wilkinson says the home reflects its occupants perfectly. "It is really who they are—warm, inviting and cheerful." ■ Kendall Wilkinson, kendallwilkinson.com

