



STONE NEST

USING LOCALLY QUARRIED GRANITE AND WOOD CLEARED ON THE SITE, TEXAS-BASED ANDERSSON-WISE Architects sculpt a lakeside dwelling in Bigfork, Montana, that at once offers both a refuge and unimpeded views. The materials and textures intimately connect the building to its hillside site

For the couple who own Stone Creek Camp, sited along a sloping hill with views of a lake, the house had to be designed to offer a sense of sanctuary while also allowing them to experience the abandon of being free in nature. It was these dual needs that architects Arthur Andersson and Chris Wise drew upon to sculpt a dwelling that features warm, almost cave-like spaces as well as expansive porches, open to the sunlight and views. Allowing their clients to feel the natural environment, both

indoors and outdoors, the house feels like a civilised perch from which to engage with the outlying wilderness.

The scattered buildings comprising the home are organised to lead visitors to discover the 10,000sq ft site

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progressively. From the gatehouses, a pebble-and-earth path leads down the hill to the main lodge, the guesthouse and finally the grand master house, located closest to the lake. Comprising the owners' offices, living and sleeping spaces, a distinct first impression is made by the materials and textures of the master house that connect it intimately with

the site. The façade built from local cordwood cleared on site, rolls on tracks to create moveable walls that open the house to mountain views.

Locally quarried Montana granite is the other material employed in the building form, and apart from rooting the building to the site, was chosen to complement several

The refined atmosphere of the interiors is composed in pleasing balance with the roughness of the natural materials used. They are designed to let people feel the natural environment, indoors and outdoors. Inhabitants may choose to be outdoors while inside by sliding open the walls and moving outside to spaces that are more civilised than the outlying wilderness



Walls made from local stone and reused cordwood combine with a green roof made from planting trays. They blend the master house into its hillside setting and prevents it from visually dominating the rugged terrain



natural granite outcroppings that protrude from the sloped hillside of the site. Its texture and colour are not only beautiful, the massiveness and durability of the stone is well-suited for the climate of northern Montana as well, helping to absorb and retain heat. Aside from the need to respond to the harsh climate, a series of underground streams required diversion around the planned construction.

The interior spaces of the project are often intentionally small in proportion, offering a sense of cave-like intimacy. This is contrasted by deliberate moves to connect to the outdoors. The physical spaces open to showcase expansive views of Montana's infinite sky and dramatic landscape. Each bedroom's separate, screened-in space makes it possible to sleep in nature and yet be secure within the building. The wood and stone comprising the façade are each carried through to the interior of the project, further reinforcing the connection to the outdoors.

Like the lake, the building feels as if it has been—and will be—there forever.

