

BACKPACK



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MOUNTAIN LIFE AT ITS BEST

45 DON'T-MISS EVENTS
AROUND THE WEST
THIS SUMMER

PARK CITY, UTAH
BY THE NUMBERS

VINE AND DINE
A TOUR OF THE WEST'S
BEST WINE AND
FOOD FESTIVALS

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HEALTHY RECIPES
TO SATISFY THE
CRUNCH CRAVE

THE CALL OF THE ROCK:
WOMEN WHO CLIMB

WORLD-CLASS BALLET
IN SUN VALLEY, IDAHO



THE MAKING OF AN

ADVENTURE
FILMMAKER



LIFE ON THE LAKE

A PARK CITY HOME THAT STANDS OUT

words by RYAN WATERFIELD • photos by DAVID AGNELLO





A few years ago, Jason Dittmer and his wife Allison were ready to say goodbye to L.A. and find a home in the mountains. In the 30- or 40-something version of the college tour, Jason and Allison visited mountain towns all over the West and finally decided to call Park City home. After renting in a neighborhood on a lake with quick and easy access to Park City Mountain Resort, Jason saw a house on the lake come up for sale. Actually, he says that he saw a “lot” come up for sale because the house was in disrepair and if they purchased the property, it would be a tear down and rebuild project.

But, when Jason noticed the “for sale” sign, he sat for a spell on the porch one June afternoon and found himself in trouble. The “I’m-going-to-have-to-buy-this-house” kind of trouble. The thing is, he isn’t a “project type of guy,” so the last thing he wanted to do was build a house. But that must have been one hell of a view from that porch.

All he and Allison needed was the right architect. As some things go, Jason and Allison had a family friend who had done a

remodel on his mother’s house in Aspen. Sarah Broughton of Colorado-based Rowland + Broughton had grown close with Franny, Jason’s mother, “a force” of a woman who had tragically died in a plane crash in Mexico not long before Jason and Allison bought their property. Broughton says, “I’d done some work for Franny, and we developed a deep friendship. Through Franny, I’d met Jason and his family. When he bought the lake lot, Franny had just recently passed, and they were still

OPPOSITE: Looking from the entryway of the Dittmer home through to the lake. Homeowner, Jason Dittmer, prioritized being able to see the lake from every room in the home. ABOVE: A view of the home from the lakefront shows a modern take on traditional gable forms.



ABOVE (left): The use of glass opens the home up at every angle. The main entryway is dramatic but welcoming. Dittmer's mother was an avid art collector and the home has become a place for the family to continue to enjoy Franny's passion.



grieving. But it's amazing what happens—the house manifested Franny in so many ways.”

Getting there was a journey; both Broughton and the Dittmers agree that the home is the better for it. “Not only was there a steep grade to take into consideration, but the neighborhood association also had some strict design

guidelines that presented some challenges,” says Broughton. The Dittmers wanted a modern look and feel “with a seamless flow between outdoor and indoor living,” says Broughton. The overall vernacular of the neighborhood was more traditional with guidelines for roof form and materials. One of Jason’s

overarching design requirements was that there would be a view of the lake from every room in the house, so the Dittmer plan called for some inventive uses of glass. And Broughton developed a plan for shifting gable volumes that would respectfully nod to the traditional but embrace the desire for modern.



ABOVE (top to bottom): This home is meant to be lived in. The family enjoys the indoor/outdoor kitchen; the Dittmer family takes advantage of the lake whenever possible.

Ultimately, the Dittmers wanted a home that welcomed everyday living, albeit elegant and elevated. But the design does more than that. It inspires a reverence for the outdoors while tying that into the comfort of the interior of the home. R+B achieves this seamless effect by blurring the use of interior and exterior materials—the barn wood, the gray stucco, and the concrete walls. The entryway features a literal bridge element in the central volume between the front door to the windows that look out onto the lake. Furthermore, the barn wood bridges the traditional in usage to the modern in application. The play of linearity—horizontal lines in the barn wood, the bridge, the metal detailing on the exterior, the concrete forms that step up

to the front of the home—and the verticality of the gables, the long-form windows, give the home personality, at once grounded, but also soaring.

Jason, who works for Jackson Hole Mountain Guides (yes, he works part-time in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, splitting his time between two prime mountain towns), says he “married a mountain girl who had two requirements for this home: a climbing gym and a kitchen that facilitated her love of cooking and baking. So, the downstairs features a climbing room and Jason says he would have been crazy to deny her the kitchen of her dreams. The beneficiaries of that wise choice? Jason and their two sons—big fans of Allison’s baking.


“The lake is a constant source



of entertainment," says Jason. He describes how his 12-year-old son wakes up in the spring and the summer at six o'clock in the morning to go fishing on the lake. The joy that it brings Jason and Allison to see their sons engage in the natural world, in their environment, on their own terms, is palpable. "I look out on the water in the morning to see my son in the midst of the early morning fog as it starts to lift; he's casting away out there, and I know it's going to be a good day."

But living on the lake isn't just for solitary moments like that one; it's also about paddle boarding, swimming, and splashing around with neighbors and friends.

In essence, there are a lot of

good days at the Dittmer home. After all, it was designed that way. 

THE PROS

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ABOVE (top to bottom): The master bath is a place of calm and comfort looking out onto the lake; the double-sided fireplace in the dining room and the living area is one more way the home's design prioritizes connecting.