

IDAHO HOME AND LIFESTYLES

MOUNTAIN HIGH

An architectural firm brings regional craftsmanship and intuitive design to an epic mountain chalet.



In the shadow of Bald Mountain, in Idaho's Sun Valley, is a chalet that can withstand an avalanche.

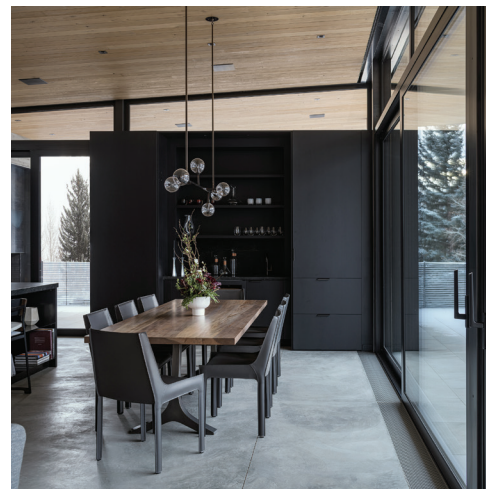
This is no somber bunker. It's an architectural masterpiece orchestrated by Farmer Payne Architects, a boutique residential architecture firm that showcases the talents of regional trades to create timeless designs rooted in the environment.

"It takes a village to build these homes," says Jamie Farmer, principal, AIA, LEED AP. At Avalanche Chalet, regional craftsmanship features in stunning ways, such as the floor-to-ceiling glass doors and windows framing ski slope views, and the charred wood elements executed in the Japanese shou sugi ban method that add texture and depth. Milling work and interior custom doors also hail from local vendors.

Like all Farmer Payne homes, this

one honors its landscape. "We blur the boundary between indoors and outdoors to make these homes feel endless," says Scott Payne, Principal, AIA, LEED AP. Built into the adjacent bedrock and anchored to the land by cross-laminated timber, steel, and board-formed concrete, the structure can bear the impact of an avalanche as it releases over its cantilevered roof. The interior, too, takes cues from the great outdoors, its high-end natural materials and minimalist design giving the space an earthbound vibe.

Eschewing labels, Farmer Payne customizes each project according to place and personality. "Once you find a style that appeals to your client, and you understand the site's features, you can jump in with both feet," says Payne. "Building the right team and forming friendships with clients is for us a true joy," adds Farmer.



FROM TOP: Reinforced by steel, concrete, and wood, the chalet can withstand an avalanche's impact as it releases over the cantilevered roof. The muted colors and natural materials of this minimalist design complement the home's rugged setting.