

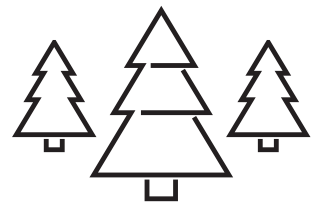


DESIGN

TRUE NORTH

A JACKSON HOLE
SANCTUARY THAT RELISHES
THE EXPANSIVE VIEWS OF
THE SNAKE RIVER AND
GRAND TETONS

A conversation
with John Lauman
of JLF Architects



JLF Architects, Jackson, Wyoming
Principal Architect: John Lauman
Builder: Big-D Signature
Interior Design: Kate Binger, Dwelling
Photography: Audrey Hall



CAPTURE: Was architecture a part of your childhood experiences that influenced you?

JOHN LAUMAN: Nothing that registered consciously. My mind always jumped to the next step- how to repair or improve something existing- that and a steady diet of Legos. Back then Legos didn't have the specialty pieces they have now, so you had to use your imagination and be a little more creative.

C: What were your first impressions of this property and the surrounding environment when you visited the site?

JL: The property was immediately "right" in that it had an unimpeded view to the Tetons and sits on the bank of the Snake River. It did have an existing, older house that had to be razed, but with it came mature trees and other landscaping. It was a pleasure implementing a new design on an established site.





C: How was sustainability factored into this house?

JL: Some of the “sustainable” items included utilizing reclaimed wood paneling and timbers inside and out, installing a new geothermal system, specifying high-efficiency window glazing, and installing insulation well above code requirements.

C: What is your design “pet peeve”?

JL: My design “pet peeve” is being caught trying to be “clever.” When a new idea or solution is implemented but doesn’t quite hit the mark and you’re left with a built “could-have-been.” Those never go away...









C: What changes have you seen in the architectural industry over the last 10 years?

JL: Other than all our clients are now younger than I am? The changes have been noticeable. After the housing crash in 2008 everyone was careful with their wishes. The typical size of a new project was smaller, more reserved. It was also harder then to convince clients that our architect-led Design-Build process with construction partner Big-D Signature was the better option for project delivery.

Today, as the world considers we might survive life in a pandemic, this has changed. Being reminded that life is short has definitely influenced clients' programming needs and project timelines. Additionally, Design-Build is now a recognizable and more common method of project delivery.