

In the former dining room of WRJ Design founders Rush Jenkins and Klaus Baer located in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, a Jonathan Browning Studios chandelier hangs over a Molteni&C table. Loro Piana draperies frame the surrounding windows.

Rustic Warmth

FOR ONE WYOMING DESIGN FIRM, THE MAGIC OF ENTERTAINING STEMS FROM THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT.

WRITTEN BY SARAH SHELTON

Every region of the country has its own brand of hospitality. Take the Mountain West, where the rugged landscape informs both the local design vernacular and the entertaining style. For Rush Jenkins, designer and founder of Jackson Hole-based WRJ Design, the two are undeniably linked. “When you travel to an incredible restaurant, the question to ask—beyond the food—is, ‘How does this space make me feel?’” he notes. “What emotions

connect you to the architecture, and what about the space is welcoming, cozy and romantic?” Together with Klaus Baer, his partner in life and in business, Jenkins has found the answer to crafting entertaining spaces with an undeniable lure.

One of their many secrets to success is living the Rockies lifestyle themselves. Consummate hosts at home—Jenkins oversees the vibe, Baer handles the food—the duo lets a refined yet welcoming rustic

PHOTOS: ROGER DAVIES PHOTOGRAPHY.



The great room at WRJ Design's new headquarters, Stags Landing, situated at the base of Snow King Mountain in Jackson Hole, boasts wire-brushed hardwood floors, reclaimed wood ceiling beams and a large stone fireplace. The sofa is Poltrona Frau, and the desk is André Arbus for Baker.

aesthetic take center stage. Their former dining room, the quintessential postcard of mountain living, featured the region's tried-and-true materials like reclaimed woods and stone, shearlings, and wools. For their tables, no fussy tablecloth is necessary, but elegant taper candles, earthenware ceramics and local flora are a must.

This authentically warm ethos is not limited to their lives at home. This year, Stags Landing—WRJ Design's combination headquarters, gallery, event space and private residence—was unveiled.

A living, breathing manifestation of their vision and craft, Stags Landing draws inspiration from the traditional manor homes of the Cotswolds (Jenkins fell in love with the architectural vernacular while working for Sotheby's in London), and is where the duo hosts clients one-on-one and entertains large groups. The goal was clear: "It's all about welcoming people into a home environment," Jenkins says. Visitors are greeted in the great room, where two large stone fireplaces create a natural gathering place to relax with

a drink in hand. Steel-framed windows look out into the courtyard's English garden—a dreamy backdrop for intimate client lunches.

"I think our niche is creating beauty and luxury using materials that are comfortable," Jenkins reflects. Every corner, every finish is an opportunity to impart a feeling that will leave guests yearning to return, whether at home or work. "The mohair, the cashmere, the reclaimed wood—it is all an opportunity to romance design." wrjdesign.com

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