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The photos that accompany this story feature three home interiors designed by the team from Norwalk-The Furniture Idea in Boise. For one Tamarack home, above, the clients requested Christmas decor. This luxurious bedroom, at right, and relaxing chair, far right, are part of a 5,000-square-foot Tamarack home.



PHOTOS COURTESY  
OF NORWALK-THE  
FURNITURE IDEA  
IN BOISE





# Stylish mountain retreats are no accident

Careful planning and smart choices can turn your second home into a dream vacation getaway

BY CHEREEN LANGRILL

How do you decorate your mountain vacation home to reflect that quaint cabin style without making it all about plaid, too woody or too casual?

Lani Perkins, who owns Norwalk-The Furniture Idea in Boise, calls the mountain getaways she works with “retreat homes” because they are bigger than the traditional small, cozy cabins. But they are still vacation homes, and they often reflect the mountain vibe that surrounds them. When choosing decor for a retreat home, it can be a challenge to reflect that cozy mountain charm without going overboard.

Perkins knows how to achieve this careful balance. Norwalk has worked with retreat homes in Tamarack, McCall, Whitetail Club and Resort (in McCall), Sun Valley and Jackson Hole, Wyo., Perkins says.

She says one of Norwalk’s most gratifying projects involved a 5,000-square-foot estate

home at Tamarack. The busy owners lived primarily in California, so Perkins and her team communicated with the family by e-mail, phone calls and faxes. Amazingly, they never met the couple face to face but found a way to deliver everything the couple wanted through solid communication, according to Perkins.

“By the time they came to Idaho to see their completed, turn-key home, everything was ready, and they were thrilled with the personal touches,” she says.

Perkins customized the look of this Tamarack retreat home by incorporating personal art and other items the couple collected specifically for their Idaho home.

Interior designer Carrie Value has worked with Perkins and others at Norwalk for various projects at Tamarack. Value runs Interior Expressions, a design business with a number of clients in resort areas such as Tamarack,

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“Treasures from your travels are the things that will make your vacation home truly a place in which to retreat. They speak to who you are and where you’ve been.”

LANI PERKINS

OWNER OF NORWALK-THE FURNITURE IDEA IN BOISE





and her husband, Beau, runs Everest Construction, which builds homes in similar areas. Value has purchased furniture at Norwalk for several of her clients and has also sent clients to Norwalk to make their own purchases.

Value loves the seemingly endless options available at Norwalk. There are more than 100 styles and 1,000 fabrics or leathers to choose from, according to Perkins.

"You can really customize it," Value says. "You can buy the same couch for five different homes and make it unique in each one. The sky's the limit with them. You can get exactly what you want."

Perkins worked on a project in Jackson Hole, for instance, that featured a large great room, three walls of windows and a view of the Tetons. The biggest challenge was sun fading, so Perkins and her team used fabrics made by Sunbrella (a company that specializes in sun-and-weather durable fabrics). Instead of designing around a lodge theme, the focus was a Cape Cod cottage style that the clients requested. Perkins points out that it's best to establish the style and theme you'll