

Dreaming in Details

Ellis Nunn & Associates, B&B Builders and ipaint, inc.
weave signature style into an elegant family retreat.

The vision for a home may start with a little paint, hand-hewn logs, a trick of light, a family's flow, or a developer's dream. To understand mountain luxury, we often speak of log. Each grain of wood is touched by shores of masons, craftsmen, and artists as they ebb and flow in a great design. At last, in their wake, all is quiet enough for a family to enter and find a treasure. The Cronachers are that family, and Florida and Wyoming are their homes.

Roy Cronacher turned, for a second time, to Ellis Nunn Associates Architects for this project in a quiet neighborhood in Jackson Hole. Ellis Nunn, and intern architect Danny Béasse, expanded on the best features of Cronacher's first home in Tucker Ranch. They added more intricacy to less space to suit this family with an affinity for entertaining.

Ellis Nunn relied on his historic style, the sweeping and sturdy lines which architecture connoisseurs can spot from a distance. "Rooflines may grab your eye, but everything you see is there for a reason," says Ellis. "If the function is perfect, then aesthetically it is the best it can be."

Cronacher offered the architects a foundation only nature could provide—live water and the Teton Mountain Range in clear sight. Ellis says that one of the keys to his design is that each room has a strong view. Then he works with the concept of flow so that no room feels isolated from the whole. The great room is at the center of this system—climbing in rock, glass, and the calming heft of log— it evokes a feeling of quiet strength from every angle.

Windows like these bejewel this home, and they become art when framed by strong vertical lines; their picture-perfection reflects live water and the Teton Range.



This Ellis Nunn signature design gives the home a historic timeless look. The National Park Service has constructed projects like these forever. Handcrafted entry doors further symbolize the setting into which this home takes root. They swing open to views that look clear through to the Teton Mountain Range.

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— Ellis Nunn



“Identifying a client’s style is key.”

—Mike Shaw, ipaint, inc.

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Mike Shaw flexes his creative eye to make functionality and aesthetics become one. With samples from the Cronacher’s first home, and a few impromptu trips to the Snake River Grill to investigate ceiling textures, Mike created an original fusion using multiple layers of glaze.

OPPOSITE PAGE

Top: With seating for at least ten, and custom lighting from Laurie Waterhouse, this rustic dining area integrates the best in paint, craftsmanship, and design to achieve a warmth meant to keep guests around the table.

Middle: Every angle of the master bedroom gently points toward the window. This is one of three fireplaces, and another warms doubly in the great room where it sees all the way through to Cronacher’s home office.

Bottom: From the stone hood around the stove to the cooking work island, this kitchen is designed with the latest and greatest for comfort in entertaining and functionality in movement. The Cronachers wanted “gathering areas,” and the space truly glides all the way to the dining room.

Bottom right: “Adobe is very subjective,” says Mike Shaw at ipaint, inc. He loved the challenge of interfacing adobe-style walls with the abundant textures of log. Each and every fissure effect was created as an original.




It is the builder who must make a project sail, and B&B Builders took on this “dream home” because they love a new challenge. “From the beginning we looked at this as a great opportunity, something different than we had normally done, something that we could learn from,” says Ben Johnson of B&B Builders. “While we have worked with handcrafted log before, this was our first fully stacked handcrafted log home.”

Navigating from the middle of a project, the builders translated design while rowing the current of activity. Identifying the right subcontractors allowed B&B Builders to channel vision into a purposeful work of art, including a spiral log staircase. Quality is our forte, explains Ben. “An eye for detail is something that my partner and I were born with. Over the years we have strengthened that with the attitude of going beyond what the customer expects.”

Details take on a splash of fineness as the home moves toward a state of “feeling”. This took shape with adobe-style paint finishes by ipaint, inc., which intermingle comfortably next to the various contours of log.

Mike Shaw, owner of ipaint, inc., explains that he often felt like a detective, scouting out the nuts and bolts of every element from the cabinetry makers to the electricians. “Window size, ceiling height, floor finish and pattern, wall size with punctuations of doors and openings and possible fireplaces are the areas we must focus on, take notes, and do some deep thinking,” says Mike. “A well conducted interview is the key to unlocking the creative solution.”

Knowing the psychology of color is a must, Mike continues, but the passion at ipaint, inc. is “taking all of our experience and knowledge of decorative finishes and creating a feeling, a mood, that truly enhances the homeowner’s life. I love people,” he says.

The final glimmer of light must come from the Cronachers, and they say they are up to the challenge of filling their perfect design with life. 



“Our goal is to be so critical our client doesn’t have to.”

— Ben Johnson, B& B Builders

