

THE LOOKER

HOME DESIGN: WINTER 2015

A stairway winds around an installation by Tech Lighting at this snowbound Norden home.



A Yeti in Sheep's Clothing

A 12-FOOT SNOWFALL IS NO MATCH FOR THIS AUSTRIAN-INSPIRED CONCRETE FORTRESS—SAUNA INCLUDED.

BY LAUREN MURROW

THIS GLASS-WALLED HOME may look elegant, but don't be fooled: It's a beast. Perched atop Crow's Nest Peak in Norden at 7,080 feet, the ski retreat receives some of the deepest snowfall in the continental United States. "It's a total snowbound village," says Hans Baldauf, principal at BCV Architects. "You have to pull up to your house in a snowcat, then dig out your front door." As a result, this five-bedroom home for Guy and Lia Haskin Fernald and their four kids required a roof capable of bearing 400 pounds of snow per square foot. "Our structural engineer joked that the weight is the equivalent of stacking fire engines on the roof," says Baldauf.

So the designers looked to other places known for extreme climes, taking inspiration from the traditional Tyrolean lodges of Germany and Austria. Originally built in the 1400s—and later mimicked here in the '30s—the antique structures feature hulking stone bases topped by wooden



1. On the home's southwest side, six large panes form a three-story ribbon of glass.
2. A picture window in the kitchen offers mountain views. "That feeling of the forest coming into the house was very important in the design," says

- architect Hans Baldauf.
3. The ground floor of the house, which is often buried in snow, contains a sauna, a ski room, and a movie room. The home's concrete base is modeled after an Austrian Tyrolean lodge.

dwelling. “They were sort of like architecture without architects,” says Baldauf.

In this decidedly modern spin, the first floor—which was constructed with a series of heavy concrete piers—contains a ski room, a sauna, and a movie room. Two stories of Douglas fir and western hemlock perch above, overlooking the surrounding snow-covered mountains. A three-story steel staircase spiraling through the home’s core tops out at the butterfly roof, which shoulders the weight of the winter’s 12-foot snowpack. “There was this tension between building something light-filled and airy and something that also makes you want to snuggle up in it,” says Baldauf.

Of course, should a family member tire of these cozy, 5,600-square-foot confines, she can strap on her skis and glide out the back door: It’s a straight downhill shot to the Sugar Bowl lifts.



1



2



4



3

1. The light-flooded upper floors are paneled in western hemlock. Baldauf calls the home “an ode to building in wood.”
2. The five-bedroom house can accommodate two families at once and is large enough to host après-ski dinner parties for 20.
3. Guests arrive at the lodge’s front door by snowcat and glide out the back door on skis and snowboards.
4. Lisa Staprans designed the home’s interiors, including this rainbow-tiled bathroom.