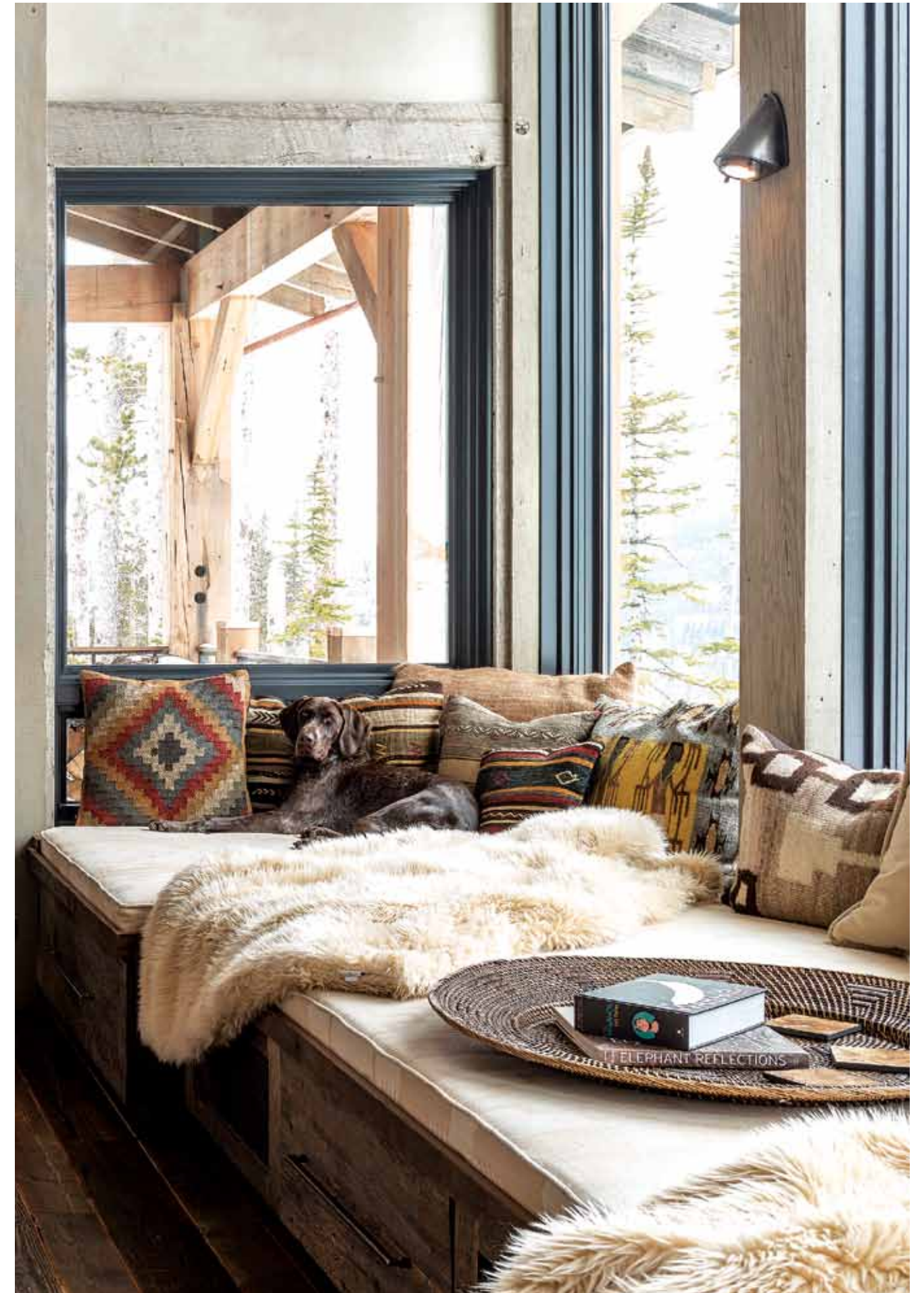


Interior designer Charlene Petersen's love of textiles is obvious in her Montana home's dining room, where the table is topped with an African runner and surrounded by chairs upholstered in a Martyn Lawrence Bullard for Schumacher fabric. The rug is a vintage kilim. **FACING PAGE:** Petersen longed to enjoy the Lone Peak view but didn't want to block the windows with chairs, so she created an oversized daybed.

CULTURE CRUSH

RUSTIC MEETS EXOTIC IN A PATTERN-BEDECKED MONTANA GETAWAY THAT BLENDS GLOBAL INFLUENCES WITH EASE

STORY BY LAURA BEAUSIRE PHOTOGRAPHY BY AUDREY HALL





ARCHITECTURE BY **LOCATI ARCHITECTS** INTERIOR DESIGN BY **CASHMERE INTERIOR**
 CONSTRUCTION BY **YELLOWSTONE DEVELOPMENT AND PRG BUILDERS**

“AN AMERICAN LUMBERJACK MARRIES A WORLDLY PRINCESS, AND THEY REALLY LIKE EACH OTHER!”

