



Capturing the View

When looking for a place to put down roots in the mountains, Lynn and Ed Cassady returned to the region that started it all.

Ten years after a visit to Cashiers, North Carolina, Lynn and Ed Cassady decided it was time to have their own place in the mountains. They spent three summers touring various North Carolina and Georgia communities but kept coming back to one problem.

"We kept comparing everything to Cashiers," Lynn says. "And we finally said, 'Well, instead of comparing all of these to Cashiers, why don't we go to Cashiers?'" They landed in the High Hampton community, where they purchased a lot that gave them both stunning mountain views and access to nearby amenities.

The next step was to plan their dream vacation cabin, and for that, they turned to Jim Robinson of Design South Builders. "We absolutely wanted to capture the view," Lynn says of their plans for the space, pointing out the home's proximity to Rock Mountain and Chimney Top, two of Cashiers' most recognizable landmarks.

To accomplish that, they centered the house on Rock Mountain and included plenty of carefully placed windows. "You can see the mountains in the background, regardless of which window you're looking at," says Jim.





Although they're most clearly seen in the great room, Jim used reclaimed oak beams in other spaces, as well, like the dining room and the wall separating the kitchen from the den.



And with the surroundings playing such a crucial part in the experience, it was important to create an interior that reflected the character of the mountains. Toward that end, Jim incorporated materials like antique hand-hewn barn beams and reclaimed oak flooring throughout the main level. "Everything about this house is very authentic," he says.

The more rustic elements are balanced by the clean, uncluttered atmosphere that Lynn wanted to create in the design. "The backdrop is all cream and white, all the shiplap and all the casing, and that keeps it really light," Lynn says, noting rich browns throughout the design that pull in the warmth of the mountains outside.

With three children in high school and college and plenty of out-of-town friends and family, the Cassads wanted the home to have plenty of room, as well as space for gathering, which led to a layout that centered on the great room. "The loft has a great relationship to it looking down, and the kitchen and dining room certainly have a wonderful relationship and closeness to it," says Jim, describing the space as a "hub."

One of the Cassads' main goals during the design process was to create a space that would accommodate their three growing children and the possibility of future spouses and grandchildren. "We wanted it to be flexible so we could grow into the house," Lynn says.



The really pretty thing about having our view against Rock Mountain and Chimney Top, where you have the bald face of the mountain, is that the colors change on the rock face of the mountain all day long." Lynn says of the view outside the master bedroom.



One of the bedrooms, while originally designed to hold two queen beds, became the object of some quick thinking during the building process. "Originally, there was no niche—it was going to go straight down," Lynn says of the back wall. Instead, she and Jim agreed to expand the room and swap the two queens out for a king, flanking the bed with built-in bookshelves and backing it with a cheerful patterned wallpaper. Now, the room is the favorite of the family's children.

Located on the main floor away from the upstairs bedrooms, the master bedroom was created to give Lynn and Ed privacy—along with a stunning view. The tray ceiling and walls covered in white shiplap glow with a serene light, making the room the perfect place to curl up under a pile of cozy linens and watch the mist in the valley.

But it's the screened porch, where a swing bed waits next to a warm fire, that really seems to bring people together. "That is by far everyone's favorite [place]," Lynn says. "We spend 90 percent of our time out there." Whether it's watching the sun rise in the early morning with a cup of coffee or gathering around the fire in the evening, the family love coming together and enjoying the mountain view. ■

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMMON HOBBS



A favorite place of the whole family, the swing bed on the screened porch was the first purchase for the new house. "We had a lot of our existing furniture, and then I found that and fell in love with it, and Jim changed the dimensions of the porch so it would work for the sitting area," Lynn says.