

LUXE

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THE GIBSON RESIDENCE

The Gibson Residence

Tucked within the well-loved community of High Hampton amid the Blue Ridge Mountains, there now stands a residence that honors its setting while offering every comfort.

This oasis amid the peaks and forest belongs to the Gibsons, who set out to design and build their dream home. Design South Builders compiled a team of nine-plus renowned firms and manufacturers to bring their vision to life. Each brought its own skillsets and offerings to the table, with one collective viewpoint serving as a guiding influence: this would be a residence that takes cues from the land and tells the story of its surroundings. Keep reading to step inside this one-of-a-kind feat of design, construction, engineering and specification.

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HOME AUTOMATION
Imperial Security & Wiring

CABINETS
MasterBrand Cabinets

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Sierra Pacific Windows

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Viking

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Hartstone Tile

STAIRCASES + RAILINGS
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BUILDING SUPPLIES
Jennings Builders Supply & Hardware of U.S. LBM

DECKING
TimberTech

PHOTOGRAPHY AMY LAMB of NATIVEHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY





“We do our best to contour homes to their natural setting, making sure to incorporate modern comforts in a manner that is respectful of the surroundings.”

Design South Builders

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FOR ANY EXPERT in the professions focused on crafting a home, the idea of a homeowner client who also has an uncommon knowledge of the trade is a thrilling one. For Jim Robinson and his team at Design South Builders, The Gibson Residence presented just such an opportunity. “These clients were able to be true collaborative partners,” Robinson says. “They understood that creating something lasting takes time.” This gave Robinson, alongside Senior Design Manager Niki Rapay and Senior Project Manager Adam Bennett, the chance to craft an immensely special home. The DSB team approaches each project with a belief in layering and using repetition and form to create rhythm and cohesion. From the two bronze stags by Wesley Wofford flanking the driveway entrance to the focal point sculptural staircase to the arches that serve as transitions of continuity throughout the home, every detail points to their signature combination of symmetry, artistry and locality.



MAIN While the layout embraces an open concept, DSB intentionally created private moments within-vignettes that invite a sense of intimacy within the home’s natural flow. **LEFT** From stacked stone and natural woodwork to reclaimed barnwood and antique brick, the materials used inside and out speak to a deep sense of place. **RIGHT** This sculptural staircase, designed by the homeowners, was established as a focal point early on, playing a central role in the language of the overall design.



“With full-time residents on our team, we understand the unique terrain, building requirements and opportunities that come with building in the mountains.”

—DESIGN SOUTH BUILDERS



MAIN Interior designer Dan Casto’s imaginative use of curving furniture and finishes did a beautiful job of complementing the warmth of the architectural and material choices. **ABOVE** Complete with antique brick, the wine cellar exudes the essence of another time altogether.



“We believe luxury isn’t just about what you see. It’s also about how effortlessly your home responds to you.”

Imperial Security & Wiring

828.586.4618 | imperialsecurityandwiring.com | [f](#) [impsecandwir](#)

WHEN ONE THINKS OF A PARAMOUNT CUSTOM CREATION like The Gibson Residence, the architecture and interiors tend to take center stage. But beneath that foremost layer of aesthetics, an important luxury lies: seamless, lifestyle-oriented home automation. Design South Builders knew how important this was to the clients, so they made the perfect move in bringing Imperial Security & Wiring into the project from the start. “Being involved from the initial planning stages allowed us to ensure every solution was not only high-performing, but also seamlessly aligned with the home’s architecture and interior design,” says Mark Daniel Zoran, Imperial’s President. The ISW team’s scope on the project included full Crestron home automation, unifying lighting control, motorized shading, distributed audio and video, HVAC integration and comprehensive security—all accessible through intuitive, elegantly designed interfaces.



MAIN Origin Acoustics architectural speakers throughout the home provide low-profile audio. **ABOVE** The custom theater features a fiber-optic star ceiling that adds a dramatic, immersive ambience. Paradigm speakers bring professional performance to every viewing experience.



“Each set of cabinetry was constructed with a different wood species, based on its location within the home.”

