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2007

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GUIDE



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FROM THE

editor



Welcome to the premiere issue of *Sun Valley Guide—Habitat*. A celebration of home and garden, *Habitat* pays homage to that with which we surround ourselves: our habitat.

Published every spring, *Habitat* provides decadent glimpses into luxurious lifestyles, alongside handy hints on how to improve and beautify your own habitat.

In this issue, we take you on a tour of a spectacular mid-valley home—conceived during a winter-long respite in Sun Valley Resort’s River Run Lodge. We gather tips and tricks from local experts on how best to collect fine art and work with it to enhance your home. And, we follow interior designer Cornelia Russo on a 3-week remodel of her Ketchum condo, an experience any would-be remodeler can learn from.

The regular sections of *Habitat* brim with ideas and advice on many aspects of home and garden maintenance and decoration. We explore how best to organize your kitchen, discuss the hottest new trends in home furnishings, provide tips on purchasing a fireplace, and reveal the best way to grow tomatoes in this mountain climate.

Habitat’s aim is to provide readers with know how, from tips and suggestions to valuable tricks of the trade. Within its pages you’ll discover time- and money-saving solutions, all sourced from the valley’s wide array of local experts. We encourage you to rely on these knowledgeable people, and if you have a story to share on how you’ve enhanced your own habitat, we’d love to hear from you.

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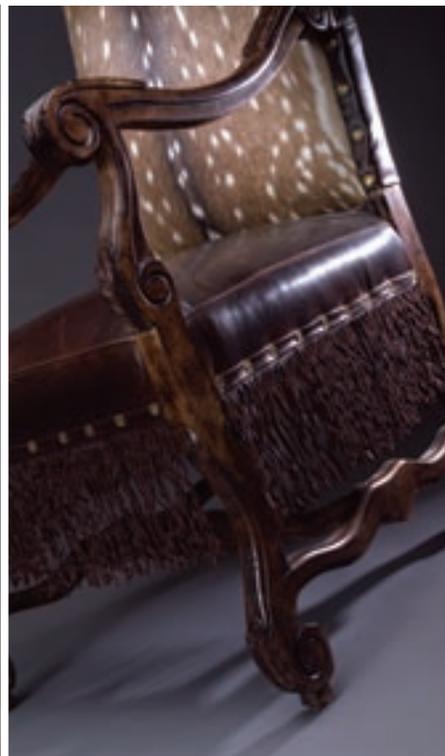
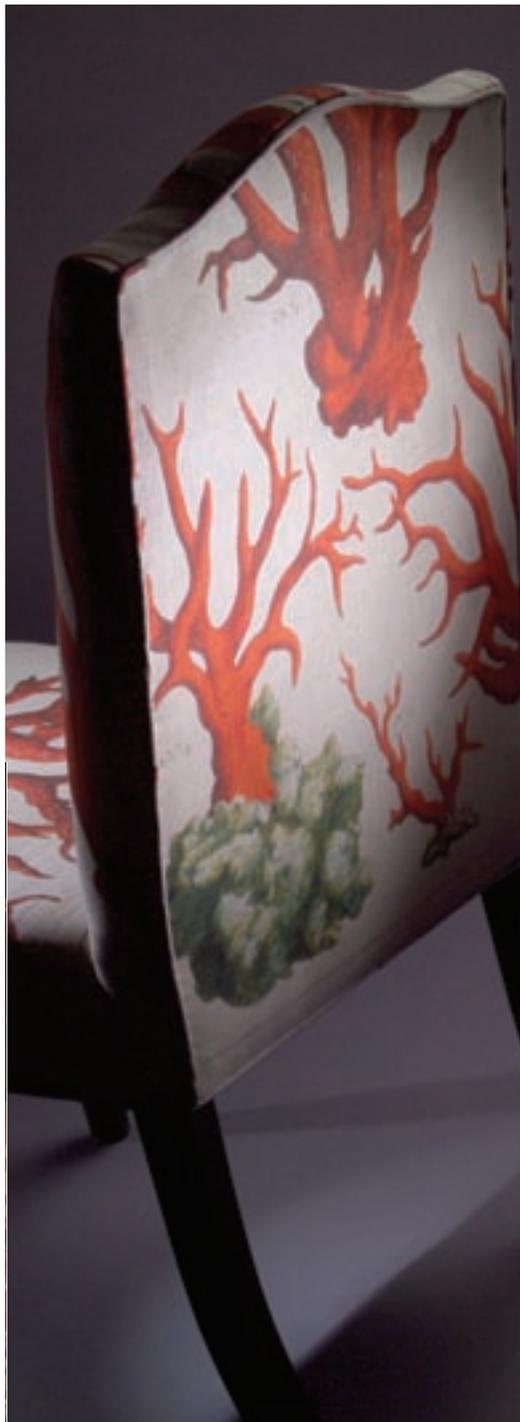
The artful chair

Sit a spell. Take a load off. Pull up a chair. Not just any chair. Rest awhile in a feat of engineering skill combined with design mastery. More than any other piece of furniture, the chair can expand on the wildest dreams of the designer. From Art Nouveau to International Style, from Pop Art to Postmodernism, the chair acts as a mirror of the stylistic consciousness of each era. The following selection of chairs, all found in the Wood River Valley, illustrates how inspiration can lead to unique discoveries. Some are tastefully elegant, while others have their feet solidly on the ground. Above all they are artful.

writer: **Dana DuGan**

photographer: **Kevin Syms**

stylist: **Jennifer Tuohy**



CHAIRS WITH CHARM: Opposite page: Red leather chair—\$925, Topnotch Furniture & Design, Ketchum, 726-7797. This page, clockwise from bottom left: Julia chair in red with matching tie-on cushion—\$549 and \$430 respectively, Jane’s Upstairs, Ketchum, 726-3474. Cocopa chair, recycled barn wood and hand-forged steel—\$1,850, Art Quest West, Ketchum, 727-9700. French walnut mutton-leg dining chair, set of 4—\$2,200, Lyman Drake Antiques and Imports, Ketchum, 726-1022. Wagon wheel chair—\$3,095, Topnotch Furniture & Design, Ketchum, 726-7797. Solid teak scoop chair—\$1,800, Great American Log Furniture, Bellevue, 578-3555. Axis deer and leather chair, with leather trim and old star studs—\$2,197, Tribes Interiors, Ketchum, 726-5003. Hand-printed linen chair with coral design (fabric available separately)—\$1,695, Bellissimo, Ketchum, 726-0702.

It began with a broken leg. Unable to ski for the winter, one part-time Sun Valley resident whiled away the days at the base of Bald Mountain's River Run while his wife and guests enjoyed the mountain. By the time the break was mended, says his wife, "He'd fallen in love with River Run Lodge."

Paula and Darrell Rubel had already found a sunny mid-valley lot on which to build a home that would graciously accommodate guests, children and grandchildren. Darrell always wanted a log home, but Paula dreamed of something more refined. "He told me, 'If I can have a log house, then the inside can be yours.'" The Rubels found common ground in River Run Lodge's union of massive logs and elegant, highly detailed walnut-stained woodwork. They hired

"One of the biggest design challenges was getting the scale and proportion of the logs just right, letting the owners feel comfortable and not overwhelmed by the scale," said Latham. "Logs too large, and the architecture can look awkward and overbearing. Logs too small, and the design is too light and doesn't feel supportive and substantial."

Twenty-four-inch diameter load-bearing posts, courtesy of Montana Idaho Log Homes, support an expansive loft overlooking the great room—which includes the living room and dining area—and its wall-sized views of the valley. Slightly smaller logs make up the walls, which rise to a 25-foot peaked roof supported by 30-foot trusses.

The home site is blessed with long southern and northern exposures. "We wanted to

LODGE

At home in the

**Inspired by River Run Lodge, a Sun Valley couple
builds their own elegant mountain retreat.**

Words by Betsy Andrews Photos by Chris Pilaro

Ruscitto/Latham/Blanton Architecture P.A., the firm responsible for the Sun Valley Resort base lodges, to build their dream home.

Nick Latham, a project architect on both buildings, found inspiration for the Sun Valley ski lodges in the National Park Service lodges designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood in the early- to mid-20th century. With River Run Lodge, Latham had set out "to produce the highest quality resort architecture that had ever been built, anywhere." But his challenge now was how to scale down such a design to make it a welcoming family retreat.

It started with choosing the right logs.

produce architecture that took advantage of the views and the light," explained Latham. On the ground floor, the great room is central, with ambient light washing over it from the north-facing floor-to-ceiling paned windows, which provide 180-degree views of rolling greens and the mountains beyond. Summertime brings bursts of color into the foreground, as 37 cast-concrete urns overflow with hundreds of carmine geraniums mingled with blue and white petunias. A generous fireplace with a dark, carved wood mantel rises majestically against the north wall, visually anchoring the stunning vista with its artful arrangement of smooth, dove-toned river rocks.



“One of the biggest design challenges was getting the scale and proportion of the logs just right, and let the owners feel comfortable and not overwhelmed...” — Nick Latham, architect



Clockwise from left: A 12-foot-long, antique inspired dining table provides a focal point to the home's great room. Pale pine logs litter the structure, amplifying the sun-drenched tones of the interior walls. The grand entryway echoes the building that inspired the creation of this home, Sun Valley Resort's River Run Lodge.



