

MONTANA SPOTLIGHT



SHELTER INTERIORS

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT MONTANA STYLE IS ALL ABOUT: rustic ranches, fishing cabins, and log lodges. It's true that historical structures like these inform the region's rich vernacular, but look more closely and you'll find that today's local design pros are creating spaces with a bit more depth. Take the Montana firms featured on the following pages, for example: Over the years, Montana Reclaimed Lumber Co. has become a go-to source for

architects, designers, and builders looking to use antique lumber in fresh new ways. The interiors experts at Design Associates and Shelter Interiors are updating classic "Western" décor with lightened-up color palettes and modern takes on traditional natural materials. Yellowstone Traditions uses a combination of time-honored techniques and cutting-edge technology to create spaces that feel deeply

rooted in their surroundings—and that minimize their impact on the land. And on the drafting tables at Studio Architects, textures, light, and views are all carefully orchestrated to evoke a strong sense of place—and of sanctuary. We look forward to introducing you to each one of these design-minded businesses, and, just maybe, to changing the way you think about Montana style.

MONTANA

spotlight

A LIGHT TOUCH

Sharon Lohss, principal of Bozeman-based **SHELTER INTERIORS**, shares the refreshing approach to mountain-home décor that drives her firm's compelling designs.

Your designs put a fresh spin on mountain style. Tell us about your approach to capturing the spirit of your surroundings.

I'M GLAD THAT DESIGN has moved away from literal representations of our rustic surroundings—from heavy, splintered wood textures and color palettes based on browns, reds and greens. I like to incorporate pops of color through art and accessory accents, but find it refreshing to lighten up the nature-inspired palette with blonde, gray and white tones.

You have a talent for creating striking style juxtapositions: contemporary and traditional, old and new, organic and ornate. Why is developing that mix important to you?

MY DESIGN EDUCATION, along with extensive world travel, have made a big impact on my aesthetic, which I would describe as more timeless and less trendy. I began college almost 30 years ago as an art student and transitioned to design, so I have a strong sense of the principles of both. I love antiques and very modern pieces, so for me, spaces that combine both are always favorites.

Rich and varied textures also play a key role in your designs.

I'M ALL ABOUT being comfortable, so texture is key. Form and function, yes, but how things feel is just as important.

Every mountain home should have one really great:

FIREPLACE!

SHELTER INTERIORS

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