

# TETON HERITAGE BUILDERS

PETER LEE, OWNER

**Merging Rocky Mountain Craftsmanship with Unparalleled Professionalism**

BY NICK INGRISANI • PHOTOS BY ARNICA SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY

Peter's path to building some of the finest homes in the Rockies started far from Wyoming. Born in New York and raised in Washington, D.C., his early interest in building led him to Princeton University, where he studied structural engineering.



“THERE ARE NO SURPRISES WHEN WORKING WITH US. EVERYTHING THAT WE’RE TOUCHING AND BUILDING IS SOMETHING THAT BECOMES HEIRLOOM QUALITY.”



After graduation, he spent four years working on large-scale commercial projects at Whiting-Turner, honing his skills in project management and precision construction. But something was missing. He knew he wanted more than just a job—he wanted ownership, the ability to build something lasting on his own terms.

Peter then got his MBA from Harvard Business School and was recruited to build a dude ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. “That was when I started taking the path less traveled.” Through his work overseeing the construction of the equestrian center, clubhouse, and infrastructure, something clicked.

“When getting out of business school, the one thing I was absolutely dead set on was that there needed to be a path to ownership for me. I wasn’t just going to work for somebody. I’d be somebody’s partner, but I wasn’t just going to be an employee. At the

time I thought I’d become a real estate developer, but I realized that I’m a builder at my core. I convinced my brother to move from Washington D.C. to Jackson Hole, and we started Teton Heritage Builders on February 1, 1996, in his rental living room.”

The timing was perfect. The late ‘90s saw a surge of people moving to Jackson Hole, drawn to the area’s beauty and lifestyle, and many wanted to build homes that honored the rugged elegance of the region. Teton Heritage Builders took off.

Off the back of a successful Jackson Hole client, Peter got the opportunity to take on a project in Big Sky Montana in 2003. Over the next two decades, his company would build some of the most stunning custom homes in Jackson Hole and Southwest Montana.

“The northern Rockies always had incredible craftsmen. But what they didn’t have was an appreciation of the details of project management. Since I came from building \$40-50M hospital additions in Washington DC, that didn’t seem like an unusual request. My brother and I immediately employed specific processes that clearly outlined what we were going to deliver and what it would cost, all while being connected to a network of extraordinary craftsmen in the Rockies. Our clients in Jackson Hole are the same type of clients I worked for back east. The synthesis of organization and project management with elite craftsmen didn’t exist. That’s what gave us our niche.”

Today, Teton Heritage Builders is an employee-owned company, with nearly 40 people across three divisions: project managers, superintendents, and finish carpenters. Peter has always believed in rewarding dedication, offering employees who share his values and commitment a path to ownership.

Teton Heritage Builders has also been ahead of the curve in technology, using cloud-based project management systems for over 15 years. Clients can access their design choices at



**“THE DEVIL AND THE LORD ARE IN THE DETAILS, SO I’M HAPPY TO MAKE SOMETHING SUPER SIMPLE AND ELEGANT, OR ORNATE AND COMPLEX, BUT THE ONE NON-NEGOTIABLE THING IS THAT THE CRAFTSMANSHIP HAS TO BE THERE.”**

any time, track project progress, and communicate seamlessly with the team. Whether it’s a multi-million-dollar estate in Big Sky or a custom home in Jackson Hole, the process remains consistent: measure twice, cut once, and deliver beyond expectations.

“There are no surprises when working with us. Everything that we’re touching and building is something that becomes heirloom quality. The devil and the lord are in the details, so I’m happy

to make something super simple and elegant, or ornate and complex, but the one non-negotiable thing is that the craftsmanship has to be there. We sweat the details a lot to make sure that everything we build is something we’re incredibly proud of.”

In 2024, the company expanded its services to include in-house interior design, streamlining the process for clients who want a seamless building experience without juggling multiple



firms. They’re also opening an office in Teton Valley, Idaho, officially expanding into a third market. The younger employees leading the expansion into Idaho aren’t just building homes—they’re building their own futures, just like Peter did nearly three decades ago.

“I’m excited about training the next generation of exceptional builders. The construction industry could have a better reputation and we’re one of the companies that are out there raising the bar.”

Outside of work, Peter finds balance in the same landscapes that first drew him to the Rockies. He loves getting out to fly fish or ski whenever he gets the chance. With his four children now grown and through college, he and his wife are settling into this next chapter, grateful for the life they’ve built in Southwest Montana. And while the company continues to evolve, one thing remains unchanged: the pursuit of excellence, the commitment to craftsmanship, and the belief that the best projects—like the best companies—are built on a strong foundation.