NOVEMBER 2019

# House Beautiful

## TELL EVERYONE TO *Come Over*

- Spill-proof Sofas
- Cocktail Nooks
- Sleepover Barns

Your House Needs a Secret Door
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*...and*
Ping Pong Tables *Made for* Dinner Parties
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A Home WITHOUT STRESS
BELIEVE IT! P.50

ENTRANCE
Louvered steel panels filter sunlight into the walkway of this Utah family home. **Door** and **sconces:** designed by the home's architect, Anik Pearson, and fabricated by her stepfather, Patrice Humbert.

>
LIVING ROOM
Interior steel beams are still marked with the metalworker's notes. Logs from the local piñion tree make for fragrant winter fires. **Sconces** and **mantel:** designed by Pearson and fabricated by Patrice.

# 3 HOURS FROM ANYWHERE

Two European metalworkers hire their New York–based daughter to create their dream home in the Utah high desert, beauty ensues.

interior designer **ANIK PEARSON**
writer **KAITLIN MENZA**
photographer **ANNIE SCHLECHTER**
producer **ROBERT RUFINO**

THE BREEZEWAY
Pearson created these adjustable slatted panels, similar to large shutters, to keep the walkway shaded and cool.

**IT WOULD'VE BEEN A DIFFICULT** project even if the clients weren't her parents. Architect and interior designer Anik Pearson couldn't say no when Malou and Patrice Humbert, European expats who run an ornamental ironworking business, bought a remote ranch in southern Utah in 2003 and asked for her help. The previous property had to be razed to create the home of their dreams. "The climate is very aggressive," says Pearson of Salt Gulch, the valley where the home is situated. "The wood siding was completely deteriorated from UV rays. Birds were trying to burrow in the boards," she recalls. **"It was just going back to the land."**

Their plans for the new build: an attached guest house for visits from family and room for their metalwork and pottery, as well as furniture picked up on their travels. Fire-resistant materials like steel, copper, and concrete were trucked in from as far as three hours away.

A covered breezeway connects the main and guest houses, the pavement shaded by slatted steel panels; sturdy eaves protect against snowfall in winter. Pearson calls the house's aesthetic "kind of Arts and Crafts, but inspired by Swiss chalets and traditional Japanese houses."

So that occupants can "see long distances across the vista and catch the elk, coyotes, mountain lions, and mule deer that walk through," Pearson placed five-paneled glass windows throughout. These also maximize sunlight, warming up surfaces and cutting down on energy costs.

Even the interior was inspired by the property, which boasts an orchard full of fruit and nut trees and a stream for catching trout. "I collected different-colored stones that were strewn around. They became the color palette for the house," Pearson says.

The family's passions collide in the kitchen. Malou oversaw the acid etching of a metal backsplash, which complements shelves displaying her collection of Van Briggle, McCoy, and Roseville pottery. Pearson's idea for a gridded laylight ceiling is due to the kitchen being in the middle of the floor plan, away from any windows.

While the home was imagined as a vacation spot, Pearson's parents now live there full time. "They like it so much, they never like to leave," she says of their self-sufficient estate. "They run out of wine before they run out of food!"

GUEST ENTRY HALL
A deliberately dark contrast to the light-filled sitting room beyond. **Pendant:** midcentury. **Wallcovering:** hand-painted using copper-leaf squares, Donghia.

## SITTING ROOM

Anchored by canary-colored Chesterfield leather sofas that Pearson purchased in Southampton, New York, the Craftsman-style paneling reads contemporary. "It offers human proportions to an otherwise overscale room," says Pearson.
**Wall paint:** Sugar Bag Light, Farrow & Ball.
**Landscape paintings:** James DeWoody.

