

RANGE

DESIGN AND LIVING IN JACKSON HOLE

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Matterhouse

A modernist showroom in the mountains

ARTISAN

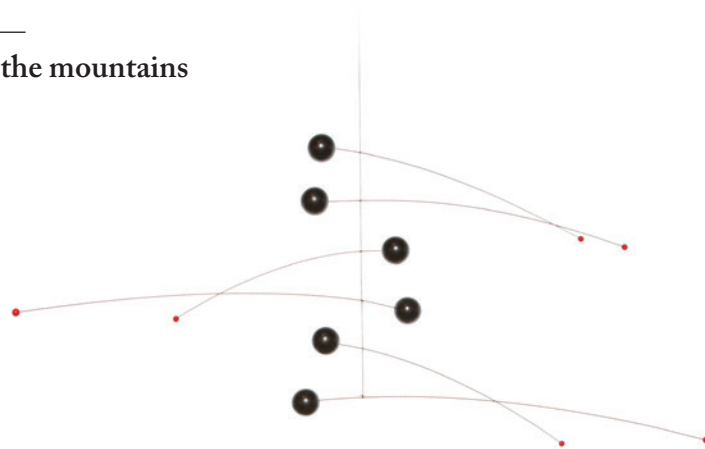
Florist Emily Lacoste

TEN TIPS

Color

REMODEL

Mountain Comfort



RangeJH.com



Plans Change

A new East Jackson home was built looking toward the future.

LOT SIZE: .17 ACRE | SQUARE FEET: 800 SQ. FT. LIVING / 525 SQ. FT. GARAGE / 275 SQ. FT. WORKSHOP | CONSTRUCTION: 8 MONTHS | BEDROOMS: 1 | FULL BATHS: 1 | HALF-BATHS: 1 (IN WORKSHOP)

By Dina Mishew · Photography by David Agnello

Sarah and Miller Bushong's Jackson dream house was finished last summer. The couple, forty-five (Sarah) and fifty (Miller), aren't planning on fully utilizing it for a decade or so, though, until they're retired. For now, it's a vacation house they and their friends use several times each season. It is a well-planned and forward-thinking vacation house, albeit one that might puzzle passersby.

The Bushongs' home—800 square feet of living space set atop a two-car garage and workshop—sits at the very back of their East Hansen Street lot. There is no driveway from the street (access is from the alley). The front lawn, landscaped by Miller's cousin, longtime local Lee Bushong, is big enough for a house of its own. Which is the point. Maybe.

"When we first started talking [to Sarah and Miller] about their budget, we looked at doing an accessory structure first and leaving room for a main house in the future," says Peggy Gilday, founding principal at Gilday Architects, which designed the home. Miller, a federal prosecutor, says, "We didn't have any design parameters, but we had a budget—that was our parameter."

Now that the couple has spent time in the house, they're not sure they'll need more in the future. "We love what we have now so much,

This page: The Bushongs' home is on East Hansen Street, but is accessed via the alley behind it. It was a design challenge for architect Peggy Gilday "to not make the structure look weird from the street," she says. This is the home as seen from the alley.

Opposite: Sarah and Miller Bushong initially planned this 800-square-foot structure to be an accessory to a main house that would be built in the future. Now that they've lived in it, though, they're not sure they need more space.

“WE LOVE THAT EAST JACKSON IS A MISH-
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HOUSES THAT ARE STILL IN USE AND WILL
CONTINUE TO BE HANDED DOWN, TO THE
NEWER STUFF, TO THE BIGGER, NICER HOMES
THAT ARE WELL OUT OF OUR RANGE. IT IS
REALLY COOL TO BE A PART OF THAT AND IN
THE MIX OF THE WHOLE THING.”

[MILLER BUSHONG, HOMEOWNER]



TIP

Get a builder involved early in the design process because:

“It is better for everyone when builders are involved from the beginning. It allows us to understand why some of the design decisions were made, and we can also inform on pricing.” – Mike Wilson, co-owner of JH Builders, which built the Bushongs’ home

“Having JH Builders on board early on helped streamline the design process and keep costs down.” – Peggy Gilday, architect

“The builders met us at the lot, and they had a cherry picker there. They thought it would be interesting to elevate us and see what our views could be from the second story. That helped us envision things as the house was designed.” – Sarah Bushong, homeowner

we’ve moved on from the original plan,” says Sarah, a family practice doctor and yoga instructor. “You might think 800 square feet of living space is tight, but it doesn’t feel that way.”

The space—a large kitchen/dining/living room with a bedroom and bathroom off to the east—is bright, efficient, simple, and thoughtful. After the Bushongs hired Gilday Architects, they toured some of the firm’s other projects with Peggy Gilday. “My own house really resonated with them,” she says. Gilday’s home, which she designed herself, was just a couple of blocks from the Bushongs’ lot. Hers is an uncomplicated form clad in interesting materials. There is an accessory structure, a garage/workshop/gear room in back. Between the two buildings is a lovely lawn, made private because of the protection afforded by the buildings at





JH Builders designed and then made the live-edge coffee table from cherry left over from the slab that was ordered to make a custom desk elsewhere in the home.

Opposite: The master bath is large enough for a double vanity and walk-in shower.



Jared Sanders



Travis Walker



Robert Townsend

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either end. “It was lean and modern,” Sarah says. “We didn’t know the specifics of what we wanted, but we knew we wanted a house that had a distinctive style.” Before hiring Gilday Architects, the couple briefly looked into Blu Homes, which designs and builds modern, simple prefab homes. “Sarah and Miller were specific about the freshness that is starting to thrive—and that you have the freedom to do—in East Jackson,” Gilday says. “They wanted to be part of that.”

While East Jackson allows for the ultimate in creativity, “our budget didn’t. Everything kept coming back to the budget,” Miller says. Gilday adds, “The whole key was to take the budget and come up with something that was a very simple form and focus on one move, one element.”

That element is a deck on the northwest corner of the upper floor. It has expansive views of the Tetons. And it breaks up the home’s boxiness.

“We like the challenge of balancing a budget and simplicity with some interest,” Gilday says. It’s not just the deck that has views. The northwest corner of the living space is mostly windows. There is also a freestanding wood-burning stove in that corner. The couple often sits facing the fire and enjoying the vistas beyond. “Peggy did a great job of maximizing the view,” Miller says. “It makes me feel peaceful on the one hand; I could sit and stare at the mountains, the clouds, the weather, the light—every part of it—for hours. But on the other hand, looking out there makes both of us want to get out and be in it.” Maybe that’s why the Bushongs are happy with 800 square feet.

“Whether they eventually build a main house and then rent the accessory or not, it’s great that they thought ahead enough to allow for that option,” Gilday says. “This is smart master planning.” ▲



“My favorite place in the house is close to the fireplace,” says Miller Bushong. “The fireplace itself is almost art. When it’s burning, it creates such a nice atmosphere in the living room. I’ll sit there and enjoy the sunrise or the sunset over the Tetons. The view out those windows is really great.”