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PRESENT PASTORAL

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WHEN A COUPLE FROM CALIFORNIA’S BAY AREA WERE LOOKING TO BUILD A HOUSE NEAR KETCHUM, IDAHO, THEY KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY DIDN’T WANT. “We did not want to do the country western theme,” says the wife. “And we didn’t want log.” Instead they were hoping for a house that would accommodate their six children, while remaining understated and reflective of its surroundings. “We had seen projects by Walker Warner Architects that were contemporary interpretations

ARCHITECTURE Greg Warner, AIA, Walker Warner Architects
INTERIOR DESIGN John Wheatman, John Wheatman & Associates
HOME BUILDER Jeff Brown, Englemann, Inc.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Jay Thayer, ASLA, Jay Thayer Landscape Architect, Inc.



RURAL TIES
For the design of a residence near Ketchum, Idaho, Walker Warner Architects evoked the style of the region's older agrarian buildings.



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of local historic architecture,” she explains, “and that’s what we wanted here.” The couple reached out to Greg Warner, AIA, principal of the San Francisco architecture firm, to help them realize their wishes. The request was a perfect fit. “Our work is place-sensitive,” says Warner. “It’s about context. But if we’re referencing the vernacular buildings of an area, we try to give a forward look to the architecture.”

Warner, along with project managers Clark Sather and Kathy Scott, turned to the area’s rural beginnings for inspiration. “We filtered through all of the newness of resort and ski country and tried to get back to the roots of what was there,” says Warner. “That’s when we started to see the agrarian setting. There were a lot of buildings used for sheep ranching and hay farming, and those were typically smaller and clustered together. That was really the genesis of the idea.” Following that lead, Warner designed a series of buildings along the bench of the Big Wood River, which flows through the couple’s property. A central stone structure houses the living and dining rooms and a study, and separate cedar-clad buildings contain

GOING UP

A rustic barn offers a rope swing and play area for kids, and a ladder that leads to a loft upstairs.



THE BIG REVEAL

Sliding doors dissolve the boundary between the living room and the outdoors. The texture of Pollack raffia on four chairs by John Wheatman and an antique Indian bed used as a cocktail table complement the Frontier stone walls and fir ceiling.



INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH
An antique industrial table with a stainless steel top serves as an island in the kitchen, equipped with Wolf ovens. Windsor chairs surround a table in the breakfast area beyond.

STYLE SELECTION
Known for creating historic and contemporary designs, Joaquim Tenreiro crafted this chair with a spindle-back frame and cane seat. Chair in Jacaranda, price available upon request; r20thcentury.com



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the kitchen and bedrooms. “The concept was that the center building would have been there first,” explains Warner. “And then over time, much like on a farm or ranch, you would have added the others.”

The buildings are positioned in a manner that creates a courtyard facing the Boulder Mountains on one side and a terrace overlooking the river on the other. To connect the sections, Warner devised a porch system that alternates between open-air and enclosed with glass. “We wanted to create a building that had the ability to work with the seasons,” explains Warner, who also encouraged interaction between the indoors and out by adding sliding barn doors in the living room, floor-to-ceiling double-hung windows in the eat-in kitchen, and a large awning window in the master bedroom. “In the winter, you have the warmth and scale of the smaller spaces,” notes Warner, “and then in the summer, the house opens up and relates to the great outdoors.”

Warner let the high desert setting inform the material choices. He selected Douglas fir, a regional wood, for the ceilings, doors and windows, and Idaho Frontier stone for the walls and terrace. “The natural patina of the materials drops the building back into the surrounds,” says Warner. Inside, the architect complemented the organic surfaces with contemporary accents. Metal tie-rods feature the architecture of the vaulted ceilings, and walls are painted with warm off-white, yellow and clay hues to



GIMME SHELTER
A pool terrace built with Western red cedar offers a space to enjoy Idaho's warm summer months. A striped Perennials outdoor fabric covers furnishings by Sutherland.

INTIMATE ESCAPE

The house's separate buildings cluster around a private courtyard. Views of the grounds, designed by San Francisco landscape architect Jay Thayer, ASLA, and long porches, which connect the structures, encourage an indoor/outdoor lifestyle.



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counteract the cool light of the winter snow. San Francisco designer John Wheatman, owner of John Wheatman & Associates, who collaborated on the interiors with the wife and head designer Jason Collard (now owner of Jason Collard Design), had completed the couple's previous residence with furnishings that transitioned well to the Idaho setting. "They were simple and clean enough that you could look outside and see the change of the seasons," says Wheatman. "Nothing inside was going to compete with that."

By addressing the area's roots in a contemporary way, the house honors its site and the family that lives in it. "They wanted something very modest and quiet," says Warner. "So this is not a building that shows off. This is our attempt to create a building that's sensitive to the place. It slowly reveals itself in terms of how it's crafted, how it sits on the land and how it respects where it belongs." **L**



MATERIAL WORLD
A hanging steel mantel and exposed steel tie-rods add a contemporary counterpoint to the living room's wood-and-stone backdrop.

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