



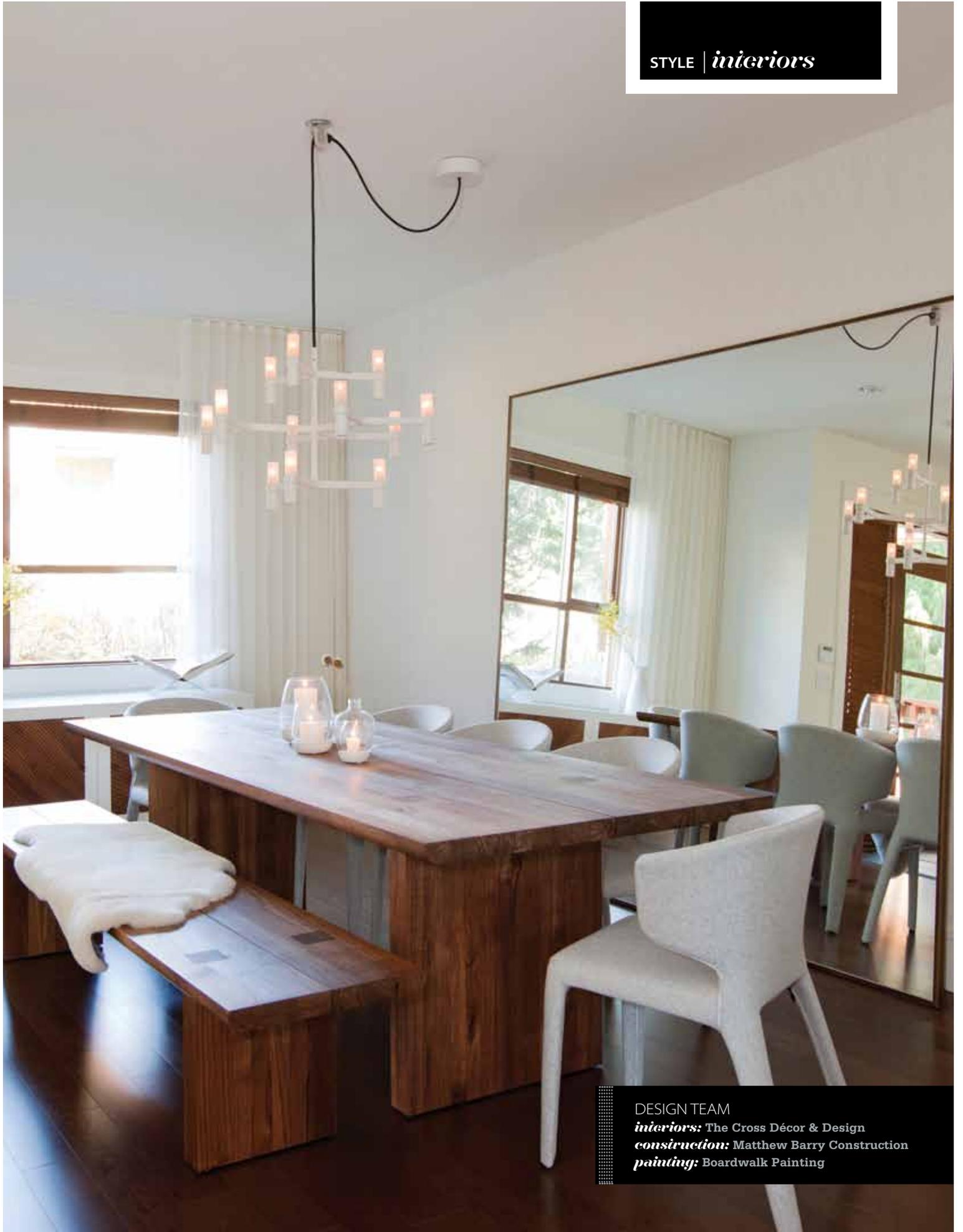
WINTER WHITES

In a contemporary chalet in Whistler, wood finishes and natural fibers warm up a streamlined design aesthetic.

Written by DEBRA PRINZING • Photographed by JANIS NICOLAY

The Cross Décor & Design transformed a Whistler townhome from dull to dashing with a gray-and-white palette, rich textures, and many personal touches. **OPPOSITE:** Designer Joanna Vagelatos painted the onetime moss-green walls white to contrast with the original walnut floors and complement the client's sideboard from Spencer Interiors. The dining table, bench, and chairs are from Inform Interiors. "This room is the main pathway through Phuong's house, so we didn't want to have bulky chairs around the table," Vagelatos explains. "She tucks the bench under the table when it's not in use." Five chairs upholstered in pale wool felting add sensuous forms to the otherwise geometric scheme, while a LightForm chandelier adds contemporary edge. »



