

STAY STYLISH & DESIGN

WARMING
TRENDS

RELAXING ROOMS

ENTERTAINING
MADE SIMPLE

SPARKLING
CHANDELIERS

TANTALIZING TEAS

COZY COMFORTS

... AND MORE

mountain
CHIC!

3 hot park city homes



WHAT THE
PROS KNOW:

5 ways to make
your great room
truly great



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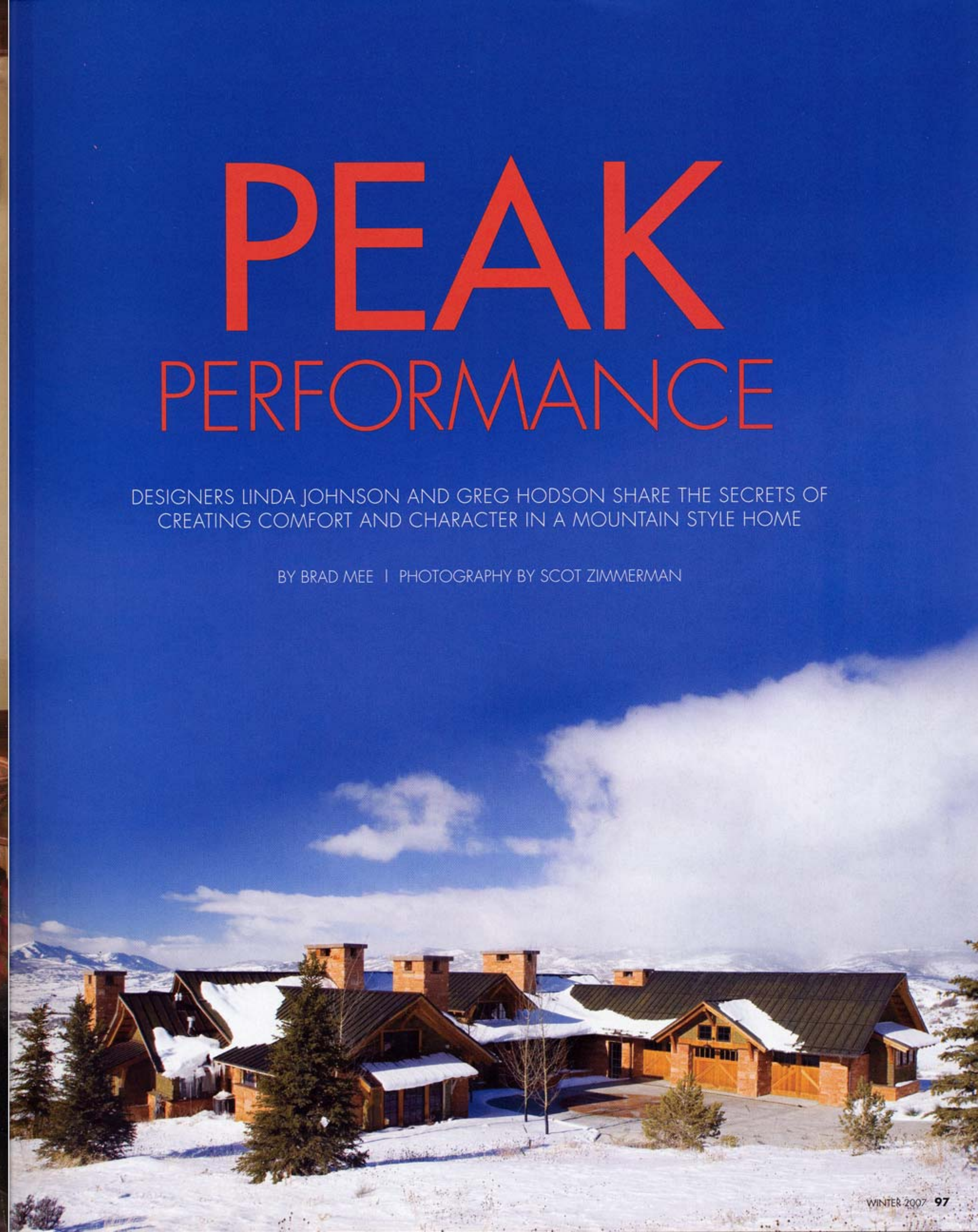
Rather than using the customary loveseat or sofa, designers Linda Johnson and Greg Hodson furnished the family room with four leather club chairs and a round, woven coffee table. Not only does this make the room feel casual and inviting but also, according to the designers, most people prefer a great chair to the end of a sofa.

OPPOSITE: Architect Van Lewis infused a touch of Craftsman style into the home. Johnson and Hodson repeated the exterior's red sandstone on the walls and fireplaces of the home's interior.

