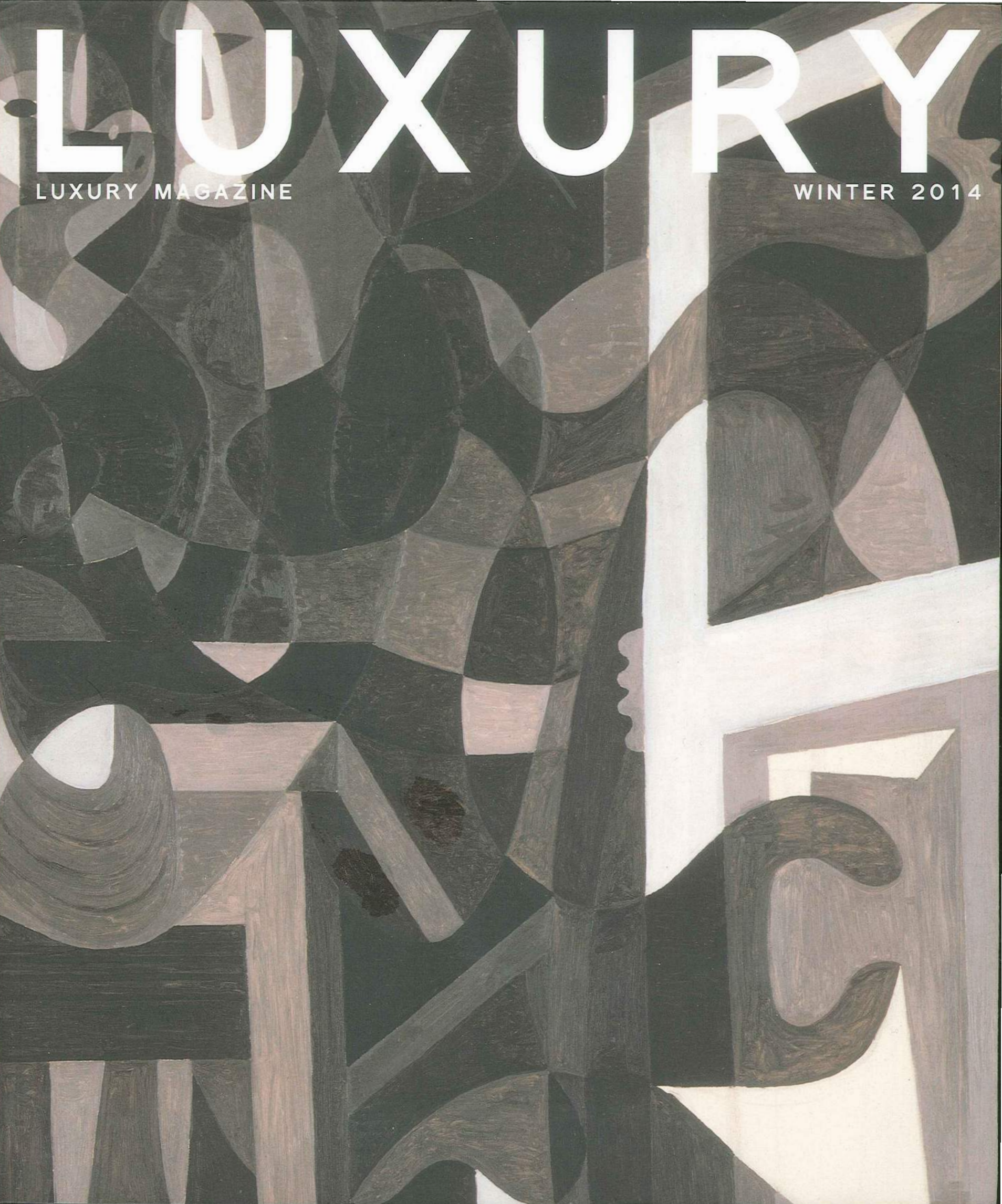
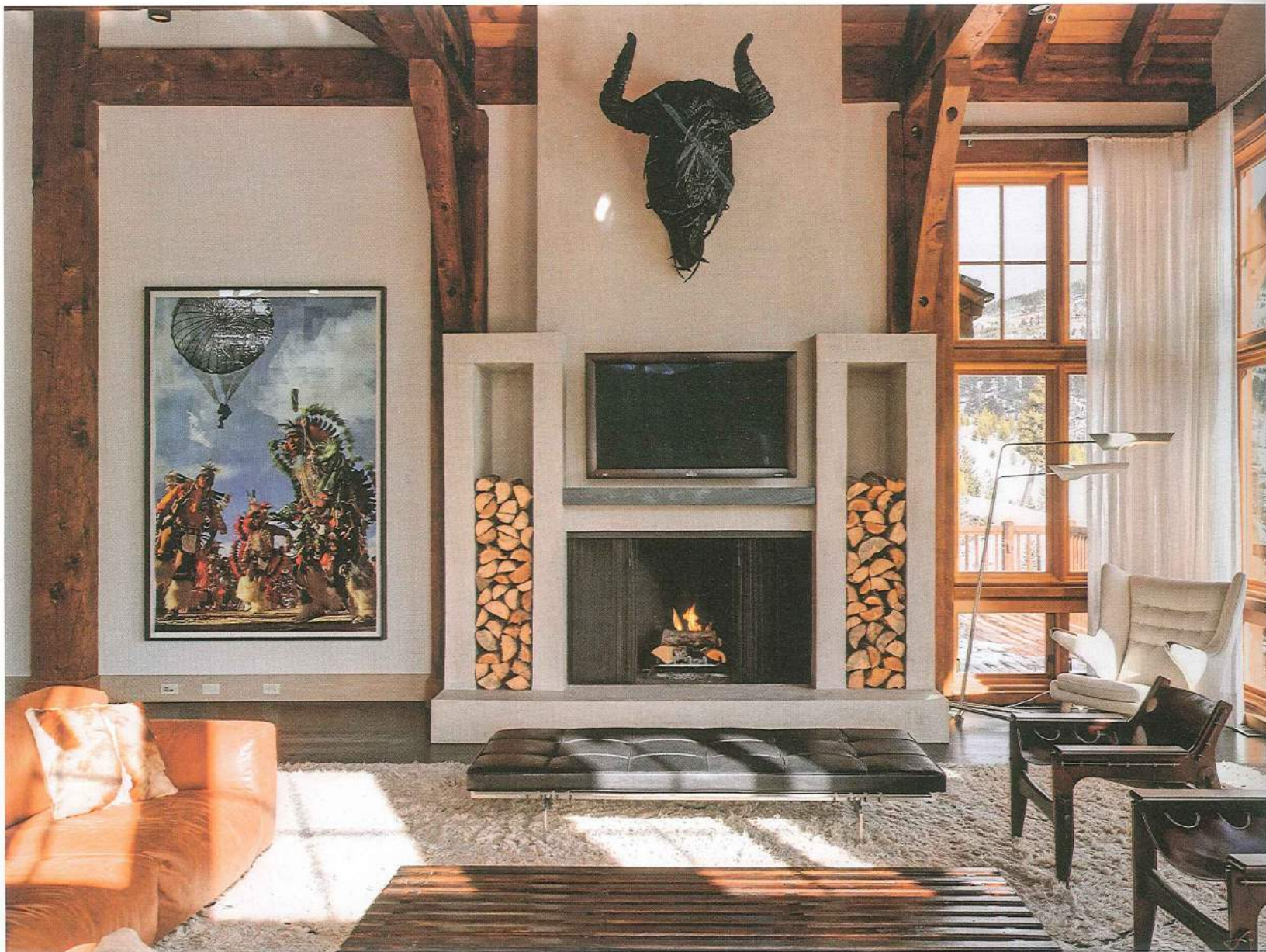


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4. BIG SKY, MONTANA

Elevation: 7,510 feet **Square feet:** 8,000 **Completed:** 2009 **Interiors:** d'Apostrophe Design, dapostrophe.com **Architecture:** Carl Erickson, Zabala Erickson, LLC, zellc.us

Surrounded by cattle ranches, rugged ski terrain, and lodgepole pine forests, Big Sky is hardly the kind of atmosphere that begs for Scandinavian minimalism. *“The developers were originally going to put in a lot of Western-themed details, but we stripped those down and instead did something with a bit of wit,”* says Belgian-born, New York-based designer Francis D’Haene of this Montana ski residence. There’s simple modernist purity in the Pietra Cardosa kitchen counters and contemporary lighting by Fontana Arte, David Weeks, and Michael Anastassiades, but elsewhere, the décor riffs on the same Western-themed kitsch that the architecture plays down. For instance, a buffalo head over the fireplace by Korean artist Yong Ho Ji is familiar, but it’s made of recycled tire rubber. Next to it is a painting of a modern paratrooper descending into a crowd of Native Americans in ceremonial regalia. There’s leather too, but not on bulky nail-head-trimmed club chairs; instead, it swathes Living Divani sofas and chairs by Brazilian design legend Sergio Rodrigues.