With its soaring ceiling, the room's scale might overwhelm the senses, except for the clever ministrations of architect and interior designer Lauren Tyler of Osborne Tyler Design Inc., who worked with the Rubels to create a feeling of two separate spaces within the vast interior. By positioning an intimate grouping of small, comfortable sofas and soft armchairs around the hearth, Tyler distinguished the living room area. A simple iron chandelier neatly centers the dining area, and as a bonus, draws the eye down to Paula's prize find: a 12-foot-long, antique-inspired dining table, designed by Mike Bell—an internationally renowned master of English and French reproductions. The floor's wide planks of oiled, antique oak barn wood, the color of molasses mixed with honey, offset the table's handsome presence, while contrasting with the pale pine logs, which in turn amplify the sun-drenched tones of the plaster on interior walls.

and family-sized dining table. The south-facing entryway rises to high clerestory windows in the gable, which floods the centrally located stairway with natural light. Ornately milled newel posts and banisters on the stairway, created onsite and augmented by patinated bronze detailing, look like more delicate versions of their River Run counterparts.

Practical features of the home include a mudroom with built-in floor-to-ceiling cubbyholes and a wine cellar located off the basement under the portico, where it remains the optimum temperature year-round. A bath and shower room off the mudroom was designed for bathing a large dog, although a large dog has yet to make an appearance—the resident Cavalier King Charles spaniel gets bathed in the laundry room sink.

The quirks of building with logs result in some of the home's most charming fea-

The quirks of building with logs result in some of the home's most charming features: a trapezoidal pantry and a triangular broom closet.

Lowered ceilings in the kitchen impart a cozy feel—although the room is large enough to easily accommodate a 10-by-4-foot island, lined with bar stools for informal dining. Recessed and track lighting softly illuminates the expanses of walnut-stained alder cabinetry as well as the island's countertop composed of a single slab of dark green and black-veined Utah granite.

The west end of the structure houses an enclosed master suite, which includes an office. To the east, the great room opens into the kitchen. A cheerful, casual sunny breakfast room takes advantage of the morning sun and boasts its own river-rock fireplace

tures: a trapezoidal pantry and a triangular broom closet. It brings bonuses, too: dead space under the eaves became an unplanned rumpus room. "Our five little grandchildren and their dog camp out here. They love it," said Paula.

Another favorite feature is a sun porch nestled against the south wall of the master suite. Protected from the wind, it collects the heat of the day even in the middle of winter, and today—10 years after the home was inspired by not skiing—it offers a perfect spot to enjoy a glass of wine after a day on the slopes. 

LOCAL COMPANIES WHO HELPED CREATE THIS HOME

Architect: Ruscitto/Latham/Blanton Architecture P.A., Ketchum, 726-5608. **Interior Design:** Lauren Tyler: Osborne Tyler Design Inc., Sun Valley, 726-4838. **General Contractor:** Sawtooth Construction, Inc., Ketchum, 726-9070. **Cabinetry:** Treasure Valley Woodworking, Boise, (208) 378-1165. **Plaster:** Base Mountain Plaster, Picabo. **Hardware:** Rocky Mountain Hardware, Ketchum, 726-2345. **Windows:** Peak Glass, Ketchum, 726-1840. **Doors:** Wood River Door Company, Hailey, 788-8555. **Fireplace:** Don Fraser, Wood River Masonry, Hailey, 788-3304. **Floor Installation:** Rob's R & R Hardwood Floors, Bellevue, 788-3320. **Tile:** Cassile Granite and Tile & Matt's Tile and Stone, Hailey, 578-0311. **Electric:** Pace Electric, Hailey, 788-9712. **Plumbing:** Idaho Custom Plumbing, Ketchum, 726-8483. **Glass:** Glass Masters, Ketchum, 726-1420. **Landscape Design:** Richard Emmick. **Landscaping:** Webb Landscape, Ketchum, 726-7213. **Security:** Sentinel Fire and Security, Ketchum, 726-4788. **Radiant Heating:** Professional Radiant Systems LLC, Bellevue, 788-4979. **HVAC:** Dane Sheet Metal and Heating, Ketchum, 726-9332. **Appliances:** Fisher Appliances, Ketchum, 726-2622. **Closets:** The Closet Company, Ketchum, 726-7517. **Theater:** Home Media Inc., Ketchum, 725-0075.





the
art of collecting
art

Fine art can easily be a part of everyday life.

In this home, curator Jeanne Meyers chose a durable and beautiful wood sculpture by Brent Comber to act as a bench. The metal piece, created by Kiki Smith, is motion-activated, singing to those passing by. And, simply for the joy of viewing it often, the painting by Stephane Couturier hangs in the entryway.

Enhancing your habitat with fine art need not be a daunting nor expensive prospect. Deb Gelet gathers tips from local experts on how to collect art, no matter what your budget. Photos by David N. Seelig.

Whether we realize it or not, most valley residents live with some form of art in their daily lives. The landscape alone is a thing of great beauty and, in the spirit of Andy Goldsworthy (a renowned contemporary British sculptor who works in and with the natural landscape), we may carefully arrange on our hall table the rocks we found while hiking, or keep the seashell from our last vacation on the windowsill. This simple placement of objects brings visual pleasure, but also evokes an emotional response, a good memory, or sets a pleasant mood.

Living with fine art is much the same, although collecting it well requires more self-examination and homework. What it does not require is a substantial bankroll. Nor does your art collection have to match your home's interior design.

A story from the world of contemporary art illuminates this point. Herbert and Dorothy Vogel lived a quiet, working-class life in Manhattan. He worked as a postal clerk, she as a librarian. In 1965, they befriended Sol LeWitt, who would later become an important conceptual artist. After LeWitt's first show, they bought their first piece of fine art. LeWitt was a new artist—"emerging" is the term used in art circles—so his art was relatively inexpensive.



Culinary-themed paintings by Marilyn Minter are a natural match for the kitchen.

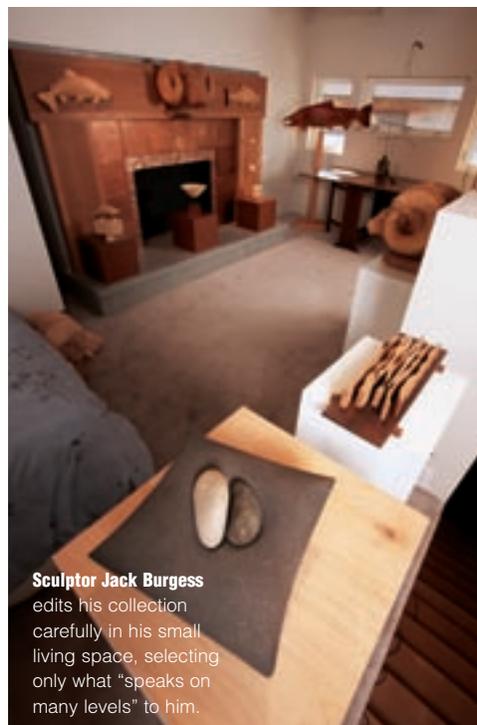
“good collections have either
knowledge
 or
passion
 but great collections have
both.”

—Jeanne Meyers

Over the years, on modest salaries and in a one-bedroom apartment, the Vogels amassed a collection of more than 2,000 pieces by some of the most important artists of the 1970s and 1980s, including Carl Andre, Richard Tuttle, Will Barnet and Christo. They became the darlings of the art world, partly because of their charming, unassuming natures, but also because their collection reflected their intellectual journey into art, and because they were not satisfied with simply purchasing.

The Vogels befriended the artists of the time, gave them unrelenting emotional support, and created a collection that clearly reflects a specific time period in contemporary art. The collection was deemed so important that pieces of it went into an exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., in 1994. Today, elements from the Vogel collection continue to circulate through many important museum exhibitions.

In the firestorm of publicity surrounding that first exhibition, Dorothy Vogel said simply, “We don’t have any real advice for first-time collectors. We buy what we like, what we can afford, and what can fit into our apartment. But, we hope that this exhibition will encourage others living on small incomes to buy art, too.”



Sculptor Jack Burgess edits his collection carefully in his small living space, selecting only what “speaks on many levels” to him.

fall in love with your art

Collecting and living with art should be more than just shopping for and displaying pieces as though they were trophies, ceasing as soon as all the walls are filled. Serious collectors are unanimously clear on one point: Collecting art should be a passion. And, as with all passions, it requires attention to nuance in the partnership, a learning and growing self-examination.

“You never forget your first purchase. Everybody has a story about theirs,” says Blaine County resident Jeanne Meyers. “It is remarkable how often that first piece turns out to be unexpectedly life-changing.” Meyers, a curator, consultant and self-proclaimed art addict, recently curated *Subversive Moves*, a show on modern art held at Sun Valley Center for the Arts.

Selecting art for your home may feel intimidating. How do you choose the right pieces for the style of your home? Is it necessary for art to somehow match your décor? What constitutes a smart art purchase?