PEAK PERFORMANCE

DESIGNERS LINDA JOHNSON AND GREG HODSON SHARE THE SECRETS OF
CREATING COMFORT AND CHARACTER IN A MOUNTAIN STYLE HOME

BY BRAD MEE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOT ZIMMERMAN



Occupying the south end of the home's main living space, a seating area takes shape from clustered furnishings anchored by a large area rug. By floating the grouping in the room, the designers created wide walkways along the windows on both sides of the space.

OPPOSITE: Tongue and groove cedar, a trio of chandeliers, and large beams dress the high ceiling, bringing it down to a comfortable level. The windows are left undraped to show-off their handsome woodwork and the view beyond. Hidden blinds can be pulled to provide protection from the sun.



Designers Linda Johnson and Greg Hodson

If mountain style dictates

that hilltop homes be brown, bulky, and boring, designers Linda Johnson and Greg Hodson didn't get the message. When creating the interior of this Promontory home nestled among Park City's peaks, the principals of the Salt Lake firm of Johnson & Hodson Interior Design passed on traditional trappings in favor of fresh colors, classic details, and charming, created-over-time styling. The look may be unexpected for the area, yet it feels right at home. How did they pull it off? We asked the duo to talk about the project and learned that many of the design directives they used on this job apply to décors of all kinds.

What inspired your design of this enchanting home?

We always start with the site and the architecture when we begin formulating our plans. The sweeping hilltop setting and the openness of the Promontory landscape really influenced our design. Because the mountain-style home is large—over 7,000 square feet—and is surrounded by open land, we decided to infuse a sense of cabin-like coziness to counteract the setting's vastness, while respecting the regional architecture.

TIP: Honor the setting and architectural style of the home when determining its design.

How did the architecture influence your design?

Architect Van Lewis blended mountain and Craftsman styling, while adding a touch of East Coast flavor. Our goal was to incorporate all of these styles into the décor without being cliché or hitting you over the head with overwhelming treatments. The architectural materials also affected our decisions. For instance, the home's exterior is clad in red sandstone so we brought this material inside, using it on major features like the fireplaces and walls to help tie the exterior and interior together. It's really important to make the transition feel seamless. The sandstone also influenced many of our other material and color choices.

TIP: Choose design and/or material elements from the exterior and use them inside to create a natural sense of continuity and flow.

What are some of the other materials you incorporated?

There were many, and it's important to point out that they are all really good, natural elements—the red sandstone, the reclaimed wood flooring, the granite counter tops, the iron fixtures. Great materials are a good foundation for strong, solid design. We don't like faux or fake treatments and avoid complicated choices. They can easily become dated, and it's always more restful to have simple, more authentic materials and executions.

TIP: Use high quality, authentic materials to create a genuine, timeless interior.

This interior is more colorful than those in many mountain homes. How did you make your color selections?

We wanted to make a statement and avoid the typical browns and neutrals. For many of the fixed surfaces, like the walls, ceilings, and countertops, we picked shades of green ranging from khaki and chartreuse to aqua and willow. They are comforting, and they complement the home's red sandstone and the dark woods. For more vibrant hints of color, we used the furnishings and accents to layer shades of ochre and red.

TIP: Choose easy-to-live-with colors for an interior's larger, infrequently altered surfaces, saving the more stimulating shades for easy-to-change furnishings and accessories.

ABOVE RIGHT: A backsplash of handmade 3-by-6-inch tiles, installed in a brickstack pattern, provide a nostalgic touch to the kitchen. The designers dressed the room's wet bar more like a butler's pantry so that it integrated well with the rest of the room.

BELOW RIGHT: Because the kitchen island sits near the room's dining table, Johnson and Hodson installed vintage stools with fixed bases that wouldn't create "a sea of legs" when viewed next to the dining chairs.

OPPOSITE: Topped with celadon granite, the kitchen island is rounded on one of its three sides. This radius lessens the feature's bulk and positions stool-seated guests within reach of the sink and serving area. It also provides more open space for the dining table stationed behind the island.



A cozy window seat, dark green wainscoting, and a series of uniquely placed windows provide much of the guest suite's charm. The designers added a table and chairs at the foot of the bed to replicate what one might find in a single-room cabin. The mismatched furnishings help to create the charming look of a room decorated over time.



Why repeat elements like the green tones and the sandstone throughout the interior?

Repetition creates continuity. We practice this in all of our projects, and it's extremely important in large homes. Without it, the design won't flow and the interior can feel very disjointed. While we replicate materials and colors in many areas of the home, we use them in different ways to avoid boredom. For instance, white marble dresses all of the bathrooms, but in one guest room it appears in hexagonal floor tiles, while in the master bath it serves as an elegant counter top. Similarly, green animates the wainscot in the guest suite, while adding character to the kitchen on its tongue and groove ceiling. The tongue and groove cedar then repeats on the living room ceiling, but this time wearing a dark wood stain. It goes on and on.