MasterBrand Cabinets

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IN A HOME WHERE EVERY DETAIL reflects its environment, material selection becomes more than a design choice. It becomes a narrative. For The Gibson Residence, this philosophy led to the seamless integration of MasterBrand’s Omega Cabinetry, a decision rooted in both form and function. “We wanted each space to feel unique,” explains Niki Rapay, Senior Design Manager at Design South Builders. “Every selection was made with the surrounding elements in mind.” That intention is evident in the diverse palette of wood species used throughout the home, from the warmth of maple and cherry to the richness of walnut, each chosen to complement its setting. Some finishes are painted, others stained and all thoughtfully curated. Inside, Omega’s signature walnut interiors add a layer of luxury, while custom paint-matched cabinet interiors—an exclusive touch for the Gibsons—underscore the project’s bespoke nature.



MAIN Maple cabinetry painted in Pure White is the perfect backdrop in this chef-worthy kitchen. The island features the Dove hue, which was applied using a brushed ebony finish technique. **LEFT** The Kodiak stain on cherry gives this bar a moodier feel than some other cabinetry elements within the home. **RIGHT** Just because prep and pantry space is thoughtfully hidden off the kitchen, doesn’t mean it isn’t beautiful. Cherry wood with a Ceruse Gray stain distinguishes it from the kitchen.



“We are expanding our footprint and completely reinventing window types, and this project showcases the fruits of that labor.”

Sierra Pacific Windows

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ALTHOUGH FORM AND FUNCTION tend to be top of mind, there is another consideration that plays a role for many homeowners and trade pros: sustainability. When crafting a home like the Gibsons’ mountainside residence, the surroundings make this goal even more compelling. Luckily, the project team knew just the company to turn to. “Sierra Pacific Windows manufactures its products with complete vertical integration,” Territory Sales Manager Skip Johnson explains. “The full cycle makes use of every part of our wood resources, all the way down to wood shavings that become animal bedding.” As a trusted partner of US LBM’s Western Carolina Market—which includes Jennings Builders Supply and GBS Building Supply—Sierra Pacific Windows is recognized for delivering comprehensive, high-quality window solutions. “We are able to perform in the demanding mountain climate, delivering both durability and aesthetic appeal,” Johnson says. “We brought a beautiful result through an easy experience and delivered long-term confidence.”



MAIN With the furniture built into the window design—a complex feat involving immense collaboration to align measurements—each opening welcomes the stunning landscape in like art. **ABOVE** A unique folding window system above the kitchen sink creates an indoor-outdoor pass-through configuration.



“Cherished recipes come to life where a Viking range is at the center, elevating your culinary endeavors and feeding your soul.”

Viking

888.845.4641 | vikingrange.com | [@vikingrange](https://www.instagram.com/vikingrange)

IT HAS LONG BEEN TRUE that one of the most exciting moments for a homeowner building their dream abode is appliance selection. In the case of The Gibson Residence, the kitchen range was of particular importance. From a design perspective, the trade team and clients all felt that the classic approach of building the kitchen around a statement range was the right move. This is where Viking came in. While the brand also provided other appliances indoors and out, the range is the pièce de resistance. It hails from one of Viking’s most celebrated collections. In the storied town of Scandicci, where craftsmanship has been honed for centuries, Viking Tuscan ranges were designed to embody the spirit and tradition of Italian artistry. Masterfully refined and perfected in the United States, each range blends the charm of Italian Provençal design with the functionality needed for American kitchens. Marrying timeless elegance with uncompromising quality, Viking Tuscan ranges are the epitome of sophistication in any home.



MAIN Viking appliances were beautifully woven into the cabinetry and overall design of the chef-worthy kitchen. **LEFT** In Viking’s stunning Slate Blue, the range and range hood more than achieve the team’s goal of making a kitchen-defining statement. **RIGHT** Outside, the Viking grill brings incredible performance to the open air.



“We are loved for our clean, natural look and custom capabilities. It resulted in a dynamic and luxurious feel for the pool area.”

Hartstone Tile

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TO RESIDE IN A RESIDENCE as well situated as this one is a dream, and it makes the alfresco spaces more of a focus than they might be elsewhere. At The Gibson Residence, this meant that the pool area needed to step it up a notch. Thanks in part to Hartstone Tile, it certainly does. “On this project, the raised pool and spa incorporate a fire feature, water feature and retractable pool cover,” explains JT Hart, Partner. “It required completely custom coping with a special softened edge profile.” Design South Builders and Medallion Pool Company selected Hartstone for the job not only because of the company’s natural-look stone, but because its manufacturing process allows for this level of customization. “We house a custom mold department solely devoted to creating specialty molds,” Hart says. Known for their high-level attention to detail and genuine passion for collaboration, the family-owned Hartstone Tile made for a perfect addition to the team.



