

# CdA

## Coeur d'Alene Magazine

*Celebrating North Idaho Lifestyles*



# HEROES OF THE SNOW

THE DOGS OF SCHWEITZER

\$4.95



SCALING *the* HEIGHTS  
INDOOR CLIMBING SOARS

A YURT *with a* VIEW  
MAGIC MOUNTAIN GETAWAY

THE JOYS *of* SWING  
REVIVING A CLASSIC DANCE

# ROOTED IN ROCK

Lakeview Home Blends Inspiration  
and Timeless Design

For years she tucked away pages torn from design magazines — glimpses of houses she loved, images that sparked possibility. When the right piece of land appeared, those long-held inspirations finally had a home. Together with a trusted architect and builder, she and her husband shaped a residence that captures both the sweep of the landscape and the intimacy of their vision.

They came to Coeur d'Alene searching for open skies and a gentler altitude. What they found was a site that called out for imagination — and a chance to bring years of those saved ideas to life. Today, the house they built feels both fresh and familiar, a place where family gathers, light pours in and the design seems to grow right out of the hillside.



“The final layout is almost exactly what I drew.”



## Sketching the Dream

The couple had spent the summers in Montana for more than two decades, at nearly 8,000 feet above sea level. Eventually the thin air wore on them. They wanted a place with the same sense of open skies and natural beauty but closer to the ground.

“We came over to visit friends who lived nearby,” the husband says, “and we just kind of fell in love with the area.” Golf was a passion and caddies they met at the Yellowstone Club kept nudging them toward Coeur d’Alene. At first, they imagined buying a condo — something simple, a place to land between travels. But at the time, no condominiums were available. Building began to make sense.

The lot they chose was both a challenge and an opportunity: a long, narrow double lot perched high with sweeping lake views. “We looked at half a dozen others,” he says, “but this clearly had the best view available. We recognized right away it would pose some design issues, but it was worth it.”

Her design passion took the lead. She had kept a thick file of clippings over the years — photographs of houses she admired, pages torn from magazines. When she spread them out, she noticed something surprising: many of the homes were by the same Lake Tahoe architect.

“I’d always saved pictures of houses that inspired me,” she says. “When I pulled them out, I realized the same architect had designed them all. That’s who I wanted for this project.”

She sketched the first floor plan herself. “The final layout is almost exactly what I drew,” she says. The architect refined her vision with soaring panes of glass, a rhythm of steel and a guest wing and garage that fold seamlessly into the structure.

“We wanted something modern but not too modern,” she says. “Something that would still feel right twenty years from now.”



*“Why move something beautiful when you can design around it?”*



## Tranquil Living

Despite the project's scope, they never felt the need to rush. "We told the team from the start — we're not going to push you. We want it done right," he says. The result was steady progress and clear communication. "We were talking two, three, sometimes four times a week," the builder adds. "That's the only way to do a project at this level."

Now, three years later, they use the home in a deliberately low-key way. Their Florida life is full of events and social obligations. Here, they prefer quiet.

"When we come here, we want to fly under the radar," he says. Family visits are the highlight. Their grown children love the guest wing that opens directly to the outdoors. "They can step outside first thing in the morning, or just retreat to their part of the house. It works beautifully."

"At Yellowstone Club, everything was spread out. Fourteen thousand acres meant you were always in your car," he says. "Here, we can walk to the clubhouse, walk to the gym or hop in

the golf cart. It's more practical, and somehow, more fun. Life feels easy. Everything is close — and yet you're still in the middle of nature."



## Finishing Touches

Even in a home defined by views and volume, it's the details that transform it into something unforgettable: the creek running beneath the house, the sunken bar that turns a great room into a gathering place, the siding weathered by Montana winds before settling into its Idaho hillside.

**"This place really was built on solid rock."**

In every detail, the home reflects a mix of determination, creativity and trust shared between homeowners, architect and builder.

"This entire house is the collaboration of a fantastic team," the owner says. "We're totally grateful." C&A

### Credits:

Edwards Smith Construction  
Walton Architecture  
Peace Design  
Clearwater Summit Group

## DESIGN NOTES

### — Living Water

A revived creek runs through the entryway, bringing sound and movement back to the land.

### — Wood with History

Reclaimed Montana timber lines ceilings and walls, carrying warmth and memory.

### — Weathered Siding

Boards were cut, then left outdoors for over a year to age before installation.

### — Light as Sculpture

Chandeliers were chosen as thoughtfully as art would be, acting as conversation pieces.

