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FEATURE/ARCHITECTURE



photos by Ken Hyner

# Above it all

by KATHLEEN CURRY  
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for Spaces

## Grand Lodge at Brian Head balances rustic styling, elegance

**W**hen Lynn Leany decided to create the Grand Lodge at Brian Head, he had a vision in his mind of what he wanted. Deborah Lelko knew that her job was to make that vision a reality, while also coming in under budget, using materials that would hold up yet look good, all the while creating an overall environment that feels comfortable for guests. What can happen when one person knows what they want and the other knows how to execute on those ideas is now on display at the Grand Lodge, which



yet look good, all the while creating an overall environment that feels comfortable for guests. What can happen when one person knows what they want and the other knows how to execute on those ideas is now on display at the Grand Lodge, which officially opened in late February.

Leany, owner of the Grand Lodge, also owns a ranch just outside of Cedar City but is probably best known as the supplier of the steel found in many hotels along the Las Vegas Strip. However, when it came to his own hotel in the mountain resort town of Brian Head, he wanted the opposite of Vegas flashiness. His preference was for a traditional mountain lodge to fit in with the surroundings.

"When the property came up for sale, we said, 'Let's do the thing right,'" Leany says.

Getting it "right" fell to Lelko, a principal with Architecture + Design Associates, a firm based in Fairfax, Va.

"Lynn had an idea of what he wanted the Grand Lodge to be," Lelko says. "Our job is to interpret that idea, but to also make it functional. The goal for me always is to interpret the vision the owner is trying to accomplish as well as meeting other goals such as

### When you go

The Grand Lodge at Brian Head  
435-677-9000  
grandlodgebrianhead.com

Brian Head Resort  
435-677-3883  
brianhead.com  
scenicssouthernutah.com

making sure things are cost effective and durable."

The result of Leany's ideas and Lelko's interpretation is a hotel that indeed has the feel and decor of a mountain lodge, yet also manages to be open, airy, light and inviting. The building achieves a fine balance between being both rustic and elegant at the same time, or, as Lelko puts it, "we wanted it to have contemporary fixtures as well as antlers on the wall."

"We kept working on it and it all came together," Leany says.

Bringing it together involved what Lelko calls, "bringing the outside in." "I don't think we were meant to live

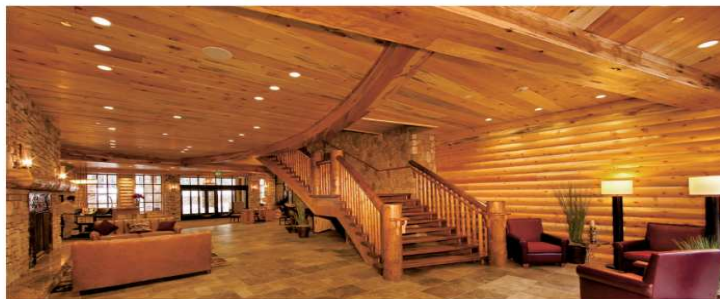


too much indoors," she says. To that end, stones and wood found in the surrounding area of Brian Head can also be found as part of the decor of the Grand Lodge in everything from the ceilings to the floors, even in the water flowing between the two in an upstairs bar/banquet area. "The water feature simulates the water falls you see in the area in the spring when the snow melts," Lelko points out. The bar/banquet area also features a large indoor fire pit as a centerpiece that draws in visitors who are relaxing after a day on the slopes or hiking in the mountains.

Besides considering how things look, Lelko also had to contend with

making sure the products were cost effective and could also hold up during the winters when guests are tracking Brian Head snow into the 100-room facility on a daily basis. Further complicating matters was that the Grand Lodge has a goal of one day being named a four-diamond hotel, so certain guidelines set by AAA (American Automobile Association) for receiving that designation had to be met. "You usually look at the guidelines AAA uses and work towards them," Lelko says.

Taking all of those things into consideration, Lelko was ultimately able to meet the goal of "creating something rustic that's still up to date."



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