

Yellowstone

UNDER THE BIG SKY OF MONTANA,
A YOUNG FAMILY WRITES AND ACTS
OUT THEIR OWN SCRIPT

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY KRISSA ROSSBUND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY VICTORIA PEARSON





The hit TV series *Yellowstone* leaves its audience enthralled with the drama that unfolds among the ruggedness of western rural life. But Kirk and Jenni Fernandez set their minds on building a home in Montana long before streaming enthusiasts found charm in the destination that's a sharp contrast from the lights, skyscrapers, fast cars, and high fashion of cities.

With their primary residence in Los Angeles, the couple, who were both raised in Cody, Wyoming, knew they would feel most at home surrounded by mountains, expanses of unfenced land, and crisp air. After all, the natural elements support the outdoor lifestyle that they know so well.

"The show has drawn attention to the region and popularized a modern western look," Kirk says. "Our home is 30 minutes from Yellowstone National Park and where the show is filmed, but we were sold on Montana long before the show. We fly-fish, ski, and love the mountains, so for five months each year, we live in the environment that we grew up with."

While Kirk and Jenni did not use the show as inspiration for their vacation home, television *is* where they discovered designer Lonni Paul before researching her and liking her

updated approach to classic style. The Los Angeles-based talent, whose work tends to lean toward a modern aesthetic, channeled the role of traditionalist, much like when an actor steps into the character of a ranch owner after playing a city slicker for a previous part. Paul's comfortable scheme was a lesson in blending: rough textures of stone and reclaimed wood with the femininity of crystal lighting fixtures and dainty florals, rich tones of handsome gray with the barely-there politeness of pale pink, fresh textiles with storied antiques.

"They were used to modern interiors since that's what they

Entry An old photograph of a Fourth of July parade accompanies a bust of Abraham Lincoln in the foyer. **Great-room** A drawing of a bull hangs above the stone fireplace. The turned legs of an old table behind the sofa contrasts the tailored lines of the upholstered pieces. Collections, including art and antiques, personalize Kirk and Jenni Fernandez's home. **Powder room** The powder room grabs attention with its bright blue palette. **Outdoors** The couple's sons, August and Enzo, use the whole yard as a playground. **Gazebo** With a spectacle of mountainous surroundings, outdoor spaces extend an invitation to enjoy nature and support friend-and-family action. Comfortable seating pieces make the gazebo an ideal place to linger. **Previous pages** The Hamilton, Montana, home was built to take advantage of the outdoors. With arresting architecture that includes a soaring wood ceiling, designer Lonni Paul intentionally kept the living area quiet with neutral upholstery on elegant silhouettes.

Dining room The brightness of the cheerful dining room is grounded by dark herringbone floors made with reclaimed wood. A brass-and-crystal chandelier balances the delicate chair slipcovers that are embellished with bows. **Cigar room** Clad in stone and wood, the cigar room was designed to harken to another era. Leather chairs amplify the masculine voice.



THE INTERIORS PROVIDE US WITH COMFORT
AND BEAUTY.” —homeowner Jenni Fernandez



THEY WERE USED TO
MODERN DESIGN FOR
CITY LIFE, BUT THIS WAS
THEIR FOREVER HOME.”

—designer Lonni Paul

live with in Los Angeles,” Paul says. “But this was intended to be their forever home, so elegance, timelessness, and comfort were important to create a livable environment for their growing family and the friends who visit.”

Kirk and Jenni trusted Paul to work her design magic, but they came to the table with plenty of ideas, too. First was Jenni’s affection for femininity. Framed by mountain ranges, the house was destined for hardy, robust architecture with beams, stone, and an abundance of textural wood. But Paul identified places where a delicate touch would bear impact.

Take the dining room, for instance. Atop a herringbone floor fashioned from reclaimed planks, the stately dark table is lightened by dining chairs that wear floral slipcovers with dressmaker details of dainty bows. To temper the sweetness of the space, Paul added built-ins to the wall for a modern monotone display of the couple’s ironstone collection.

Statement florals appear elsewhere throughout the house, too. Paul jumped from quiet to bold in the powder room. A tufted velvet settee moderates an intense blue-and-white wallcovering with the same vivid value. In the primary bedroom, capped by worn timbers that outline the vaulted ceiling, a dusty lavender, hand-painted silk wallcovering keeps the room from becoming fixated on one style.

“I’m all girl at heart and wanted softer appointments sprinkled throughout our home,” Jenni says. “But I wanted Kirk to be comfortable in the bedroom, too. I like the visual tension that comes from powerful wood architecture and decoration that is delicate. Our bedroom merged the two beautifully.”

Paul notes that when she specifies a pastel palette, she chooses the masculine version of it as it’s seamless against the nature outside the window. Her second trick for adding elegance among grand architecture? Crystal chandeliers. She hung the faceted fixtures in spots from the primary bedroom to the dining room to Jenni’s office, all with the idea of timelessness in mind.

Kirk and Jenni also brought an injection of antiques to the design. Throughout their marriage, the couple has dedicated time to searching for antiques whenever they travel. They had accrued a significant collection for Paul to assign to rooms throughout the house.

In the entry, old furniture and decorative pieces including a

Kitchen Designed with entertaining in mind, the kitchen doesn’t commit to an all-white complexion. Instead, it invites in warm neutrals. Black barstools reference the painted, reclaimed wood bar that dazzles with the glimmer of an antiqued mirror backsplash. Unlacquered brass lighting and plumbing add shine to the warm space. The striped-and-tufted banquette seating is balanced by an old table and Windsor chair.



Kirk's office An envelope of bluish gray anchors the office space with a masculine hue that added warmth to the found pieces and old books that Kirk offered for the project. "I love my job and being in this space to work," he says. "I can see the mountains and hear the nearby creek. It's important that your work space inspire." **Library** A monotone scheme of bright blue saturates the library through the velvet sofa, ottoman, rug, and built-in cabinets. "I love a monochromatic room because it's easier to see and discover things," designer Paul says. "Too many colors are confusing."

Jenni's office The assembly of appointments in the blush-tone office—a French desk and feminine slipper chair, artwork presented in a gilded antique frame, a crystal chandelier, and drapery panels embroidered with deer—delivers a timeless scene. A shapely tufted sofa and a cloudlike sculpture star against the wall. A French ottoman displays an artful collection of apples. With classic built-ins, a corner of the room is both hardworking and beautiful.





church pew and a bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln establish what's important to the Fernandezes.

"We love America and grew up in a patriotic place," Kirk says. "It was important to us that our home represent that. The Lincoln piece starts so many conversations and comes with so many stories from what it is to how we found it. When everything is too new and without history, it's hard to connect."

In addition to the ironstone on display in the dining room, a collection of framed silhouettes mingle among the library's bookshelves. Resting in the corner of the primary bathroom, an old painting with an antique frame imbues another layer of time.

A TV series may or may not wrap up with an ending that fans love, but the Fernandez home is poised for happily ever after.

"The interiors provide us with comfort and beauty, but this idyllic location pushes us outside," Jenni says. "Sitting in the grass and on the ground and taking in the mountain air—everyone needs that in their life."

Interior designer: Lonni Paul **Architect:** Jeremy Oury

Primary suite The slender frame of the bed and an airy crystal chandelier offset the hefty beams overhead. At the end of the bed, a bench Paul designed provides a place to sit and slip on shoes. The simplicity that surrounds a soaking tub ensures serenity and relaxation.

Portrait Kirk and Jenni Fernandez with sons August, 5, and Enzo, 3.

