

BELOW: This home is a defining property within the Big Sky, Montana region; it was one of the first to push the boundaries of interior spaces and exterior landscape. Large apertures of glass frame the views of Pioneer Mountain and Cedar Mountain to the west. A stone axial wall offers an integral design feature of the home, creating a backdrop for the great room while separating the public spaces from the private areas. In exploring the site during the schematic stages of design, the firm stumbled upon a linear outcropping of stone, which was playfully developed into a key design element of the home.

FACING PAGE: Although the home has more than 9,000 square feet of living space, its careful integration with the hillside along with the preservation of trees gives the residence the intended appearance of a much smaller residence. The firm lowered its visual presence and tucked it more quietly into the landscape. The slight roof pitch to the north allows for a view up to the summit of Lone Mountain. The simple and direct building forms divulge our inspiration: Mies Van Der Rohe's less-is-more approach to design.

Photographs by Roger Wade Studios



Reid Smith Architects



Reid Smith Architects has spent the better part of the last decade as a driving force in redefining mountain architecture, where principal architects Reid Smith and Daryl Nourse are pushing the boundaries between traditional western architecture and modern, clean design. The firm creates unconventionally stunning, responsive projects across the United States that likewise reflect the beauty of their diverse, dynamic environments. At the beginning of any project, they seek to find something on site that serves as unique inspiration to define the site. Indeed, it is often the awe-inspiring landscapes in which their clients live that truly influence Reid Smith Architects' work, as they echo and complement the exterior surroundings throughout the design with the use of both local and natural materials.

With a collaborative process between client, architect, contractor, and consultant, the firm ensures that innovative, forward-thinking ideas are brought to fruition. Whether it's a minimalist, contemporary cabin on the Yellowstone River, a western ski retreat, or a modern mountain residence, the diverse portfolio of Reid Smith Architects continues to beautifully capture the spirit of the site.

BELOW TOP: The home feels like it's floating in the trees. The linear design of the residence allows for a number of bedrooms and ancillary spaces below, providing a strong base for the great room and master wing to hover above the evergreens.

BELOW BOTTOM: An open floorplan along a large expanse of glass allows for each of the spaces in the main living and dining area to share a view.

FACING PAGE TOP: Opposite the view, a backdrop was created of reclaimed barnwood. To soften the surfaces, natural regional materials are often incorporated. They add interest and warmth, and become the view after the sun sets.

FACING PAGE BOTTOM: A stair leads down to the ski room, while capturing the view of the chutes on Pioneer, the most extreme terrain on the mountain.
Photographs by Roger Wade Studios





“Melding the interior with the exterior creates a visceral connection to nature and a sense of ease.”