TIP: Duplicate design elements to establish a coherent feel throughout a home, but alter their application to maintain a fresh look from space to space.

Earlier you mentioned your goal to create a cozy, cabin-like feel. Why did you attempt this in such a large home?

Generally, people are more comfortable in intimate areas, and we strive to create them in all of our projects. In this home, the architect had done a fantastic job transitioning the large open rooms into the smaller, more confined areas of the interior. The spaces naturally flow together. We broke the larger rooms into smaller settings and zones. Even in the smaller rooms, we incorporated window seats, nooks, and distinct sitting spots that made these cozy rooms even more intimate.

TIP: Incorporate separate sitting areas, and confined, cocoon-like alcoves and niches to make rooms of all sizes feel more intimate and inviting.

ABOVE LEFT: By positioning a single chair and ottoman near the guest suite fireplace, the designers created another of the home's many cozy spots where visitors can retreat and relax.

BELOW LEFT: Because the guest bathroom is long and narrow, Johnson and Hodson had to create its sense of spaciousness by installing a pair of open washstands rather than a single, bulky vanity. White marble, unframed mirrors, and polished nickel hardware reinforce the room's clean, fresh look. Deep khaki green walls provide a rich contrast to the white fixtures.





ABOVE: Dark wood trim gives the master bath a more formal feel, while white stone on the countertop and floor keeps the room fresh and clean feeling. Blue-green walls instill a spa-like ambience.

OPPOSITE: Architectural details influenced much of the master bedroom's décor. A pitched ceiling and large niche created the inset for the placement of the headboard and nightstands. The large, upholstered headboard and small bedside tables fill the space, while providing appropriate scale for the room. Nearby, a writing table and window seat offer a quiet respite for the homeowners. Art by A Gallery, SLC.

What specific methods did you use to make such a large main living area feel so inviting and comfortable?

While the room doesn't have enormous square footage, it does have really high ceilings. To make the space feel more intimate, we added tongue-and-groove cedar on the ceiling to make the surface appear lower. We hung three chandeliers that helped divide the single room into three separate zones that we defined as the living area, dining area, and a transition space between them. Rather than placing furniture against the walls, we floated it in the room in clusters that segment the space into well-defined sitting areas and walkways. One of the biggest mistakes people make in large rooms is spreading furniture out to fill the space with a single sitting area. We do just the opposite and create rooms within the room by anchoring small groupings around things like ottomans, fireplaces, and tables. Whether a room is large or small, this makes guests feel tucked in.

TIP: To make a large room feel comfortable, break it into smaller, well-defined areas. Incorporate mobile furniture—chairs, stools, ottomans—that can easily be moved to accommodate more people in an area when necessary.

When designing an interior like this, how do you know when enough is enough?

Our roots are in contemporary design, so our basic instinct is to keep things clean and simple. The minute we feel we may be going too far, we pull back. When in doubt, we always err on the clean side. This can be hard for people. You have to remember, if the cake doesn't taste good, it's not going to taste better regardless of how much frosting you slap on it. Start with great materials and clean design and you don't need much more. To create a feel or nuance of a specific period or design, we avoid cliché. Instead we incorporate just a whisper of something rather than hitting people over the head with it. For instance, the hexagonal marble tile in the guest bath is all that is needed to suggest a nostalgic feel. We chose this rather than filling the room with old art and accessories.

TIP: To avoid overworking a décor, keep it simple by using limited design elements and steer clear of cliché treatments and excessive objects.

How do you know when you have succeeded in creating a great interior?

When it feels comfortable and inviting and looks like it was created effortlessly. ■

Architect: Van Lewis,
Babcock Design Group, SLC
Builder: Mark Chamberlain, Chamberlain Homes, Inc., South Jordan
Developer: Heber Jackson, SLC
Interior Design: Linda Johnson and
Greg Hodson, Johnson & Hodson Design, SLC

TOP RIGHT: Originally slated as three separate rooms—a laundry, pantry, and off-the-garage-entry, the single mudroom now serves as all three, while providing a dynamic area through which the owners most often enter the home. A large, movable table provides a place to unload groceries, fold laundry, and enjoy hobbies. Nearby, painted built-in cabinetry and a bench seat provide both flair and function.

BOTTOM RIGHT: According to Johnson, people naturally gravitate toward window seats. In the study, this cozy feature flanks the room's fireplace and enjoys plush pillows, a storage shelf, a reading light, and a close-at-hand book table.



Giving it a more "mature" look, the study features a coffered ceiling, paneled walls, and a substantial fireplace of red sandstone. Handsome iron sconces and a small chandelier further the effect. Art from A Gallery dresses the room.