Wood River Valley residents are fortunate to have a variety of excellent art galleries nearby. They are staffed by well-informed professionals eager to share their knowledge and love for the works they exhibit. Local galleries are far more relaxed—although not less sophisticated—than many galleries in larger cities, and they provide beginning collectors with the opportunity to learn more about particular artists or media. They are also good resources for advice on displaying art, including the important aspect of lighting it.

“As new collectors learn and surround themselves with the art of their choice they make a statement about themselves and give themselves permission to follow their own instincts and personal taste in a potentially life-long dedication to collecting art,” said Barbi Reed, owner of Ketchum’s Anne Reed Gallery. “The adventure of looking for the right pieces is as worthy as owning the art.”

Nearly all art dealers tell collectors, be they new or experienced, that the most important factor in selecting artwork is to buy what you love—a cliché, but true. “Upon acquisition, when asking a client ‘where will you place it?’ an always refreshing reply is ‘I have no idea,’” said Andria Friesen, owner of Friesen Gallery in Ketchum.

Knowing what you love may not be clear in the beginning, but education of the intellect informs the eye and heart. An important goal is to trust your taste. As Meyers points out, “Good collections have either knowledge or passion, but great collections have both.”

tips from the pros

“Living in an area that experiences such drastic differences in seasons, many of our clients rotate their artwork a couple of times a year... This provides the opportunity to give a whole new look to their home without the expense or inconvenience of redecorating.”

—Carey Molter
Director, The Kneeland Gallery



tips from the pros

“One of the great advantages of collecting contemporary art is the artists are still living! Many artists love to talk about their work. Meeting and talking to the artists adds a special connection to collecting contemporary art that makes the work an irreplaceable treasure rather than just another possession.”

—Gail Severn
Owner, Gail Severn Gallery





Place art throughout your home, not just on walls or a mantelpiece. **Center:** Oscar Muñoz's dramatic piece rests casually on a sideboard. **Top left:** Jack Burgess' sculptures decorate his bedroom. **Top right:** Artist Lorna Simpson's mixed medium work lives among books on a shelf. **Bottom left:** A collection of black and white photography is displayed unconventionally in a powder room.

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make up your own rules

Consider these questions in the process of editing or managing your collection. Are you drawn to a particular medium, like works on paper, watercolor paintings, photography? Is there a particular palette or mood that draws you, such as dreamy landscapes or high-contrast abstract paintings? Where will you place the artwork and how does that affect the size of the works you can purchase? “Make up your own rules, as in ‘I only buy prints’ or ‘I only buy what I can’t live without,’” advises Meyers. “Change the rules as you need to, but do it consciously so that you have some structure in your collection.”

Hailey resident Mark Johnstone, writer, curator and a consultant for public and private art, agrees. “Art that is important in your life will provide new experiences over time. It’s similar to reading a really good book or watching a great movie over and over and getting something different out of it each time. Excellent art will provide that experience for viewers upon repeated encounters.”

That presents a challenge to the new collector. It may take some time to understand clearly how you respond to

tips from the pros

“There is a difference between an interior that has been collected versus decorated. It is always obvious. Good art doesn’t have to match your sofa! I believe it is of paramount importance to collect art with both your head and your heart.”

—Andria Friesen
Owner, Friesen Gallery

art and to refine the parameters of the pieces you want in your daily environment over a length of time. Take time to gain as much exposure to art as possible and do plenty of research. The Internet is an excellent resource and art magazines offer informative articles. A favorite is *Artweek*, available online and in print.

“Try to spend enough time looking at a variety of art pieces to gain an understanding of what you like and what you don’t like,” advises Gail Severn, owner of Gail Severn Gallery. “Most people’s taste changes and evolves as they look at more and more art. You don’t want to tire of a purchase only months after acquiring it.”

a question of money

As with all romantic endeavors, there are many practical considerations. When it comes to art, one of the most important is to

respect your spending limits and never purchase art solely for the investment. While some art does increase in financial value over time, most art dealers and collectors agree that should not be the primary reason behind any purchase. “Often, but not always, prints and photographs are less expensive than original paintings,” explained Severn.



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“Sculpture and paintings can be more expensive than prints and photographs and often require different types of space.”

For the first time art buyer, the pricing of art can be somewhat bemusing. Severn attempts to shed some light on the process. “Although artists and galleries try to establish prices based on the law of supply and demand and what the market will bear, there are always extenuating circumstances that contribute to the final price.”

Remember also that the safety of the artwork must be considered. When you become the owner of an original artwork, you also become responsible for its longevity and history. Again, galleries are excellent resources for advice on protecting works from direct sunlight, moisture, temperature fluctuation and seismic activity.

The old model of precise standards for displaying artwork has given way to a more casual stance of personal preference. Most people are inclined to hang framed works too high. Professional art installers can help, of course, and are recommended for heavy or very valuable works. But if you’re going it alone, ask a friend to hold your new acquisition at eye level while you step back to assess any adjustments you may prefer. Ask your art dealer for advice on appropriate hardware. Art can be clustered in groupings on walls, shelves, or even in museum-

quality display cases. Framed pieces can also simply lean against the wall in protected areas. Gone is the old concept of buying a painting that matches the sofa and hanging it centered above.

open your mind

The process of collecting art, the introspection, the research and the inspiration often leads to a more refined insight into self. And, that insight naturally shows up in living environments. In an almost contradictory way, the intimidation that may be felt at the outset of researching art dissolves into educated opinion, or taste, which then reveals itself in our home’s interior design. In the end, perhaps the art does match our interior design although that wasn’t the intent. It is a refining of personal statement.

Collecting and living with art can be accessible to anyone of any means who appreciates the inherent value of surrounding themselves with beauty of their own choosing. Follow the example of the Vogels. Open yourself to all the possibilities of art. And, by the way, do you know the artist who lives next door? 

tips from the pros

“No matter what our budget, we only purchase work that stirs our emotions, work that is hard to put out of our minds, and that we will enjoy living with for many years to come.”

—Robin Reiners
Owner, Gallery DeNovo



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A HOMEOWNER'S DIARY



Before

CORNELIA RUSSO, A DECORATOR AND INTERIOR DESIGNER, REMODELED HER KETCHUM CONDO IN THREE WEEKS. THE FOLLOWING IS HER DIARY OF THE PROCESS, FULL OF USEFUL TIPS AND HANDY HINTS FOR ANY ASPIRING REMODELER.
PHOTOS BY DAVID N. SEELIG

“When are you going to start my remodel?” queries the excited homeowner.
“Not until we are ready to finish,” declares the crew leader.
The startled homeowner is taken aback, but according to the *Journal of Light Construction*, this answer is right on. Make decisions, order materials and coordinate scheduling before remodeling. During a whirlwind 23 days, Cornelia Russo acted as her own general contractor. She directed the middle phase of a structural and cosmetic remodel of a 1980s townhouse on Trail Creek. Blackened lava rock, small closets, textured sheetrock along with 25-year-old painted paneling, hollow doors and drafty glass were just a few of the items on her demolition hit list.

GOALS

FLOOR 1

Great room, dining area, foyer and storage closet.

Demolition: Increase natural light with a 6-foot glass panel and museum white paint. Create and outfit a walk-in storage closet. Redo slider and heaters to save energy. For a larger room feel, redo fireplace in low profile, light-colored stone; install eight recessed lights plus in-wall heater; remove baseboard heaters, smooth new sheetrock plus existing walls/ceiling. Reconfigure kitchen cabinets until final phase. **Update:** Replace doors, hardware and trim work. Set kitchen track lighting and plumbing and electrical groundwork for next phase while sheetrock is demolished. **Design elements:** Mobile color board, faux wood beam, mantel panel.

FLOOR 2

Master bedroom, closet and balcony plus hallway.

Demolition: Update with energy-saving heater, doors and new hardware, new sheetrock and trim work plus stain and paint. Expand and outfit walk-in closet/dressing area. Create a bigger feel through smoothed walls/ceiling, in-wall heater, paint closet door and repeating room color within, plus relocate new, wider double-entry doors. Add natural light in blind bath (etched transom) and in expanded closet (window).

WEEK 1

Demolition and Framing

- ✓ Prepped site. Protected shrubbery, carpet, etc. Furniture went outside.
- ✓ Demolition begins, long overdue. Hammers pound. Broken sheetrock and dust are everywhere plus an obstacle course of tools and materials. I love it!
- ✓ Set up my work area on site. Walked through job assignments; explained overall plan to workmen, sometimes in written specifics.
- ✓ First major problems. Tracked down doors and windows with company supervisor; they had never been ordered. (Thank heavens for Carole at Sawtooth Door). New keys don't work, and the dumpster is wrong.
- ✓ Phoned mason to adjust fireplace and extend patio step (I forgot that the slider handle reversed).
- ✓ Last minute city insistence on engineer drawings for master closet. Thankfully I had reserved an engineer, just in case. Immediate pow-wow. No delay. Go Jay!
- ✓ Decided to insulate first floor ceiling and faux paint beam. Unforeseen.
- ✓ Performed end-of-day site checks; collected progress reports.
- ✓ Plumber and electrician returned Saturday to stay on schedule. Love that!
- ✓ Passed framing inspection.
- ✓ Reviewed week; planned ahead: calls, goals and lists for crew. Cleaned site.

