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Coeur d'Alene Magazine

Celebrating North Idaho Lifestyles



BLAST *in the* **BACKCOUNTRY**

NIGHT *of a* MILLION LIGHTS

LIVES *well* LIVED



story by DAVID KILMER photography by JOEL RINER & DUSTIN WEED

Morning light comes early on this pine-and-rock ridgeline high above Lake Coeur d'Alene. There is a growing illumination of landscape, sky and water, a revelation of spaces far and near. "It should be one's sole endeavor to see everything afresh and create it anew," wrote the composer Gustav Mahler. In this dramatic home, that wisdom comes boldly alive.

As details emerge from the dark, it is like seeing a sculpture or a work of art for the first time. The thing that continues to entrance the eyes and the aesthetic sense is a play between

materials and methods. Here is stone, and there is zinc. Here is wood, and there is glass. Modern and vintage, organic and industrial, plush and slick, "a dance of give and take," as architect Eric Hedlund puts it. Surrounded by this dance, it's a joy to wake up here.

Not many owners have the bravery to build something this modern out here in the Idaho pines. But the die was cast early in their relationship, when he gave her an important book on contemporary architecture. "Dare to be different," was always the rallying cry for this retired Wall Street

MOUNTAINTOP MARVEL

CLEAN LINES, CLASSIC ELEMENTS





THERE'S AN AESTHETIC SENSE OF PLAY BETWEEN MATERIAL AND METHODS, BETWEEN OLD STONE AND NEW ZINC, RICH WOOD AND SLICK GLASS, "A DANCE OF GIVE AND TAKE."

maverick. "If you let them pigeonhole you, you're done."

For this couple, love of art and architecture provide a common thread. When they met he owned a small beach house in New England, while she lived in a big southern Texas mansion. Their give and take provides the nuances that work so well. "We went completely contemporary this time," she says. "But I was fearful about how it would be." That fear evaporated the moment she set eyes on her new home.

The approach is understated from the street, melding in, with its flat rooftops hidden away. One approaches down a long concrete-and-paver driveway with low-profile LED lights. The entrance has a large courtyard sculpture, a 40-foot-wide stainless steel water feature and monogrammed stainless steel gates.

In through the stainless steel front doors, the view expands to infinite horizons. "Stunning," was her brother's first appraisal

– from a man not easily impressed. Touch a button, and the doors disappear into stone, opening to the vastness outside. A soft breeze enters. One is struck by the incredible balance, by the way so many dissimilar elements simply... fit.

Mountain contemporary might be the most apt description – a setting for an adventurous and social lifestyle, for life and beauty. Ideas flowed freely between architect, interior designer and owners: "It was a simpatico between us."

Here, Western art is right at home with modern steel and soft furnishings. It would be safe to say that the neutral palette fairly explodes at the red glass bar, black stools and walnut cabinetry. Here, the couple had another good-natured tussle over design. He says, "I was anti-red bar, and I'll admit I was 100 percent wrong on that one."

Like a fine resort, the main living space is large-scale, under 360-degree clearstory windows above. With various seating areas,

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"ARCHITECTURE IS THE TRIUMPH OF HUMAN IMAGINATION OVER MATERIALS, METHODS, AND MEN, TO PUT MAN INTO POSSESSION OF HIS OWN EARTH."

- FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT, 1930

it can handle a crowd comfortably and still be intimate when just the owners remain. Stone exterior walls flow into interior finishes, connecting the room to the wonder outside. Teak ceiling panels appear to float in a warm glow with LED lights softening the high ceilings. Thanks to the vision of designer Chandra Payne, sofas and chairs are proportioned accordingly, while organic tables and heavily textured upholstery and rugs bid welcome.

Many of the accents came from local artisans – end tables, a book table, mirrors – and the owners were blown away: "We are impressed with the degree of craftsmanship and the dedication to a really good job."

From the main room, the home leads north and south for a master wing and guest wing. This is a beloved layout the owners have honed over time – in fact their design team flew to Naples, Florida to see one of their previous builds. In the guest rooms, terraces bring the landscape close, and luxury comforts are everywhere at hand. Guests have a hard time leaving. She says: "One of our friends recently left a few of her clothes there – just so she could come back again!"

Down the long corridor with its glass wall ending, a Hedlund signature, past the office suites to the master wing, a sense of order and scale presides. "A place for everything, and everything in its place," he says. To get there, one crosses a water feature capped in glass and arrives at a massive petrified tree trunk. Nearby is a remarkable outdoor nook – the home is filled with them – where the light touches the Japanese maples, the water feature, and an opening in the rock wall. "A place where you can just curl up with a book," he says. "Just follow the sun, sit here and feel very peaceful."

On the exterior, unusual finishes meet the eye – genuine zinc roof parapets, Telluride stone veneer, teak soffits and Trespa architectural panels. The landscaping comes in cascading stone planters filled with native species, meeting nature's grass at the edge. The architect used synthetic material for the small lawns, reducing water use and creating a softness underfoot for dining outdoors.

And this is where the owners find themselves at day's end, relaxing perhaps



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with friends at an impromptu party, enjoying a beautiful meal, relishing the place they've created together.

"Many people we know come from very traditional homes, and we didn't expect them to love it," she says. "It's amazing how enthusiastic they have been. The high point was when my daughter came up and said, 'This is beautiful, and I want to come back with the kids.'"

As the day winds down, food arrives from the magnificent chef's kitchen through the dining room to the antique table outdoors, and a toast is proffered to the hosts.

Beyond are the deepening hues of mountains and lake, and nearby the water feature shot through with rich flames. Finishes new and old reflect the firelight.

The dance goes on. C&A

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