



## star power

kim & kanye's  
minimalist  
masterpiece  
in L.A.

aaron paul  
at home  
in idaho

the new  
deans  
of american  
design



# MOUNTAIN HIGH

*Aaron Paul goes back to his Idaho roots to craft a perfectly balanced rustic-chic getaway for himself and his young family*

TEXT BY **MARK ROZZO** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **SIMON UPTON** STYLED BY **MICHAEL REYNOLDS**



PAUL, WEARING A DAVID YURMAN NECKLACE AND MADEWELL JEANS, AND HIS DAUGHTER. STORY, BY THE LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE. FASHION STYLING BY ILARIA URBINATI. OPPOSITE THE HOME'S LOG-CLAD EXTERIOR. FOR DETAILS SEE RESOURCES.





A NATALIE PAGE FOR BDDW CERAMIC PENDANT HANGS OVER A CUSTOM DINING TABLE BY PETERSEN ANTIQUES. CUSTOM CHAIRS BY JAKE ARNOLD, WHO ALSO DESIGNED THE INTERIORS; RUG FROM LAWRENCE OF LA BREA, OPPOSITE AN INDOOR TERRACE—AND GAME ROOM—OFF A BEDROOM OVERLOOKS THE KITCHEN. PALECEK STOOLS.



"I was pulling my hair out a lot during the process," says *Paul*. "But living in a place that you built is a dream come true."





LEFT IN THE BREAKFAST NOOK, VINTAGE CHAIRS SURROUND A CUSTOM TABLE BY ARNOLD. BELOW A NATIVE TRAILS CONCRETE TUB WITH WATERWORKS FITTINGS ANCHORS THE MASTER BATH.



TOP IN THE MASTER BEDROOM, SIXPENNY LINEN ARMCHAIRS FACE OFF. CURTAINS OF AN ELITIS LINEN. RIGHT THE PAUL FAMILY TAKES TO THE SNOW.

S

un Valley it is not, and that's the way Aaron Paul likes it. In this Idaho village on the shores of a pristine glacial lake, there's no Allen & Company conference, no symphony, no arts center, no Hemingway pilgrims, and no traffic. The attractions here appeal more to trekkers than jetsetters: whitewater rafting, hot springs, skiing, and restaurants that skew toward cheeseburgers, fries, and huckleberry ice cream. Aside from Paul—the award-winning actor, who will appear in the new season of *Westworld* this month and is lauded for his roles in *Big Love*, *BoJack Horseman*, and, most famously, *Breaking Bad*—the biggest local celebrity is a mythical lake creature à la the Loch Ness monster (which Paul says is most likely a landlocked sturgeon). For the 40-year-old native Idahoan, the area is imbued with nostalgia. His grandparents owned an A-frame nearby. And whenever he makes the two-and-a-half-hour drive from Boise Airport (after an easy two-hour flight from LAX), Paul says, “it takes me right back to my childhood—lying in the back seat and staring up at the trees, covered in snow.”

Since he has visited his entire life, it's no shocker that Paul would choose to build here, creating a rustic yet refined escape from Los Angeles for himself, his wife, Lauren, who cofounded the Kind Campaign, and their two-year-old daughter, Story. “I'm just a psycho when it comes to looking for property,” Paul says, detailing the exhaustive search that ultimately led to five wooded acres bordered on two sides by the banks of a snaking river. He and his wife would build their mountain dream pad from scratch, calling in Pearson Design Group, out of Bozeman, Montana, to create the log-clad, cabin-style home and the Los Angeles-based Jake Arnold, who has a client list that includes Rashida Jones and Julianne Hough, for the interiors.

“Typically when you're making this style,” Arnold says of mountain and wilderness houses, “it's really bulky.” The 30-year-

old British-born designer chose to pare it down, creating a lighter, European-inflected feeling while retaining the essential brawny character of the place. Throughout the five-bedroom house, which is full of bespoke pieces (often executed by local artisans), hand-hewn craft is tempered by chic design, frontier spirit by urban cool. In the dining room, a planked trestle table sits beneath a constellation of ceramic pendant lights by Natalie Page for BDDW. (“When Jake presented those lights,” Paul says, “I was like, ‘This is perfect.’”) The guest-bath vanity is fashioned out of reclaimed Wisconsin barnwood, a material found throughout the house, including the raftered ceilings of the living room. You can see ax marks on the crossbeams.



GROOMING BY DANIELE PERSONS FOR ART DEPARTMENT USING KEVIN MURPHY AND GOLDFACEN MD





“I never thought I’d get so excited about rocks. I found myself daydreaming about rocks.”

The sauna is sheathed in local cedar that, Paul says, came from “this giant tree that had just been pulled out of one of the lakes here.” And perhaps most striking is the omnipresence of Montana moss rock, a notable example being the 13-ton hearthstone in the living room. Paul, a self-described architecture and design obsessive, made sure to be on-site the day the colossal stone arrived. “I never thought I’d get so excited about rocks,” he said. “I found myself daydreaming about rocks.”

**THE PAULS’ IDAHO HIDEAWAY** may be the essence of a frontier cabin, but there’s no compromise with comfort, considering the heated concrete floors, light-filtering curtains, and an abundance of textiles, particularly linen, which Arnold—whom Paul calls “a brilliant artist”—deployed in the spirit of unfussy elegance. And just in case the couple ever get a case of cabin fever, the house provides its own escape from elemental wood and stone. The downstairs lounge—bar, billiards, theater—transports them and their guests 5,000 miles away to an old-school London club on Pall Mall. (When Arnold staged the reveal for Aaron and Lauren, he situated two women dressed as flappers at the bar, nonchalantly sipping cocktails.) With its gleaming paneling, amber lighting, and William Morris touches, it’s more P. G. Wodehouse than Old West, the perfect place for a tippie—which, for Paul, tends to be mezcal from Dos Esmores, the company he founded with his *Breaking Bad* costar, Bryan Cranston.

Arnold is an expert at creating crepuscular rooms that are soothing refuges: They’re womblike, never tomblike. “So many spaces are overlit,” he says. When it came to lighting, Paul says, Arnold was the perfect ally in achieving what he wanted: “Moody, beautiful, sexy.”

Paul calls the house Camp Pretty Bird, inspired by the pet name he uses for his wife. Its rhythms are camplike, dictated by the seasons. In winter, they might play in the snow with Story or, as Paul likes to do, go for ice-cold plunges: “I tend to spend a lot of my day lying in the freezing river.” Come summer, there might be tubing on the river, or a foraging party might be arranged for berry picking. The property is popular among deer and bear families. “They’re friendly neighbors!” Paul says. His and Lauren’s own family gatherings can hit the double digits in terms of guests. Camp Pretty Bird can easily accommodate them—and surely will for years to come.

“I poured my heart and soul into this thing, as did Jake Arnold and Pearson,” Paul says. “I was pulling my hair out a lot during the process, but living in a place that you built is a dream come true.” And the dreamiest part of it is that, for Paul, the house is all about the joys of family and escape. “I lose my phone for weeks on end,” he says, “and take myself just . . . away. It’s beautiful.”



THE LIVING ROOM FEATURES A SIXPENNY SECTIONAL AND ARMCHAIRS. CUSTOM CHANDELIER BY ADG LIGHTING; ROUND SIDE TABLE (IN FOREGROUND) FROM OBSOLETE; PILLOWS OF RALPH LAUREN HOME AND HOLLAND & SHERRY FABRICS.

★ EXCLUSIVE VIDEO AARON PAUL AT HOME, [ARCHDIGEST.COM](http://ARCHDIGEST.COM).