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Creative and enthusiastic minds with a flair for enhancing spaces that reflect a mix of their imagination alongside a client's personality, needs and desires



Worth Interiors

TEAM WORK AND PERSEVERANCE TRANSFORM
A BIG SKY, MT MANSION

by Tara Imperatore



The Barnhart Ranch

One space in this Montana mansion that relies more on modern influences is the kitchen, with its sleek custom cabinetry and large-scale island. "The kitchen was really all about the views," Kanning says. "There was that big window that has you looking out on the mountain range. It was really more about function and not detracting from what you're seeing outside." The same beautiful views can be seen from the casual dining area that the Barnhart's specifically requested be more comfortable than formal. "When we started we were on site in the summer and the color palette reflects what you're seeing outside the windows," says Kanning. "In the winter it just brings that same warmth to the house when you have all of the snow outside. It doesn't really read rustic and it doesn't really read modern; it's transitional in that it encompasses a little bit of everything,

01

Dining sofa from K and F European Upholstery shows off leather from Moore and Giles, Inc. and fabric from Donghia, Inc. The Live Edge dining table comes from Robin Dorn and Associates.

02

Master suite has a clever combination of elegance and rusticity. The stack stone and reclaimed wood is off set by the Jean de Merry "Lumiere" light fixture.

03

Rustic Timbers mix with tailored furnishing. The swivel club chairs are upholstered with a sheepskin seat and trimmed the custom sofa from John Brooks Inc. Masculine lamps are from Visual Comfort in Dallas.

After the framing is complete and the walls are up, when the plumbing is done and electrical wiring in place, it comes time to transform the cold skeleton of a house into a warm place to call home. When trying to add style to a space, we look toward interior designers and their expertise to give personality to what could otherwise be a boring or disjointed room. Worth Interiors is doing just that with over a decade of experience, a unique point of view and numerous accolades to back up their designs that grace homes, restaurants and hotels all over the country. "I have clients who continually want to renew and refresh," says Lisa Kanning, one of the principals at Worth Interiors. "So it's not unusual to have 15 things going on at one time but all at different levels."

Kanning studied at Colorado's Institute of Art, but originally had a background in psychology "which actually comes in handy in residential interior design," she says. On a whim she changed courses and started working in the design field, at which time Kanning met Eddy Doumas. After developing a great professional relationship, they decided to combine their mutual passions and open a firm of their own. Thirteen years later, the two have created a thriving company with offices in both Denver and Vail and a portfolio that includes many new and repeat clients in locations ranging from Palm Beach to San Diego to Chicago.

Richard and Barbara Barnhart are among the happy homeowners who enlisted the help of Worth Interiors to make their 10,000-square-foot Big Sky, MT residence into the mountain retreat of their dreams. Kanning and her team first got to work on the separate carriage house, testing their vision of mixing modern and mountain aesthetics while the main house was being framed. A few snags in the plan halted the project, but not the creative minds at Worth. "While it was paused, ideas were still being thrown around," Kanning says. "So while construction had stopped, the creative process hadn't."





On the search for new contractors, the Barnhart's came across Highline Partners, "who are two young guys with brilliant vision that got the whole thing and were just able to run with it," Kanning says. From that point on the homeowners, Worth Interiors and Highline Partners' Rob McRae and Todd Thesing, worked together on everything from the custom light fixtures to the reclaimed wood wall art and the very real buffalo head that guards the front entrance.

The same concept of blending the mountainous surroundings with contemporary decor was the focus for the main house as well. "The homeowners' one request was that even though we were cleaning up the furnishings and going more clean line and modern, they still wanted it to feel like a rustic mountain house, so in each room there's an element that lets you know where you're located," Kanning says. Such elements include the

third guest room's twisted wood bed frame, wide plank flooring throughout, rough cut stone in the entryway and master bathroom, and custom hide wall coverings. "We try to stay out there and bring different stuff to the table so we're not doing what everyone else is... Highline had all of these fantastic local craftspeople who could really do absolutely anything and do it brilliantly," Kanning says.

At the end of this whirlwind six-month-long creative and collaborative design experience, Kanning can truly say that they are pleased with the product, and more importantly, the Barnhart's love their new Big Sky abode. "It was just such a great project because of the team who was put together and all of the craftspeople that were brought on board as well," Kanning says. "It was a lot of fun and everyone worked really well together and you can see it in the end result. The clients are extremely happy, which is what you always want." ■

04 Front entry of home features a custom hide wall installation, large two-sided fireplace, inlaid tile detailing and large buffalo head. Current view illustrates the entry in relation to the front stair case with a faux finished decorative ceiling detail

05 Custom cabinetry and large scale island bring added function to the walkthrough pantry in the residence's kitchen. Views of the mountains can be seen outside of the large kitchen windows.

06 Large scale custom bed sets the tone for the organic 3rd guest bedroom. A lofted sleeping area provides additional beds for overnight guests.

PHOTOS: BENJAMIN BENSCHNEIDER