WEEK 2

Framing, insulation and sheetrock

- ✓ Inspections: passed electrical, plumbing, insulation and sheetrock.
- ✓ Building rules changed. Remodels now subject to more inspections. Keep asking questions and listening.
- ✓ Wake up happy and hopeful each day, but by sunset feel the weight of the world. Thank heavens for sunrises.
- ✓ Door delivery problems. Reevaluated; changed specs.
- ✓ Four snowfalls in five days played havoc with schedules. Nervous as the furniture is still outside under tarps. Falling behind. De-stressed at gym.
- ✓ Electrical inspector Larry Wharton's warning: "Homeowners lose time, control and money by not being on site for instant decisions and to handle roadblocks."
- ✓ Adjusted mantel stain technique and faux base coat for beam. Reluctantly postponed beam artist, who was painting the beam to look like wood.
- ✓ Existing kitchen cabinets reconfigured until phase III.
- ✓ Sheetrocker duo, dedicated. Lunch, my treat. Added more ceilings to smooth.
- ✓ Trims/moldings need to be special ordered. They are needed in 36 hours! Idaho Lumber came through.
- ✓ Logged workmen and progress. Reviewed expectations. Completed daily site visits.
- ✓ Cleaned.
- ✓ Planned next segment: calls, schedules, homework.

WEEK 3

Sheetrock, painting/staining, install doors/windows and finish carpentry

- ✓ Beam painted like wood. Wow!
- ✓ Mike and Doug painted/stained through the weekend. Outstanding. Changed my mind on the bedroom colors, due to some twelfth-hour inspiration at the paint counter!
- ✓ Refurbished mantel and had fire screen installed, including salvaged wood panel I broke in two—time for a redesign.
- ✓ No place to park. Carpenters and more returned to outfit closets, add trim work and install doors, hardware and windows.
- ✓ Wrong hinges and missing hardware and windows. Ugh, a full-plate. Eliminated need to wait for one window problem by doing etched glass transom—a piece of glass directly above the door, as wide as door and about eight inches high.
- ✓ Everyone is cranking out, catching up. Lunch on me.
- ✓ Stop. Four day weekend plus cell phone network down for three days. Challenges...
- ✓ Lost both painters unexpectedly. Scrambled. Joe and Humberto Jr. to the rescue.
- ✓ Discovered fence not on property line, blocked new window. Carpenter (Rod) saved the day. Mason needed back.
- ✓ Daily site visits. Reviewed expectations. Went over punch list (a list of everything that needs to be finished before they leave and get paid) with crew.
- ✓ Irma and staff—final cleaning. Lucky me.



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EPILOGUE

Preparing to leave, I paused proudly at the job site's front door to admire everyone's work. I couldn't help but reminisce on how the crew watched out for me. In turn, as their general contractor, I tried to make sure that job assignments and materials were ready.

My project-tested parting advice to any aspiring remodeler is: Rejoice in what goes right and don't lament what doesn't. Remember you are dealing with individuals. Large or small, a project that personalizes your habitat and expresses your spirit is an ordeal, make no mistake, but it is also a wonderful experience with its own rewards.

Despite weather and holiday delays, the project, including the add-ons, was completed on time except for a short punch list and two small, problematic glass panels. (But we are framed, painted and ready to go for them.) Including the unforeseen items, such as engineer drawings and those done-by-choice extras—insulated and smoothed ceilings, faux beam, mobile color board, electrical parts swapped to white, etc.—we came in at just under our budget of \$25,000. 

LOCAL COMPANIES/PEOPLE WHO WORKED ON THE REMODEL

King Electric: Brad King, 788-5013. **5B Plumbing:** Justin McKenzie and crew, 721-2101. **Sheetrock/All Purpose:** Gary Henderson, 720-0850, Joe Thornton. **Framing/Carpentry:** (Lead) Rod Hawkins, 481-0285, Travis Scott, Pete Jenner. **Columbia Paints:** Tony Polichetti and staff, 726-8030. **Painting:** Doug Neff, Mike Porter, 721-1558, Humberto Carrillo Jr., 721-0145. **Sawtooth Door Company:** (208) 734-7770. **Christensen Engineering:** Jay Christensen, (208) 654-9911. **Artist:** Jeanne Knott, 726-1917. **Idaho Lumber:** Mike Brunner and staff, 788-3333. **Stained Glass Studio:** Hermann Lirk, 726-8141. **Stock Building Supply and staff:** 726-3364. **Cleaning Service:** Irma Regal and crew, 788-7775. **Furnishings:** The Open Room, 622-0222 and Cornelia Russo Design & Decorating, 788-2194. **Flowers:** Primavera, 726-7788.

REMODELING TIPS

Plan your work; work your plan

Lay the groundwork for your project in advance: goals, designs, permits, orders and schedules. Have your specific goals and simplified overall picture of the entire project understood by each work person. You alone can direct the crew to your final vision. Sketch and graph changes including the placement of furnishings and forgotten items like which way doors swing and outlets. Consider form (design) and function (practicality). Repeatedly walk through the future space mentally and physically. Ideas evolve; some change. Is there enough counter space? Is the cable in the right places? Door to open left? Terry Allsop, a homeowner/contractor, advises, "Check and recheck before construction, then again every day on site." Also remember to plan your daily de-stress strategies, such as exercise or a movie.

Educate yourself

Read and ask questions of inspectors, architects, engineers, craftsmen and homeowners who have remodeled. There are no stupid questions. Encourage all to share their expertise on how the system works. However, the final decision is yours.

Working with your crew

Check references, work ethic, insurance and licenses. Walk through the agenda on site with the workmen. Reserve dates far in advance. Structure the project so you feel comfortable. Check out construction Spanish-language courses. Set up a work/desk space on site. If you're your own contractor, get the legal assurances you need in writing. Learn names; provide water and snacks; relate to the crew. Always have your project file with you.

Know yourself

Acting as construction general contractor is more than a full-time commitment. Anxiety, frustration, exhilaration and satisfaction go with the job. Assess your strengths and weaknesses. Can you rise early, execute lists, make it to meetings, run errands, do site visits, make phone calls and complete other related tasks? Then, at day's end, make final site checks, handle the day's twists, and complete your homework along with new lists and schedules for the next day and beyond? Be brutally honest. Your answer affects the project's success.

Allow extra time and extra money

Build in catch-up days and reserve extra money. Any construction project will take longer and run over on costs by at least 10 to 20 percent.

Maintain construction areas

Protect your belongings. Clean up as you progress. Provide a dumpster and restroom.

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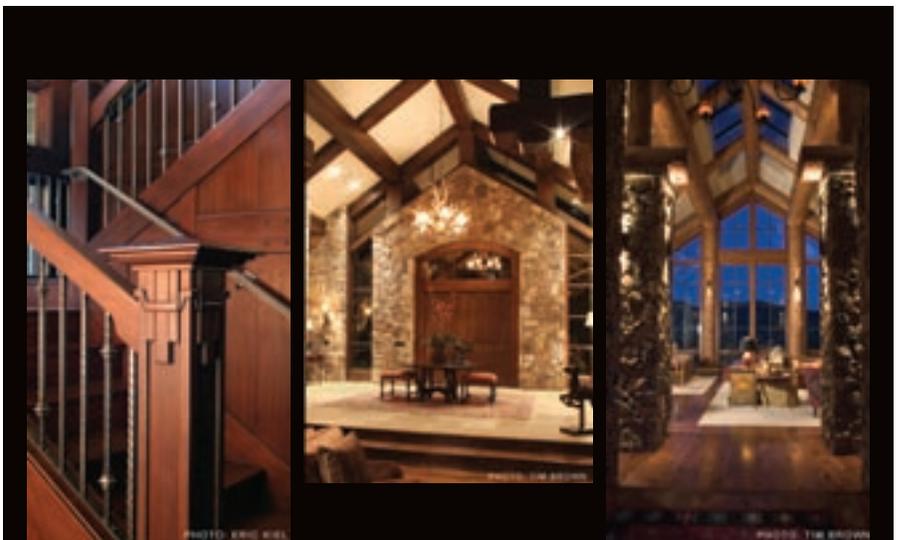
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A decorative canister makes cooking and preparing dishes a breeze when all your tools are at arm's length.

Canister from Ketchum Kitchens, \$19.99.

A Wolf gas-burning stove adds a touch of class to this high-end kitchen, and striking red Viking products, including a food processor (\$300) and mixer (\$500), accentuate its beautiful and practical marble walls and countertops.

Wolf and Sub Zero products are available at Fisher Appliances; Viking products at Ketchum Kitchens.

Investing in top-quality cookware is a must for any cook. Copper makes an attractive kitchen accent and copper pans cook food more evenly, heat faster and use less fuel than other pans.

Mauviel Copper Cookware from Ketchum Kitchens. Saute pan \$325, 3-quart saucepan \$290.

Remember, a well-stocked, organized kitchen will create a lasting impression.

KITCHEN

Decorative platters serve a dual purpose in any kitchen.

Elisabeth Poole platters, available at Silver Creek Outfitters, \$95-\$268.