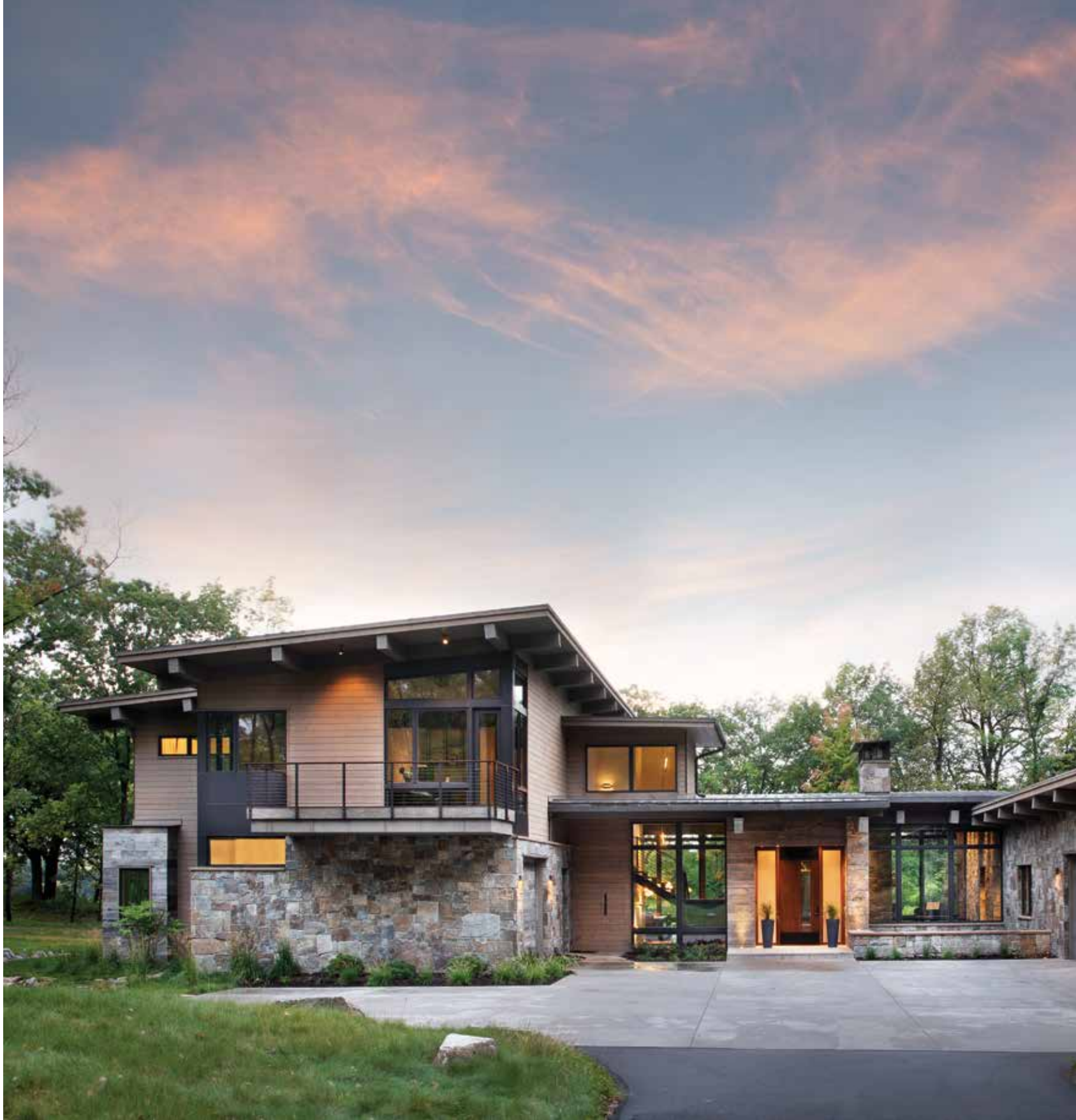
—Daryl Nourse



BELOW: This lake house sits comfortably within a lushly treed site and embraces the natural landscape. The design is comprised of a glass box flanked by two stone forms, enclosing the garages and transitional space. The glass box is made up of the living room, dining room, and music room and invokes the feeling of floating among the trees while filtered views of the lake trickle through the leaves. A custom steel stairway takes you up to the family retreat or down to the recreation level—and if you explore through the back of the lower level, you might stumble upon a hidden stairway that leads to the subterranean sports court.

FACING PAGE: The fireplace is the center jewel of the living area and the firm had fun mixing stone, steel, and concrete in an elemental way to make it enjoyable from all sides. The corner fire orientation opens it up to both the living room and the entry. In the master bathroom, both the tub and the vanity were placed on windows walls for a flood of light and views into the tree canopies. A two-sided fireplace is shared between the master bedroom and the tub. The master suite is located upstairs, high among the trees, with the rest of the bedrooms just down the hall for an upper-level retreat. Natural stone, reclaimed wood, and warm tones in the beams and finishes complement the green of the surrounding forest that flows in through the windows.

Photographs by Gibeon Photography





“The use of natural materials provides a sense of comfort while uniquely balancing modern living and regional appropriateness.”

—Reid Smith



ABOVE: A 10,000-square-foot ski retreat, this home celebrates lightness, sunshine, and color. The south side of the home shows the power of its tremendous number of windows—17-foot-tall walls of glass surround the living and dining rooms—that welcome in year-round sunlight, views and natural light, despite the cold, snowy climate. A large cantilevered, heated patio extends out from underneath the roof eave to enjoy the sunshine while sitting next to the warmth of the gas firepit—or while luxuriating in the custom eight-person stainless-steel hot tub above the patio on the second story. Cantilevered forms and airy elements are also echoed inside, including with the bridge that stretches over to the master wing.

LEFT: A slice through the recreation room's stone backwall allows the wood and steel stairway to wrap around a three-sided, glass-encased wine display. The backlit onyx slab glows at the bottom stair landing providing an interior focal termination while bringing warmth, natural art, and refinement as well as a pop of energy to the lower level.

FACING PAGE TOP: The living room's walls of glass, contrasted with solid stone and wood walls, provide focused panoramic views to the mountainous landscape. Soft wood tones, light and color bring warmth to the space. A custom concrete mantel and hearth slice the solid wall creating a spot for the fireplace. Motorized artwork slides to the side for TV entertainment.

FACING PAGE BOTTOM LEFT: Floating vanities and mirrors, as seen in this master bathroom, are theme throughout the house. The privacy glass behind allows natural light to come outside while accommodating views to the outdoors—whenever the homeowners want them.

FACING PAGE BOTTOM RIGHT: High ceilings, large walls of glass, a floating central light fixture, light woods, soft textures, and a slice-through dual-sided fireplace bring warmth, transparency, and brightness to this sun-seeking ski couple's master retreat.

Photographs by Joshua McHugh