That’s how interior designer Charlene Petersen describes her family’s sumptuous Montana retreat, where unlikely pairings result in a home as fanciful and colorful as its owner’s daring design sensibility.

Perched on a forested Big Sky mountainside, the structure showcases spectacular Lone Peak views while also allowing for easy ski-in/ski-out access from the lower level. “The home is designed to be very open and spacious,” explains Steve Gordon of Bozeman-based Locati Architects, who collaborated with Petersen on the project. “Large expanses of glass invite the outdoors in.”

Rustic materials ensure that the house merges naturally into its alpine environment. “We selected local materials of timber and stone that are not only visually pleasing but wear well over time,” Gordon adds. And that rustic framework provided just the right starting point for Petersen’s vibrant imagination to take over. >>



ABOVE, LEFT: The powder room typifies what Petersen calls her “rustic, eccentric-chic style,” with faux-cowhide walls, an antique Chinese-cabinet-turned-vanity, petrified-wood sink, contemporary mirror and Navajo rug.
 ABOVE, RIGHT: An antique Indian bookshelf has a new home in a custom steel frame adjacent to the moss-rock fireplace.
 FACING PAGE: The great room sets a casual tone with a Ralph Lauren upholstered sectional sofa and soft Moroccan rug.

THIS SPREAD: The home's floorplan is open and airy, with vibrant red accents providing a lively contrast with the gray-washed beams and reclaimed-wood floors and cabinetry. A Navajo textile graces the stairwell, and the Ann Sacks-tiled kitchen backsplash, brick-red-painted island and Ralph Lauren fabric-upholstered stools provide a punch of color. The refrigerator doors are inset with chalkboard panels for messages and grocery lists, while a water buffalo skull above adds a wild touch.



“PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: LOVING TEXTILES AND NOT BEING AFRAID TO TRY HAS ALLOWED ME TO LEARN WHAT PATTERNS WORK TOGETHER.”

CHARLENE PETERSEN



A PASSION FOR PATTERNS

There's no shortage of tempting textiles and wall and floor coverings to choose from these days, but mixing and matching all those patterns can stop many would-be designers in their tracks. Interior designer and textile collector Charlene Petersen demystifies the process here.

COLOR "If you keep the colors subdued, you can get away with multiple patterns. When I designed this home's guest room I really went wild with the patterns—I actually got a couple of funny looks, even from the designers in my office. But against the rustic background it really took off well."

SCALE "The patterns you choose must be different sizes. If you have a floral, a chevron, a diamond and a stripe, they can all play together, but they each need their own stage. If they're all the same size, it just hurts your eyes."



“MONTANA’S COMBINATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE, MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN and cold, long winters married well with my eclectic and worldly yet modern and clean style,” Petersen says. And while she planned to indulge her fondness for traditional high-country design motifs—plaids, wools, rustic woods, wildlife accents—the Maryland-based designer was determined to weave her creative personality into the mix.

To strike just the right balance between rustic and modern, Petersen targeted a few key elements: “I chose a gray wash to modernize the rustic wood timbers, and had simple flat-panel cabinetry—which is typically modern and clean—made from reclaimed barnwood for an earthy and warm feeling,” she explains. Reclaimed wood treads add warmth and texture to the home’s streamlined glass-and-steel staircase.

A textile collector since her teenage years, Petersen has developed a keen eye for detail and a flair for mixing and matching. “I’m not afraid of the patterns,” she says of her assemblage of antique tapestries, Suzani rugs and Indonesian pieces. “My style always embraces a collected aesthetic—African artifacts, Persian and Moroccan carpets, bold ethnic patterns.” >>



