

ISSUE
60

Gray

architecture
interiors
design
fashion

IDEA BOOK

HIGH-STYLE FURNITURE, DÉCOR, TRENDS
SPACES WE LOVE, PLACES TO VISIT
+ VANCOUVER'S DESIGN SCENE

THE SHELTER ISSUE



THE GREEN O

The Social Haus—a hub at the center of a secluded, high-end resort in Montana—references the surrounding forest in nuanced design details.







The same wood paneling—charred using the Japanese *shou sugi ban* technique—used on the building's exterior covers the walls in the Social Haus entry vestibule.



Social Haus' large bifold doors connect the interior dining space with the surrounding forest.

Nestled in the mountains of the Blackfoot River Valley of western Montana, the Green O—an adults-only luxury resort at the southern edge of Paws Up Ranch—takes glamping to the next level. The Resort at Paws Up was one of the first places in North America to introduce the “glamorous camping” trend, and with this latest iteration (12 accommodations with sunken living rooms, glassed-in spiral staircases, and terraces in the trees), it throws high design into the mix.

The small, standalone “hauses,” as the resort calls them, are positioned around the Social Haus, a community gathering space, bar, and restaurant. The members of Seattle-based Mutuus Studio served as the interior architects for the Social Haus (the building’s shell was already underway when the firm was brought on), infusing their

poetic design sensibilities into the materials and details.

“The initial sketch by [studio cofounder] Jim Friesz of the large circular banquettes around the central fire reinforces the metaphor of the ‘Green O,’” says Mutuus cofounder and architect Kristen Becker. “The green leather is a playful reference to the play on words inherent in the resort’s name [in the early 1900s, local farmer Paul Greenough ‘branded’ his sheep with a painted green ‘O’]. But going from there, we started using this idea of connecting everything to fire. The building is in the woods, there’s a large bifold door that opens to connect the space with the landscape, and the exterior of the building is done in *shou sugi ban*, a Japanese charred-wood finish.”

Two firepits (one used for culinary purposes and one for atmosphere) serve as focal points inside the Social

Haus, and a semicircular bar gives guests a peek at food being prepared.

The fireplace hoods have a custom patina by Mutuus’ Saul Becker that evokes a copper pan that has aged over time. Kiln-fired clay tiles, a soapstone countertop (the material is heat-resistant and was chosen so that a pan straight from the fire can sit directly on the surface), and a custom, metal-and-canvas-sling firewood holder that stands 10 feet high continue the fire-and-heat motif.

Guests will find that every seating option has its advantages, Becker says, from the social-driven bar to two-tops tucked away in private corners. “We wanted every table to be a star,” she says, “and for everyone to feel like they have the best seat in the house.” ✱