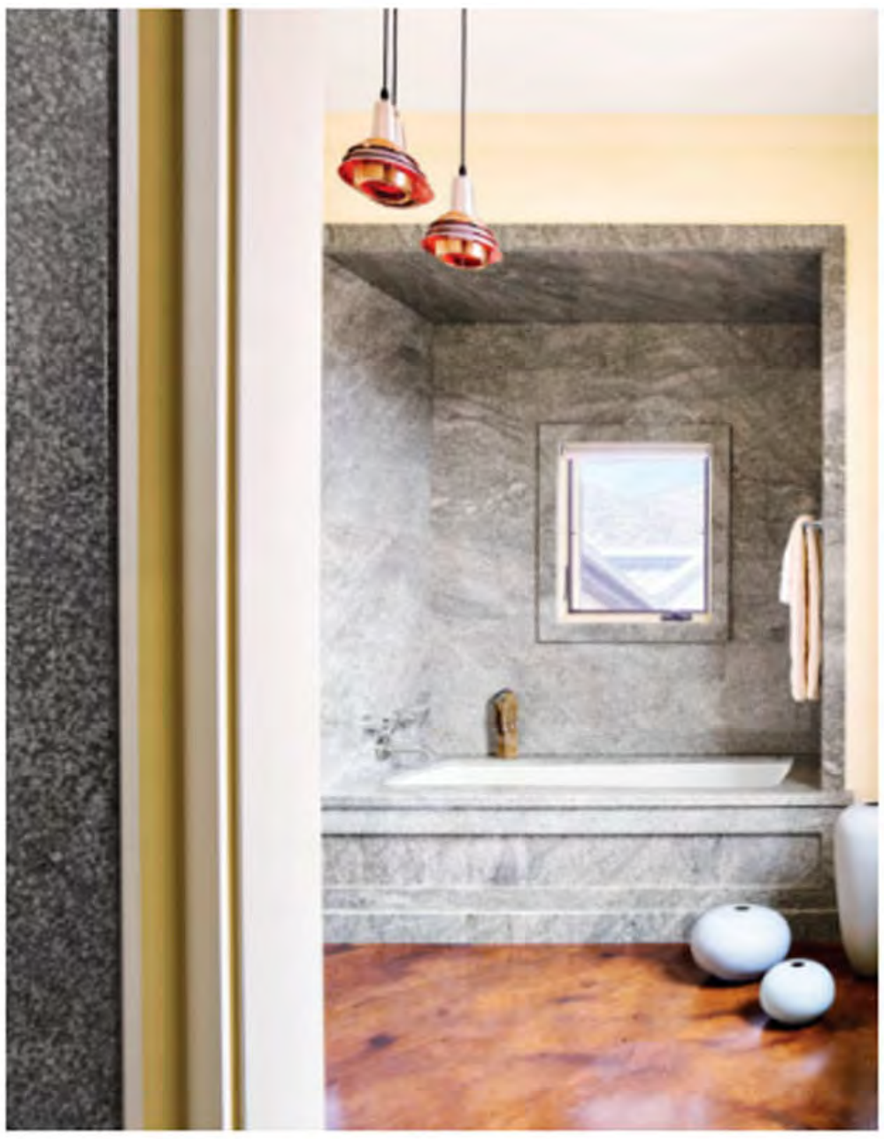
## KITCHEN

A gridded skylight lined with glazed panels fills the central kitchen with sunshine. **Paint:** Mahogany, Farrow & Ball. **Countertop:** Ocean Foam, Caesarstone. **Faucet:** T&S Brass.

Acid-etched metal panels draw in colors from Malou's pottery collection.

## GUEST BEDROOM

"The house is half-buried in the hillside, which helps it keep an even temperature in summer and winter," explains Pearson. **Paint:** Babouche, Farrow & Ball. **Sconces:** midcentury Danish string globes procured from the previous owner. **Large artwork:** James DeWoody. **Throw pillows:** handwoven by Arkansas craftswomen.



## MASTER BATHROOM

To minimize grout lines, Pearson opted for large slabs of Costa Smeralda polished granite. The colors were inspired by local stones and minerals. **Paint:** Pale Hound, Farrow & Ball. **Pendant:** midcentury, from The Green Ant in Salt Lake City.

## MASTER BEDROOM

A shiplap ceiling paired with an industrial beam showcase the home's unique blend of materials. **Paint:** Stone White, Farrow & Ball. **Wall sculptures:** John Torreano. **Bed:** John Paulson. **Pillow** and **curtain fabrics:** Donghia.