A wide variety of local and specialty cookbooks will add flair to every chef's menu.

Cristina's of Sun Valley, available at local stores, \$45.



A set of sharp knives is essential to any kitchen. Sharpen regularly with a sharpener, or, to have them professionally sharpened, ask a local sushi bar.

Henkel's Twin Select 7-piece block, \$499.99, Ketchum Kitchens.



An organized kitchen is the key to creating a happy home

There is a saying in Sun Valley that you either have three jobs or three homes. Regardless of how many homes you own, the kitchen is still its heart. A functional kitchen in Sun Valley runs the gamut from a place to cater to your family and occasionally put on a show for weekend visitors, to a second-home owner's culinary dream and the ideal support for impromptu parties.

Organizing a kitchen to fulfill a Sun Valley lifestyle is not only feasible, it can all be done locally. Page Klune of Sun Valley Ultimate Services, a personal concierge who has made organizing into a business, understands the importance of a well-organized kitchen because organizing is not just her passion, it's her livelihood.

Klune aims for minimal and functional. "One should have space gratification," she said. "Whether you have an enormous great room with an open kitchen or a small space, the size dictates the functionality. But it's your flair and taste that makes it all come together."

A supply of staple food items cuts meal planning in half, while proper kitchen equipment allows the cook to be quick and creative. Kitchen tools and dishes should be easily accessible so a weekend warrior or spontaneous party-thrasher can quickly create hors d'oeuvres, mini-meals or dinner for the family. Remember, a well-stocked, organized kitchen will create a lasting impression.



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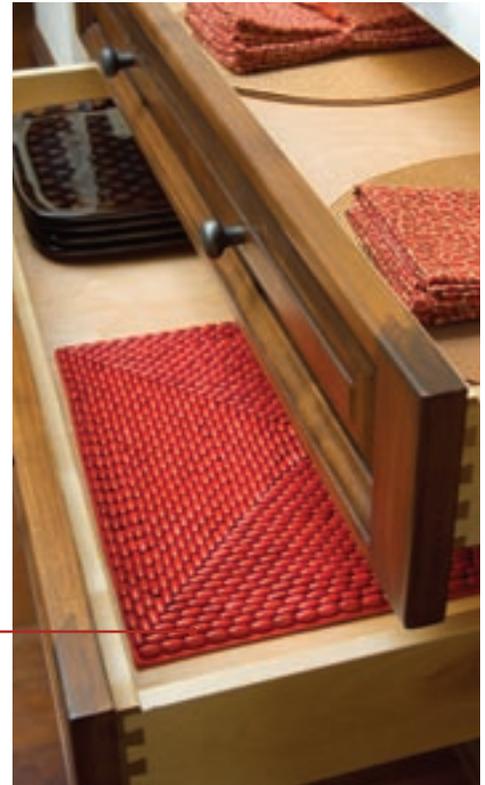


A cookbook stand is a priceless item for anyone who likes to cook by the book. Ketchum Kitchens and The Cluttered Kitchen in Hailey have several options, and both stock high-altitude cookbooks, an essential item for the Sun Valley cook.

Lucite cookbook stand from Ketchum Kitchens, \$10.99. *Vintage Restaurant* cookbook, \$34.95.

Placemats and decorative linens add the finishing touches that give a host pride, while making guests feel welcome and special. Store linens away from the heart of the kitchen; this keeps them clean and fresh for impromptu occasions.

Linens from The Picket Fence, \$28 to \$65.



Ten tips for kitchen karma

- Always check dates when you buy. In the grocery store, the oldest items are placed in front and the newest at the back.
- Cover pans while cooking to prevent heat loss.
- In Sun Valley, water boils at a lower temperature due to the altitude, which, in turn, means you must boil foods longer for proper results.
- Use the underside of overhead cabinets to conceal lighting for counter workspaces.
- Place a bin for recycling bottles and cans next to the regular trash can for convenience and a gentle reminder.



Fresh produce can act as decoration as well as ingredient. Keep tomatoes out of the refrigerator to maintain their freshness and flavor.

Heirloom tomatoes from Atkinsons' Market, \$8.69 per pound. Platter from The Picket Fence, \$28.



The everyday cook needs spices that are easily accessible or in plain sight, because time can be of the essence when a kitchen is used around the clock.

Atkinsons' Market, The Cluttered Kitchen and Ketchum Kitchens stock local flavors, as well as a wide selection of gourmet specialty items.

- Freeze leftover wine into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces (yes, it does freeze).
- Always serve cheese at room temperature for optimum flavor.
- Before chopping nuts in a food processor, dust them with flour. This keeps the nuts from sticking to the processor.
- After chopping garlic or onions, rub a fresh lemon wedge over the knife blade and the cutting board to help remove the odor.
- Bread stays fresh for longer when kept at room temperature or in the freezer.



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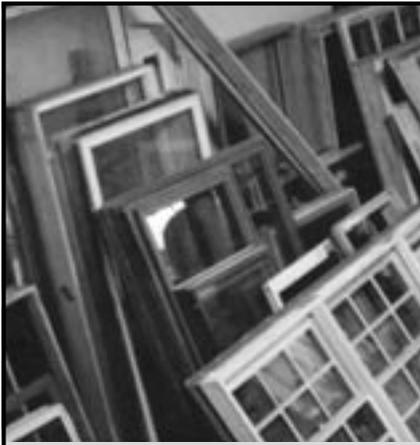
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The spontaneous entertainer should always have a fridge full of gourmet delicacies. This Sub Zero refrigerator contains a smorgasbord of Sun Valley area treats from Ciro's vinaigrette to locally produced salsa.

The impromptu party thrower

A well-stocked kitchen is the creative juice for party success

“A lot of people are not serious cooks and that makes it tough to be organized,” said Klune. “Depending upon your level of enthusiasm for entertaining, you should have it and need it rather than not have it all.” An avid entertainer, Klune always keeps a freezer full of meats and prepared foods, such as smoked salmon and prosciutto, as well as a cooler outside filled with shrimp, peanuts, extra cheeses and special sausages—such as apple and chicken—as well as tomatoes, because entertaining is not always planned.

When occasions arise spontaneously, preparation and organization need to be at their best. Have plenty of olive oil on hand and keep it refrigerated for long-lasting flavor. Having a good supply of the basics, such as corn meal, flour, sugar and bouillon cubes, is extremely useful for last-minute meal planning. In addition, have a variety of cutting boards on hand for cheeses, trivets for hot table items, a kitchen timer, basting brushes, serving spoons and all sizes of wooden spoons and spatulas easily accessible. For impromptu entertaining, your pantry should contain ample salsas, chutneys and crackers, and there should always be a bottle of champagne in the fridge, as well as a stocked bar and a variety of wines. If time allows, fresh flowers can enhance any party mood.

With thanks to: Sun Valley Ultimate Services LLC for the use of the downtown Ketchum penthouse; Page Klune for her expertise; Primavera Plants & Flowers for the floral arrangement; Ketchum Kitchens, Atkinsons' Market, Ciro's Market and The Picket Fence for kitchen accessories.

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The weekend warrior

For one-session cooking, this cook needs items in bulk and ample storage space

If cooking and baking tend to be reserved for the weekends, then storage is a priority. Baking products should be kept in containers and there should always be extra butter in the freezer. In Sun Valley, brown sugar especially should be in a container. "I put brown sugar into a baggie with a saturated sponge so moisture is absorbed from the sponge keeping the sugar from getting hard," said Klune.

Remember, altitude in Sun Valley has to be considered when baking. Any good high-altitude cookbook has conversions. However, a general rule of thumb for adjustments at 3,000 feet or higher is to reduce baking powder and sugar but increase liquids. For each teaspoon of baking powder in the recipe, decrease by one-eighth of a teaspoon. For each cup of sugar listed, decrease by one tablespoon, and for each cup of liquid, increase by two tablespoons. Since baking items often rise quicker at higher altitudes, you may want to increase oven temperatures.

The everyday cook

A happy homemaker or after-school cook needs expediency and accessibility

This kitchen sees plenty of traffic so it must be functional and access friendly. All seasonings and spices should be readily available, along with plenty of pots and pans, cooking sheets, ramekins, pitchers and many sets of plates in all sizes. "A cook who does it all with family and business has to have everything at their fingertips," said Klune.