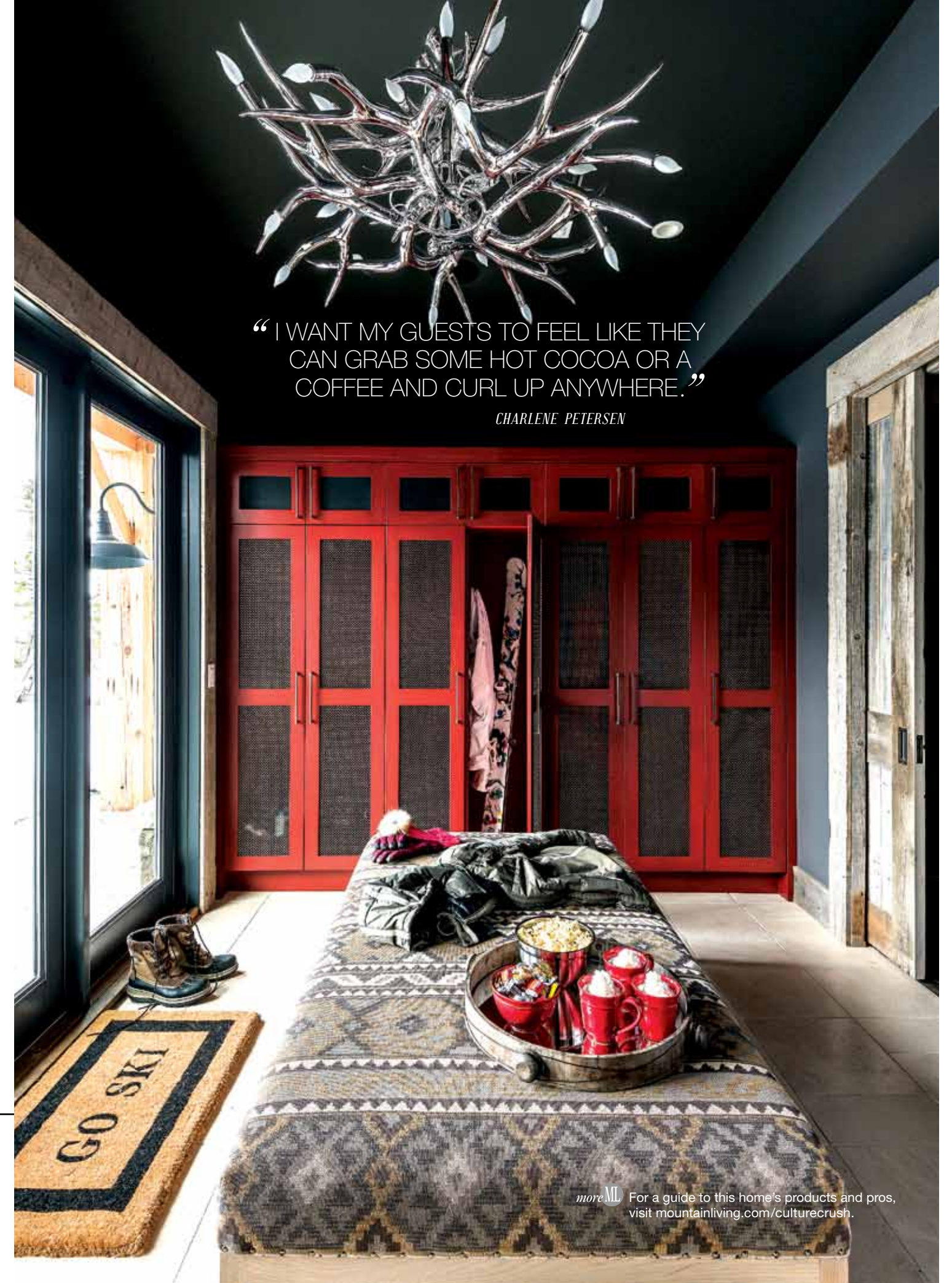
LEFT: A flagstone floor and grasscloth wallcovering offer a fresh take on rustic. ABOVE: A Schumacher wing chair provides a cozy reading nook beside the Montana moss-rock fireplace. FACING PAGE: For the master suite, Petersen chose an 8-foot-wide bed so parents and kids can “all cozy up on snowy days.” The large ottoman is covered in an antique Oushak, and a giant dreamcatcher hangs above.

The great room embodies this rustic/ethnic mix with its combinations of color, texture and exotic global elements, from a Moroccan rug to a pair of intricately crafted antique Indian bookshelves. Petersen purchased the set years ago, then put them in storage until she found their perfect home. They ended their long journey in Montana when Gordon designed raw steel frames for them on either side of the moss-rock fireplace. And while the Ralph Lauren upholstered sectional sofa and Copenhagen leather chairs from Restoration Hardware look appealing, it's the room's generously proportioned daybed that quite literally steals the scene. Built beneath an expanse of windows offering panoramic views of Lone Peak, and topped with a cozy nest of Native American textile-covered pillows and plush faux-fur throws, it's a heavenly hangout for friends, kids and the family's contented dog.

When asked what sort of environment she hoped to achieve in her mountain home, Petersen doesn't hesitate: "Complete coziness!" And so far, her comfort strategy seems to be working, as evidenced during a recent vacation. "The house was full of guests, and I had four people napping on the giant daybed in the great room at one time," she recalls with satisfaction. "Proud moment!" After all, sometimes even hard-working lumberjacks and extravagant princesses just need a little rest. ◦




Images from Andy Warhol's *Cowboys and Indians* series preside over the entry hall, with wallpaper by Ralph Lauren and a petite red bench from West Elm. The rug is an antique Oushak. **FACING PAGE:** In the uncommonly elegant ski room, walls painted with Benjamin Moore's "Iron Mountain" provide a deep gray backdrop for brick-red lockers and a chrome antler pendant light from Design Within Reach.



"I WANT MY GUESTS TO FEEL LIKE THEY CAN GRAB SOME HOT COCOA OR A COFFEE AND CURL UP ANYWHERE."

CHARLENE PETERSEN

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