

AUSTIN-SAN ANTONIO **URBAN**

HOME

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CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE

PROJECT COLLABORATION

**ART AND FUNCTION
IN LANDSCAPES**

“NEW TRADITIONAL” DESIGN

PARKS AND RECREATION

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WHY THIS SPACE
WORKS

Designer Spotlight:
**Heather Blue Harkovich of
Heather Scott Home & Design**

By MAURI ELBEL | Photography by GORDON GREGORY



LOCATED DIRECTLY ON MONTANA'S MADISON RIVER, ONE OF THE BEST FLY-FISHING LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTRY, AUSTIN-BASED DESIGNER HEATHER SCOTT CAME ON BOARD TO DESIGN THE INTERIOR OF THIS STUNNING SECOND HOME COMPLETED IN 2011. THE 5,050-SQUARE-FOOT, 5 BEDROOM, 5 1/2 BATHROOM HOUSE IS JUST A SHORT WALK FROM THE MONTANA TOWN'S MAIN STREETS BRIMMING WITH LOCAL ART GALLERIES AND RESTAURANTS.

THE VACATION HOME SERVES AS THE IDEAL SUMMER RETREAT FOR A TEXAS COUPLE AND THEIR MANY GUESTS SEEKING REPRIEVE FROM THE HEAT THAT PERMEATES THROUGHOUT THEIR HOME STATE.



What were the homeowners' design goals for this project?

HBH: The homeowners desired a vacation home which would be conducive to a significant number of visiting guests so the floor plan was developed with one great room for gathering and separate bedrooms and baths for each guest room. The great room proportions are designed to feed and seat numerous guests on a daily basis, and three of the guest bedrooms accommodate two queen beds which allow for many visitors.

What was the concept behind the style of this great room?

HBH: The owners are very traditional in style and specifically requested the home not look like a log cabin or lodge. But I wanted to keep the design fresh so I was careful to stay away from the more traditional decor such as tassels and fringe often seen with this style. I would call this aesthetic new traditional.

This space was obviously designed with a tasteful eye. What played into your decision to keep the colors neutral?

HBH: The color scheme for the main rooms of the home was inspired by the colors of the area, specifically the woods and snow. This neutral base allowed me to create a timeless envelope to furnish the room with textured materials, such as velvet and linen, as well as traditional lines, such as English arm sofas and chairs. The goal was to have the house feel tastefully furnished but never untouchable or ornate. It is meant to be welcoming and comfortable.

How did you maintain such a great balance in this space? It's even-toned but never boring.

HBH: This room is the hub of the house, and it serves as the gathering place for everyone so it has to function as the kitchen, breakfast room, office, family room and entry. Because there would be so many activities going on, I thought it was important to make sure everything flowed together and was not disjointed. Each of the five bedrooms is finished in a different color — gray, blue, green, brown and cream — to facilitate guest



room placement, so I decided to use neutrals in the main space. Every element I selected had to be in the defined color palette of greige, cream and brown. I used textures in materials, such as nubby fabric for the dining chairs, velvet on the sofas, and sisal on the carpets to add interest to the room. When you are in the room, it feels very comfortable and welcoming, and it puts you at ease. I think there is a risk when using neutrals because it can become boring. But in this instance, we used textures to keep it interesting without taking away from the views outside looking out on the Madison River and Big Sky Mountain Range.

Please tell us about the materials, furnishings and lighting you selected for this space.

HBH: In the main area of the home, custom rugs from Merida help soften the 35-foot wide by 43-foot long room. Within this space, custom kitchen cabinets, Caesarstone® counters, a custom copper sink and a 16-foot bar make a welcoming hang out for breakfast before fishing or afternoon cocktails. The oversized hanging lanterns from Currey & Co. provide a wow factor to fill the high ceilings. The dining table is by Fremarc and extends to 120 inches. The sitting area is furnished in a variety of upholstery goods, many from Vanguard Furniture, in linen, velvet and cotton colored predominantly in greige, chocolate brown and linen. A desk area with computer, printer

and fax sits facing the river to provide a peaceful view for any necessary work tasks while visiting.

Designing the entire interior of this home, please tell us what you loved most.

HBH: The homeowners sketched out what they wanted on paper. We hired a local architect, Carla Farnam, to draw up the plans, and a local contractor from Ennis, Montana, Clark and Sons Construction, to build the home. As the designer, it was fabulous to be able to select everything — from each piece of tile down to each piece of furniture. It was a great opportunity because when you build a home nearby, you often take your original furnishings with you, but with a vacation home so far away, you are really starting with a clean slate.

Were there any challenges encountered when designing this space, and how did you overcome them?

HBH: The home has wonderful views from all angles so the goal was to have windows on the three main sides. This made it very challenging for storage in the kitchen. Luckily, this is a vacation home so the homeowner does not have as many items

as one would have in an everyday kitchen; however, we were very focused on cabinet layout and usage. We made the area on the far left a pantry for food, but it also includes a shelf and electrical for the coffee maker and toaster. We were also able to build a closet on the backside of the wall for less used items, such as oversized bake ware and linens.

Seeing this home from beginning to completion, what are your favorite elements when you stand inside of it now?

HBH: Outside of the view, I personally like the impact of the lighting — not only the kitchen pendant lights, but also the lamps which are quite oversized. Because the room is so large, many of the elements are much bigger than what you would typically place in a home. For example, the pendant lights are nearly two feet each, versus 11-inch pendants you see in many homes. But I also like how restful the room is. The color palette is very calming. It works well with the nature outside and allows visitors to relax and put their feet up after a long day of fishing on the river. ❖

HEATHER SCOTT HOME & DESIGN

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