Knives are essential to this kitchen; keeping them sharp is important and should be done often. A food processor is also useful because it saves time on chopping, mixing and blending, making complicated dishes easier to prepare. Keep a variety of oils, vinegars, and jars of sauces nearby to make meals interesting and unique. Once opened, dressings and mustards should be kept in the refrigerator. A good selection of condiments can dress up just about any dish. The serious cook should always have the following readily available: a cookbook stand, aprons, stacks of dishtowels and nice cloth napkins, rather than paper. 

writer: **Sabina Dana Plasse**
photographer: **Paulette Phlipot**

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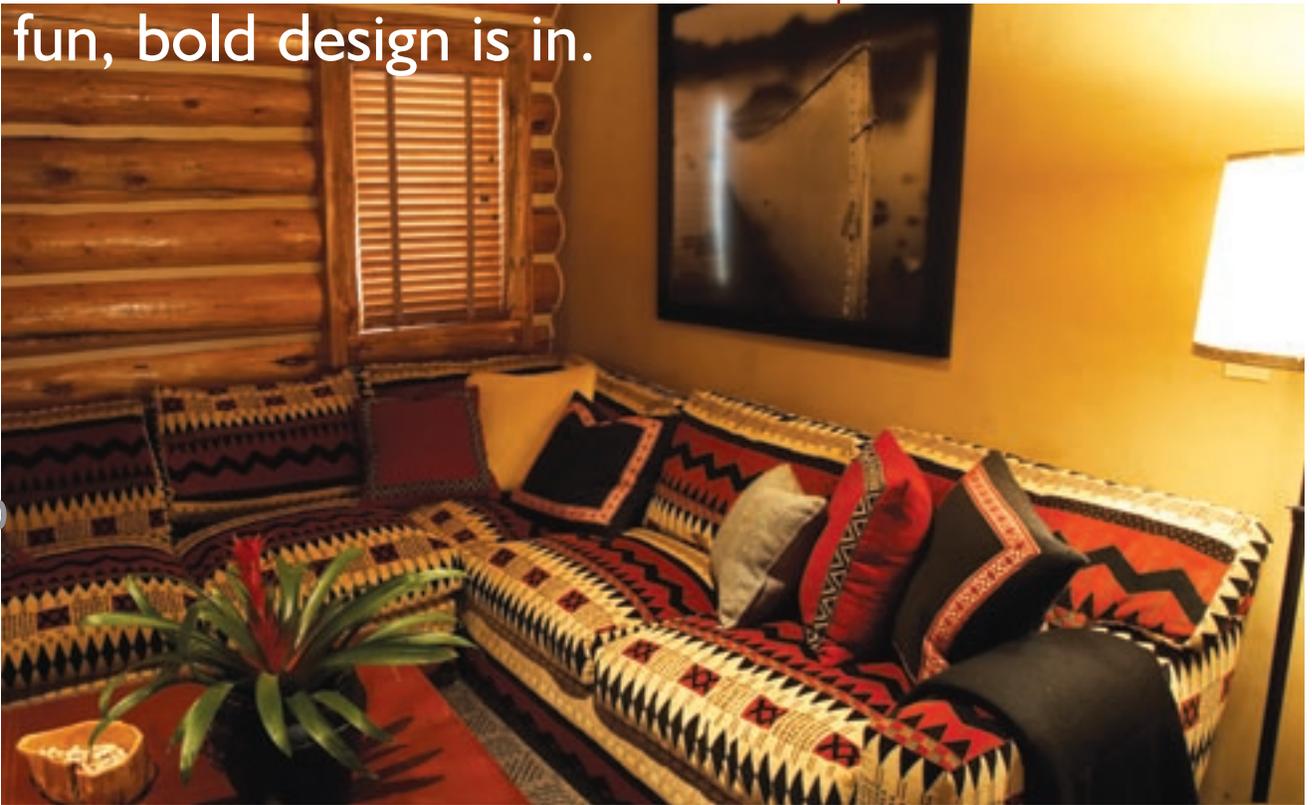
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TRACKING TRENDS

IN HOME FURNISHINGS



When you walk into your home, do you feel re-energized and inspired or do you slide into comfort, peace and relaxation? While past themes in home décor tended toward creating safe-from-the-crazy-world personal cocoons, newer trends focus on reflecting the personality and ideals of the homeowner. According to four Wood River Valley designers, nesting décor is out, and fun, bold design is in. If you're stalling because it may be expensive to get with the times, our experts offer these quick, inexpensive ways to make the switch.



The interior of this Gimlet home, designed by Terri DeMun, displays how blending styles that suit your taste produces a contemporary look. **Previous page:** Wood stains and subtle fabrics are giving way to strong colors and bold patterns in today's modern homes. **This page:** Re-upholstering an old sofa in a vibrant fabric instantly invigorates any design.

HOT COLORS AND CORK

Over the last several years design has tended toward simpler styles, gravitating toward an earthy, classical décor or home-on-the-range style. This homey feel has been emphasized through use of earth-tone wall and carpet colors, warm, subtle chenille fabrics, and a lot of restored and distressed furniture displaying natural wood stains.

This year, according to Susan Seder, owner of Fox Creek Interiors in Ketchum, design is branching in two directions. One trend is toward hot colors, like reds and oranges that make a statement and those natural wood stains are giving way to painted wood and microfibers in blues, reds and greens.

The other is a trend in keeping with the general “greening” of the home industry. This environmentally friendly direction includes the use of soy-based materials, back pillows spun from recycled plastic bottles, screens of sustainable vines and the extensive use of cork in furniture and flooring. The overall look and feel of rooms is more cheerful, colorful and carefree.

If it's time to revamp your decor, Seder suggests setting the tone with a new chair or re-upholstered sofa and more adventurous wall paint and window coverings. Changing out the wood blinds and replacing them with more sophisticated products, such as Hunter Douglas silhouettes and luminettes, can transform a home's interior. With these few changes, the tone is established and a new atmosphere is yours to enjoy.

Susan Seder's personality piece

A gorgeous antique: “There is simply no better statement about your taste and your concept of yourself than the right piece of antique furniture placed to look appealing but not showy.”

Where Susan goes for inspiration

“Some of my favorites are the new Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the Denver Art Museum. They clearly signal where cutting-edge design is going. Also, ABC Carpet & Home in New York (an ever-changing commentary on design-chic) and the furniture collection of the new Museum of Modern Art in New York.”

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SPACE AND ART

Terry Murphy, owner of the Ketchum home accessories and furnishings store Bellissimo, agrees there is no longer a need for themes in décor. Although she's not so sure there is a definite trend, she believes people are moving toward a cleaner more comfortable and pared-down look. An open feel creates space for art and furniture pieces that are more than functional and viewed as treasures.

Murphy recommends decorating so that you will experience an "aah" when you walk into a room. If your room does not have the "aah," she says, find some great art pieces from a variety of mediums; update your couches, lamps and add a wild table.

Terry Murphy's personality piece

"Our handmade Spanish four-poster bed. It's at its best when we are in it with our three dogs."

Where she goes for inspiration:

"European magazines, books, design centers. Walk down a city street—there is inspiration and color everywhere. The French and Italian home magazines in Bellissimo are fabulous for ideas."

SLEEK ADVENTURE

Claudia Aulum, Andrea Bradley and the design team from The Open Room, a furniture store in Ketchum, see a shift from one uniform style to an eclectic mix. The Western or traditional English country themes are giving way to a more adventurous style. In the past the cluttered look was very much in, while now a more soothing, less busy ambiance is in order. People are more fearless about blending styles to suit individual tastes, and this means design is moving toward a simple and contemporary look with a dash of humor.

Bradley stresses the use of effective storage (for decluttering), good lighting and comfortable, attractive seating. Accessorizing with personal items, artwork and interesting textiles, including rugs, throws and cushions, have a great impact and are easy to change as your taste evolves.

Her advice on updating is to avoid decorating according to a formula. Don't be afraid to mix styles. Look at your living room and assess what is already there. If the wall colors and floor finishes are working for you, art and rugs are a quick way to make a big change. If the furniture is great as it is, throw pillows are an easy and affordable way to make an impact.

LESS IS MORE

Terri DeMun of Lone Star in Hailey, which specializes in antiques and home furnishings, says that, until recently, warm, eclectic interiors with lots of wall color in ochres, greens and reds, alongside a strong mixing of patterns, had been very popular. Layers, colors and mixing old and new pieces epitomized the Shabby Chic trend of more is more. However, she sees interior design shifting to the less-is-more concept.

According to DeMun, the easiest and least expensive way to update your space is to paint walls in more subtle, natural and earthy colors. She recommends finding interesting, high-quality furniture and accessorizing the room with vintage "found" objects and original artwork. Choose fabrics and rugs with texture rather than pattern, and, most importantly, think about how the proportion and scale of furniture, art and accessories work together—you want them to carry the room. 

writer: **Timi Saviers**

photographer: **David N. Seelig**

The Open Room team's personality piece

An avocado green modern couch, with a European flavor.

Where Andrea goes for inspiration:

"Domestic and international design magazines. Favorites include *Marie Claire Maison*, *Dwell*, *Maisons Cote Est*, and *Elle Décor*."

Terri DeMun's personality piece

"A beautiful handmade chest of drawers that I purchased from an antique reproduction furniture company. The wood is beautiful and the craftsmanship is such a treat to see in this day and age."

Where she goes for inspiration:

DeMun's inspiration comes from many sources: design books and periodicals, museums, nature and, her favorite, "I am always inspired by the windows at Bergdorf Goodman in New York City."



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Create more space



Need more living space? If a major remodel is out of the question, read on. This is an easily implemented, inexpensive and construction-free solution to creating more living space from an ordinary built-in closet.

Furnish the area inside and around the closet as if it were the actual, original room space.

Position the closet doors elsewhere and paint them a bold color, as attractive accents to the design.

Paint the inside of the closet, shelves and all; pick up on a color from elsewhere in the room.



A plain, empty closet with bi-fold doors, shelves and closet poles.

