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The architects: David Chipperfield, Elizabeth Diller & Ellen van Loon.





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HOTEL OPENING. ... Teton Village, USA

3. SLOPES AND DREAMS.

Caldera House in JACKSON HOLE: not your usual SKI-RESORT property.

The landscape of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is all rolling grassy plains and snow-capped mountains; cowboy country at its best and most bucolic. When Caldera House arrived in the valley's Teton Village it was the only accommodation of its kind; visitors had previously shuffled between tired five-star hotels and overpriced chalet-style digs. "When we started four years ago there were no other properties like this to follow as inspiration, so there was a lot of out-of-the-box thinking," says Pamela Lenci, Caldera's general manager.

Teton is a small place and establishing a good relationship with locals was crucial. "It was really important to have the project be accepted by the community, so finding the right people to join the team was key," says Lenci.

Many know Jackson Hole as a ski destination but it lures more visitors in the summertime, so hotels have to make guests feel at home year-round. "For inspiration we looked at the golden age of skiing in places such as St Moritz, Gstaad and Cortina, and combined an alpine feel with the casual comfort of the American West," says Roman Alonso, owner and creative director of LA-based design studio Commune, which was involved in the design.

"We wanted the spaces to feel luxurious but also casual," adds Alonso, whose favourite space is the Member's Lounge, in which you can rest on a shearling chair set by a roaring stone fireplace. "There are beautiful vintage Scandinavian pieces in there, as well as furniture by Michael Boyd, George Smith and Jean Prouvé. I love how the room opens up onto a large terrace. In winter the ski gondola comes so close it feels as though it's going to land right inside the room." Here, guests can enjoy the après-ski, while meals are served at the Italian restaurant, Old Yellowstone Garage or at the South Cable Cafe, which offers quick bites ranging from burritos to sandwiches.

Set at the base of the mountain with ski-in-ski-out access, Caldera House's location is unsurpassed. But Lenci believes that it's the design and staff that make it stand out. All too often, ski towns hire seasonal workers with little experience of or interest in the area. At Caldera House this is not the case.

"We have brought together a team of Jackson Hole enthusiasts, who are interesting and stoked to share their passion for the area," says Lenci. "I think we've achieved the perfect balance between being relevant and being bold and new." — MHO calderahouse.com