TOP The stone of the pool surround helps the home to feel blended into the stone of the mountains beyond. **LEFT** Complementing the flagstone on the side of the home beautifully, the pool surround is both aesthetically pleasing on its own and designed to enhance all else.



The Heirloom Companies

864.468.4940 | theheirloomcompanies.com | [@theheirloomcompanies](https://www.instagram.com/theheirloomcompanies)

PART OF WHAT MAKES BUILDING a custom home from scratch such a delight is the opportunity to zero in on the little details that bring joy. For the Gibsons, exquisite staircase design was one of these. Having worked with custom staircases previously, the homeowners have long had a passion for their sculptural yet functional role. Thus, they hit it off with Ben Moseley at The Heirloom Companies instantly. “Founded in 1994, we focus on building custom staircases with a blend of time-honored craftsmanship and innovative design,” Moseley says. He goes on to share what makes the Gibsons’ designs so special, saying, “First, the railing designs are custom—there is nothing like them in the world, and they were inspired by the owners’ travels. Second, the steel in the curved walnut stair stringers makes it structurally sound without taking away from the highly elevated design. It is a feat of engineering that you might not ever know about if you weren’t told.”



TOP In the loft foyer at the top of the stairs, the custom railing design serves as art piece and a natural guide through the space to reach various doorways and thoroughfares. **LEFT** Far from purely functional, the grand staircase at the entrance of the home serves to introduce the tone and scale of the entire home.

THE GIBSON RESIDENCE



Jennings Builders Supply & Hardware of U.S. LBM

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IT IS OFTEN THE CASE that strong partnerships benefit everyone involved. Jennings Builders Supply & Hardware is a prime example. Since its founding in 1984, it has stood as a trusted resource for builders throughout Western North Carolina. Today, as a division of U.S. LBM, JBSh pairs that legacy with a national network for the best of both worlds: scale and service. In this project, the combo was on full display. “We provided nearly everything for this project, from framing and siding to custom garage doors and decorative beams,” says David Billingsley, Outside Sales Representative. VP of Sales Tina McEachin adds, “Our team offers deep expertise in sourcing and customization of materials, as well as a custom wood shop and whole-house design center in Cashiers, which assists not only construction but also design. We worked closely with the Gibsons and Design South, with whom we have a long-standing relationship, to translate visions into tangible materials.”

“Natural, high-quality materials and custom craftsmanship define our work.”



TOP Custom walnut doors from TruStile featured their Hazelnut, hand-wiped and stained finish for a luxurious handcrafted feel. **ABOVE** The use of natural materials—cedar, pine, bark and stone—not only met aesthetic goals, but aligned with the environmental and architectural standards of the High Hampton community.



TimberTech®

877.275.2935 | timbertech.com | @timbertech

EVERY DECISION made on a dream home project is an exciting one, but some are still easier than others. For the Gibsons, the use of TimberTech to craft an expansive deck amid the mountain forest was just that. “TimberTech product was specified for the project early on,” shares Craig Hyatt, VP of Sales. The rich, realistic wood look of the decking feels perfectly at home surrounded by the dense forests. TimberTech’s high-quality Advanced PVC is a low-maintenance and sustainable decking solution that offers unmatched durability with a limited lifetime product warranty—splintering, peeling, cracking and rotting are things of the past. The boons of TimberTech don’t end there. Compared to other composite decking, the Advanced PVC material has up to 40 percent better traction, and many Advanced PVC colors also stay up to 30 degrees cooler than similarly colored competitive products. Plus, it offers unbeatable moisture resistance and is the only composite decking brand with collections featuring an Ignition Resistant designation, Class A Flame Spread Rating and WUI Compliance, which are important in wooded locales like this.

TOP TimberTech’s English Walnut® hue provides the perfect complement to the home’s exterior. **LEFT** As a complementary design choice, English Walnut boards were also used as stair treads.