Open your closet and discover more space. Start by removing any poles in the closet and the two bi-fold (sliding) doors. Don't throw them away; they can be used to add decoration to the room. Turn one or both upside down and position them flanking each side of a nearby window or place one in a corner. Paint them a statement color to add a bold, complementary feeling.

Paint the inside of the closet, shelves and all. Choose a strong and/or contrasting color for the back wall. Select that color from an object elsewhere in the room: a rug, a fabric or a piece of art. The side walls and shelves should be painted the color of the room, to carry through on the illusion that the room is bigger than it actually is.

Furnish the area inside and around the closet as if it was the actual, original room space rather than reclaimed closet space. A chair, books and magazines, personal mementos and art are just a few great additions. If necessary, add more shelves. Let this newly found area be functional, but also full of design and imagination.

The all-important aspect of lighting needs to be addressed; otherwise, your new space will be dark and gloomy, like a closet. In the "after" example, small-scale track lighting was hidden on the upper inside wall to highlight the art and add ambient mood lighting. Or, you might just place a floor- or wall-mounted lamp, small table lamp or accent light in the area.

When arranging accessories, several points need to be addressed. First, variety and coordination are key. For example, different sizes, shapes and textures can be displayed on different planes and turned in different directions. With this space we used large landscapes, a medium textured pillow and a small metal key; some accessories were pulled forward, some to the back. Second, odd numbers in groupings are more visually interesting than even numbers. Third, small open areas are not only OK, but also necessary. The eye needs a place to rest. Finally, accessories on the upper shelves should face downward because they are viewed from below. For example, turn greenery on its side allowing it to hang over and down. 

writer: **Corneila Russo**
 photographer: **David N. Seelig**



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Fireplaces

With countless variations in style, a wide array of fuels, and prices from \$600 to upwards of \$20,000, the multitude of options available to the fireplace buyer make such a purchase a daunting task. "Very seldom does someone come in knowing what they want," said Travis Zerba, president of Hailey's Fireplaces Etc.

Terry Roth, who owns the Ketchum-based Warming Trend of Idaho with his wife, Kathy, agrees. "We see customers seven or eight times before they buy," said Roth. "There is such diversity, so many brochures. One fireplace may come in seven sizes with twelve different faces."

In the simplest terms, however, your search should boil down to whether you are looking for heat or ambiance. Following is a guide to help you find the perfect fireplace.

Fueling the fire

Wood is tradition, wood is nostalgia, and wood can be a headache for someone who doesn't have the time or space to collect and store it. "We see wood in living areas—in larger spaces. In bedrooms, it's mostly electric or gas." Roth estimates 20 percent of his sales are wood and 80 percent are gas. "Of that 20 percent that are originally



The Niagra from Max Blank is one of a wide new variety of fireplace designs. With a built-in water feature, this stainless steel wood burning flue stove features a waterfall above the stove. Max Blank products available at Warming Trend

wood, about 10 percent of homeowners end up replacing wood with gas logs,” said Roth.

According to Zerba, the debate is often decided on whether the fireplace is for a new or existing home. “For fireplaces we install in existing homes, roughly 60 percent are gas and 40 percent are wood,” said Zerba, but in new homes, the numbers flip to 60 percent wood and 40 percent gas.

“Gas fireplaces allow more flexibility,” said Zerba. The direct-vent technology employed by gas units allows a flue to be bent to fit the space you want it in. Solid-fuel units must vent straight up. Direct venting is efficient as heated room air is not wasted to fan the fire, a problem wood units cannot avoid.

Installation of a gas fireplace in an existing home takes about half a day, said Zerba. And, gas fireplaces turn on with the flick of a switch, push of a button or by remote control. “Gas is much cleaner than wood, and direct vents will not back-draft,” said Zerba.

Pellets are less cumbersome to collect and haul than wood, but Roth warns his customers, “Pellets are a little more trouble than people realize.” A byproduct of lumber mills, pellets are cost efficient: a 40-pound bag costs \$3 to \$5. However, heating a Ketchum home may require up to two tons of pellets, or 100 40-pound bags a year—and pellets cannot be stored outside. Also, according to Roth, “If your electricity goes out, you are stuck without heat,” he added, because of the fans.

Go electric

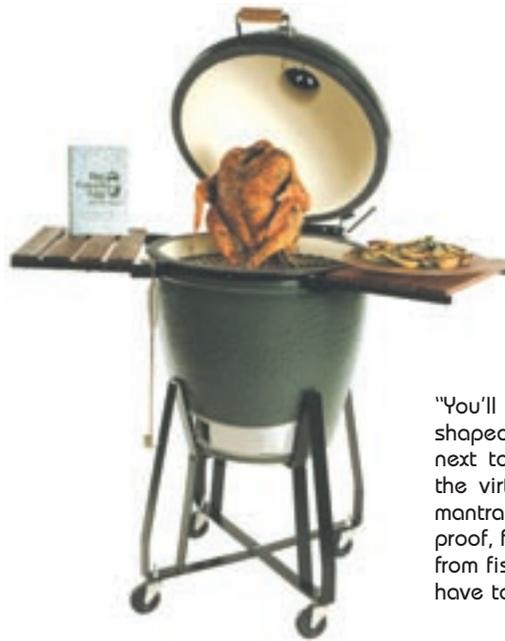
Electric fireplaces are another option. “They are becoming quite a hit,” said Kathy Roth. “They provide a little heat for someone who cannot bring in wood or does not have natural gas.” Electric fireplaces are easy to install and do not require a flue or chimney.

Art in your hearth

Lastly, one must consider the multitude of exterior options available. “Everyone is looking for that custom look, and it seems everyone has the trickle water-Zen thing going,” said Roth. Modern-day fireplaces have evolved into fine art, employing aromatherapy, water features, swivel mounts and a dizzying array of stylish and sleek casings. 

writer: **Trevor Schubert**

Music ^{has} Deadheads. Football ^{has} Cheeseheads.



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Tomatoes on the edge

The tomato, America's favorite vegetable (or is it a fruit?), is native from Peru to Mexico to southern North America. In the Wood River Valley's high-desert climate the tomato is a short-lived perennial plant grown as an annual, which typically grows up to 3 feet in height, on a weak, fibrous stem.

So which is it: a fruit or a vegetable? Botanists say it's a fruit, classified as a berry. This is because tomatoes are a ripened mature ovary containing seed, as are peppers, eggplants and cucumbers. On the other hand, horticulturists insist the tomato is a vegetable, since it's a non-woody annual. Backing the horticulturists is the Supreme Court, which, for trade reasons, classified it as a vegetable in 1893. Either way, the tomato has progressed from being a tiny, watery, acidic fruit to today's delicious giant.

To grow or not to grow?

Growing tomatoes in the high-altitude climate of the Wood River Valley is tricky, to be sure, but it is possible. The short growing season here leaves many gardeners with still-green tomatoes just as the first frost hits. If this happens, pick the orbs with stems intact, bring them inside and place in a paper bag to ripen. Tomatoes can then be blanched, frozen and used for sauces and soups through the winter months.

Gardeners in the know, and those with the right space and light, start from seed and start early. "I always start my seeds in the house in good light in February in little peat pots," said Salomé Taylor, who lives in old Hailey, on the sunnier east side of town. "By April, I have put them in four-inch pots. Then I start hardening them off (taking the plant outside for parts of the day to acclimatize it before finally moving it into the garden for good) and they go into my

Continued on page 40



Tips for tasty tomatoes

- If space and light allow, start from seed, plant in pots indoors and start early, ideally in February or March.
- If you must start outdoors, choose the sunniest spot available. Start after the last frost. Buy small plants, available from local garden centers, making sure they were started from hardy seeds appropriate for the area.
- Plant tomatoes deeply, with the lowest set of leaves at soil level, and press the soil down gently.
- Many gardeners remove the first flowers to allow roots to grow still deeper.
- Always stake or cage the vines for healthy, productive crops.
- Mulch plants well with a layer of straw, leaves, dried grass clippings or pine needles to keep the plants' roots cool, prevent weeds from sprouting around them and retain moisture in the soil. Do not apply mulch until after the soil warms to 65 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Consider using Wall O' Waters, available at local garden centers, to keep your tomato plants warm and protected throughout the growing season.
- Things to avoid: overcrowding, over-fertilizing and over-watering.
- If you've tried and tried and tried again, and are still left with tiny, hard, green things, consider a greenhouse. If space doesn't allow for a full-sized one, small greenhouse frames may work. Check with a local garden center to find the best one to suit local needs.

Which tomatoes will grow?

- Good growers for this area include various Siberians such as Shasha's Altai, Galina, Stupice, sub-arctic Plenty, Aurora and Perestroika.
- Early Girls, although not considered high altitude, will do just fine in the south valley, and in south-facing gardens with ample protection from the elements.
- Gem State matures the quickest, in just 58 days, and produces small, 2 oz. fruits. A cross between a sub-arctic and a larger, beefsteak tomato, its compact, bush-type growth makes it excellent for containers and patio gardens.
- Indeterminate varieties produce vines that keep growing. This also means tomatoes continue to ripen over the entire season. The determinate varieties will grow as a bush and ripen at once.



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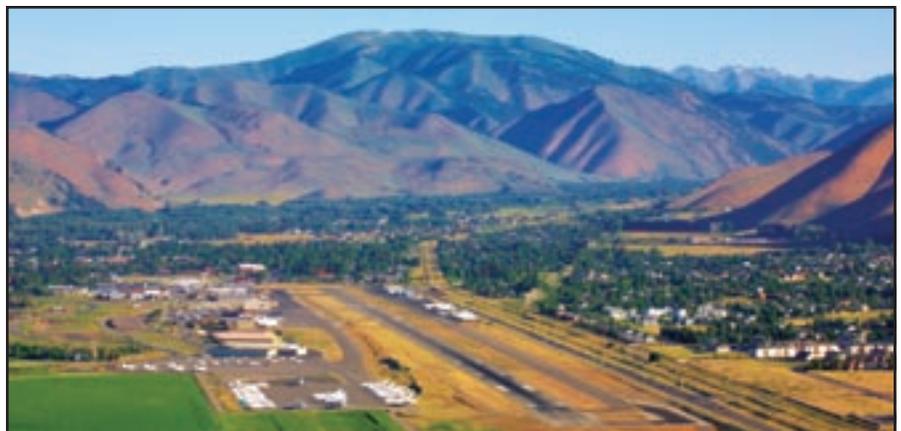
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Tomatoes from page 38

garden, under UV-tolerant polyethelene or with Wall O' Waters (plastic teepees containing individual tubes filled with water). I have tomatoes by the end of July, through August and beyond, until the first frost."

Taylor's favorite varieties are Siberians such as Shasha's Altai, the yellow cherry Galina and the red Stupice, the Gem State and the Sub-arctic Plenty. She orders them from Seed Trust High Altitude Gardens (seedstrust.com), an Arizona-based company run by Ketchum native Bill McDorman.

Location matters

Location plays a major role in the success of tomato gardeners. Ketchum is a harder sell for tomatoes, but with a good greenhouse window or south-facing, protected plot, it's possible. In Bellevue and farther south, the climate is even better than in Hailey.

Gardening is different on the prairie, according to Tona Backman Stilwill, of Fair Mountain Farms in Fairfield. "I leave Wall O' Waters on (all season) so that if you have a freak frost, you're ready," she said. "I've never had any fungus, and they also help keep the plants upright and sheltered from high winds. With Wall O' Waters you can get them in the ground in May. The water absorbs the heat in the day and radiates it at night.

"Staking tomatoes is really important," continued Stilwill. "Use good sturdy stakes. It's essential to have good soil. I put generous compost into the hole when I plant, and a handful of Epsom salts—I read once that phosphorus is essential for root development. Also try not to splash the plant when watering," she said, as getting water on the leaves can lead to disease. "You should be generous with the water in the beginning, but once it starts to set with fruit, back off or you will get watery tomatoes. Get them almost to a wilting point and then give the plants a good soak."

No matter how finicky it is about weather swings, this delicious fruity vegetable is definitely worth your patience. 

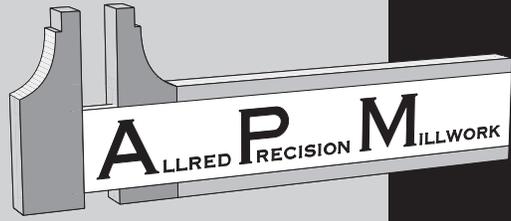
writer: **Dana DuGan**
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Gardening-related events this summer

MAY

Silver Creek Preserve Plant Walk—May 24, 788-7910.

Garden Preparation Workshop—Sawtooth Botanical Garden, May 12, 3 – 5 p.m. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

Spring Sprouts Children's Program—Sawtooth Botanical Garden. May 14-25. Ages 3-4: Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

JUNE

Annual Native Plant Sale—Sawtooth Botanical Garden and Silver Creek Preserve, June 2. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

Sawtooth Botanical Garden Speaker Series—*60 Great Plants for your Alpine Rock Garden*, lecture by Gwen Kelaidis. June 16. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

Silver Creek Preserve Plant Walk—June 16 & 30, 9 a.m. – noon. Details: 788-7910.

The Friends of the Hailey Public Library Annual Garden Tour—Tour Hailey gardens in the Northridge area. June 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Details: 788-3215.

JULY

12th Annual Sawtooth Botanical Garden Tour—Featuring gardens in the Deer Creek, Indian Creek and Flying Heart Ranch areas. July 7, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

Junior Master Gardener Program—at the Sawtooth Botanical Garden. 1st-5th grades. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

Sawtooth Botanical Garden Children's Camp—Ages 4-6: July 16-20 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Ages 7-9: July 23-27, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

Drip Irrigation Workshop—Sawtooth Botanical Garden, July 28, 3 – 5 p.m. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

AUGUST

Sawtooth Botanical Garden Children's Camp—Ages 4-6: August 6-10, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Ages 7-9: August 13-17, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

The Community Library Tour of Homes—Tour homes and gardens in Sun Valley, August 11. Details: 726-3493.

Native Edible Plant Workshop—Learn about native edible plants from Ray and Edna Vizgirdas, authors of *Useful Plants of Idaho*. Sawtooth Botanical Garden, August 11, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

From the Garden to the Table—A cooking class using foods fresh from the garden. Sawtooth Botanical Garden, August 16, from 6 – 8 p.m. Details: 726-9358 or sbgarden.org.

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Garden Relic: Mossy green terra cotta planter.

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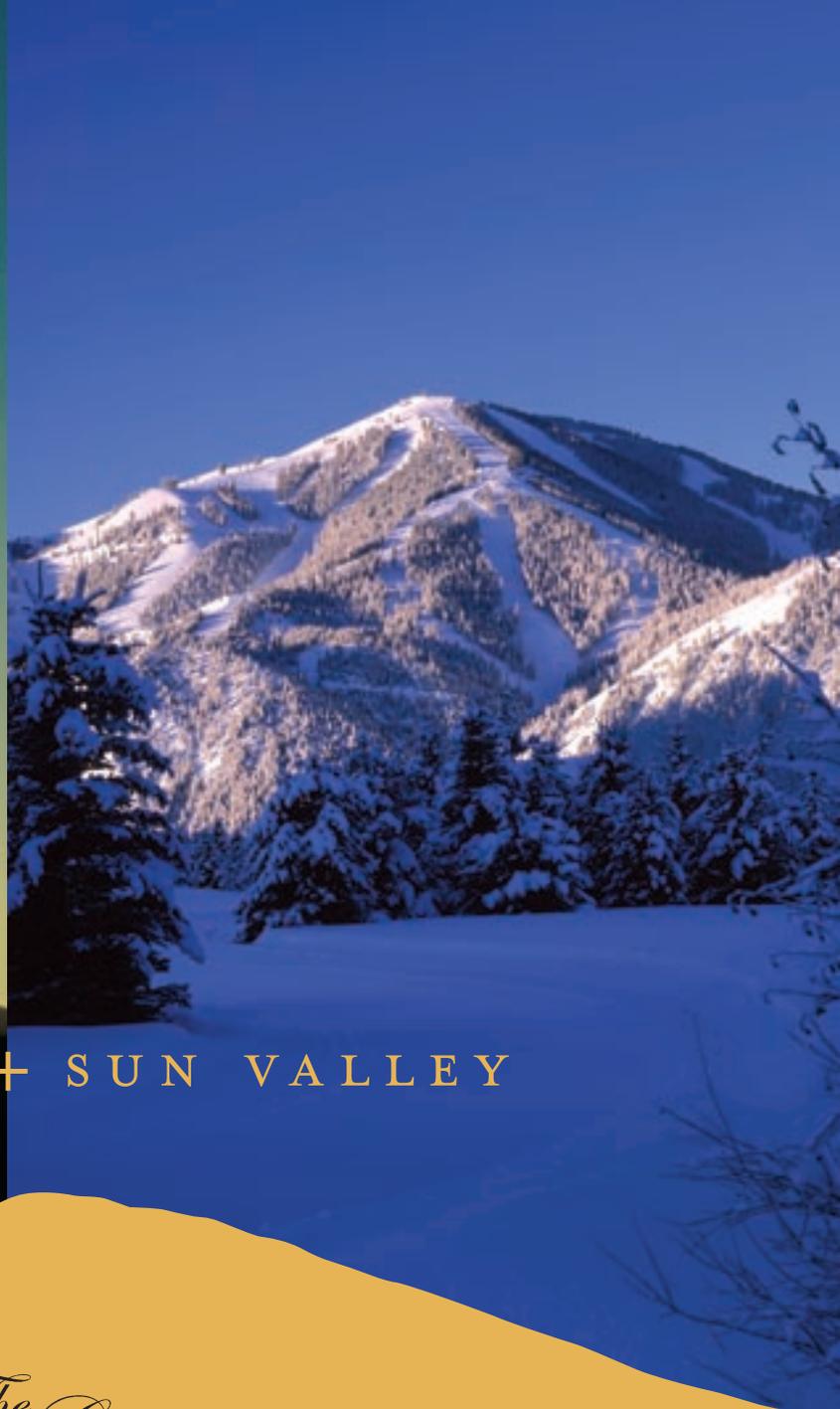
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