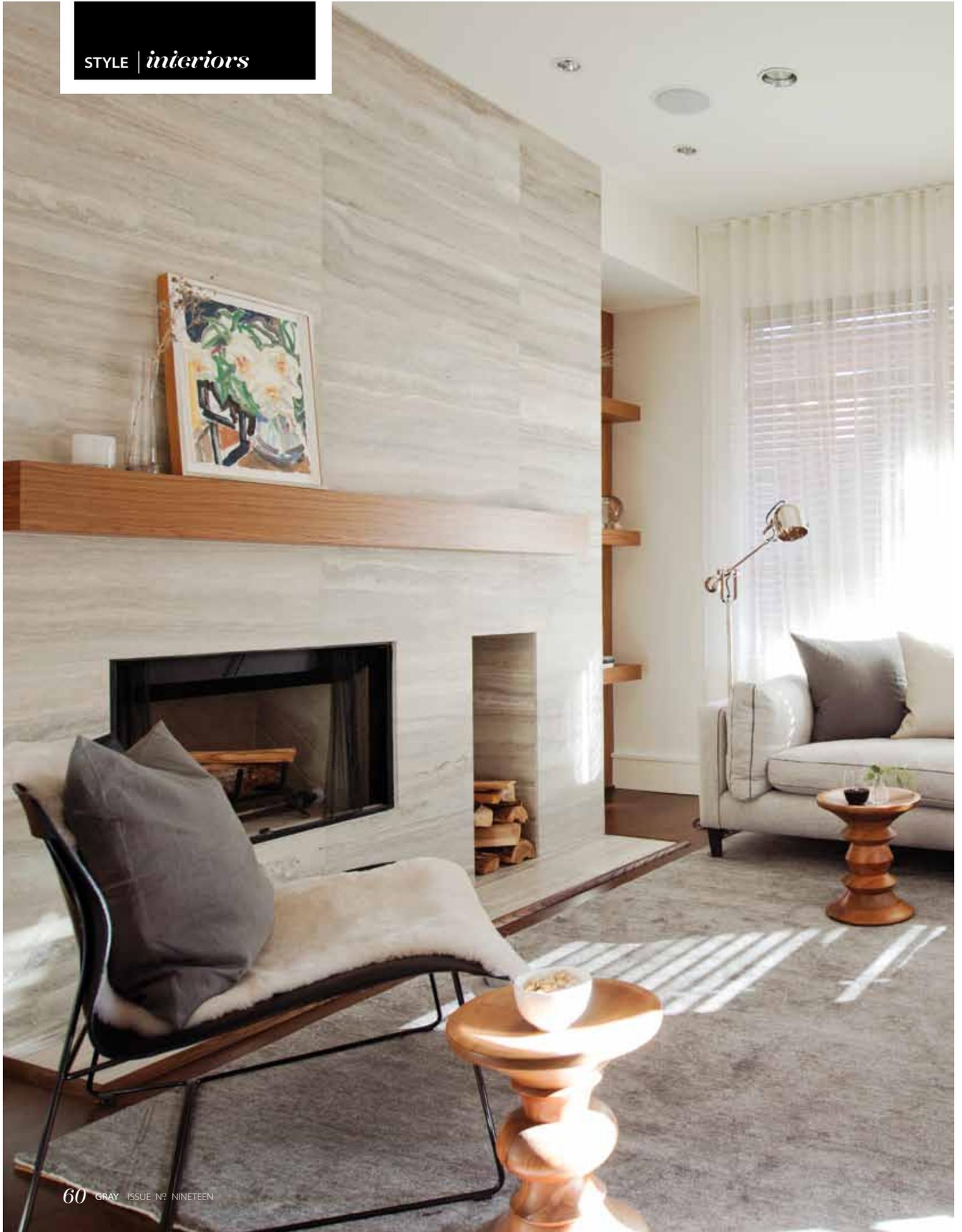


DESIGN TEAM

interiors: The Cross Décor & Design

construction: Matthew Barry Construction

painting: Boardwalk Painting



In the living room, a silk-and-wool-blend rug from East India Carpets warms up the floor and provides a soft play space for the client's daughter. The generously proportioned Harris-style sectional is by Montauk Sofa; the side chair is from Inform Interiors; and the pillows, throw, and lighting are from the Cross.



Highway expansion for the 2010 Winter Olympics in British Columbia shaved nearly 45 minutes from the Vancouver-to-Whistler weekend trek. But Vancouver resident Phuong Banh made her family's weekend and holiday commute to the slopes even faster in 2013 by purchasing a townhome in the resort community's White Gold Estates.

The three-level, four-bedroom unit was brand new when she acquired it. The place had some charm, including a travertine fireplace and walnut floors. But that's where the pluses ended. Moss-green walls and a lack of window coverings led Banh to the Cross Décor & Design, a Vancouver design studio and shop known for its colorful, eclectic interiors. Her request: Convert the generic 2,800-square-foot townhome into a personalized, light-filled getaway.

"Phuong wanted a cleaner style than our clients are generally looking for," says Joanna Vagelatos, head interior designer at the Cross. "She also wanted to move away from a typical Whistler space—more traditional, with browns and taupes—toward the feeling of a modern chalet."

While adhering to the existing floor plan, Vagelatos achieved a brilliant sleight of hand with new finishes, furnishings, and accessories. She lightened up the palette with coats of white paint and a white faux-bois-style wallpaper that lends depth to a dining room wall. In order to harmonize with the mostly neutral palette, the designer opted to accent the home with natural textures—tactile fringes, piles, loops, and weaves—rather than prints and patterns.

An 8-foot-square custom-framed mirror in the dining room reflects light, pattern, and movement in the room. An eclectic mix of shapes and materials keeps things interesting, and streamlined furnishings maintain an easy flow. The living room is dominated by the floor-to-ceiling travertine-clad fireplace. Vagelatos repeated the pale stone hues and granite-colored veining with gray flannel pillows from the Cross, a throw, and a generously sized sectional. A sheepskin-clad side chair and a silk-and-wool area rug infuse texture. "My daughter spreads her toys out on the rug, which is one reason why we chose not to have a coffee table," Banh points out.

So where does Banh stash her ski equipment? Vagelatos upgraded a small utility closet, converting it into a functional wood-paneled space where cubbies, shelves, and an L-shaped bench "nod to the ski-chalet concept," she says. Adds her client: "Now, when I go to Whistler, I don't take one item of clothing with me. Everything we need is there." »



“Bringing in a bit of warm wood adds to the chaise feel. However, we kept the lines and shapes really clean to feel modern.”

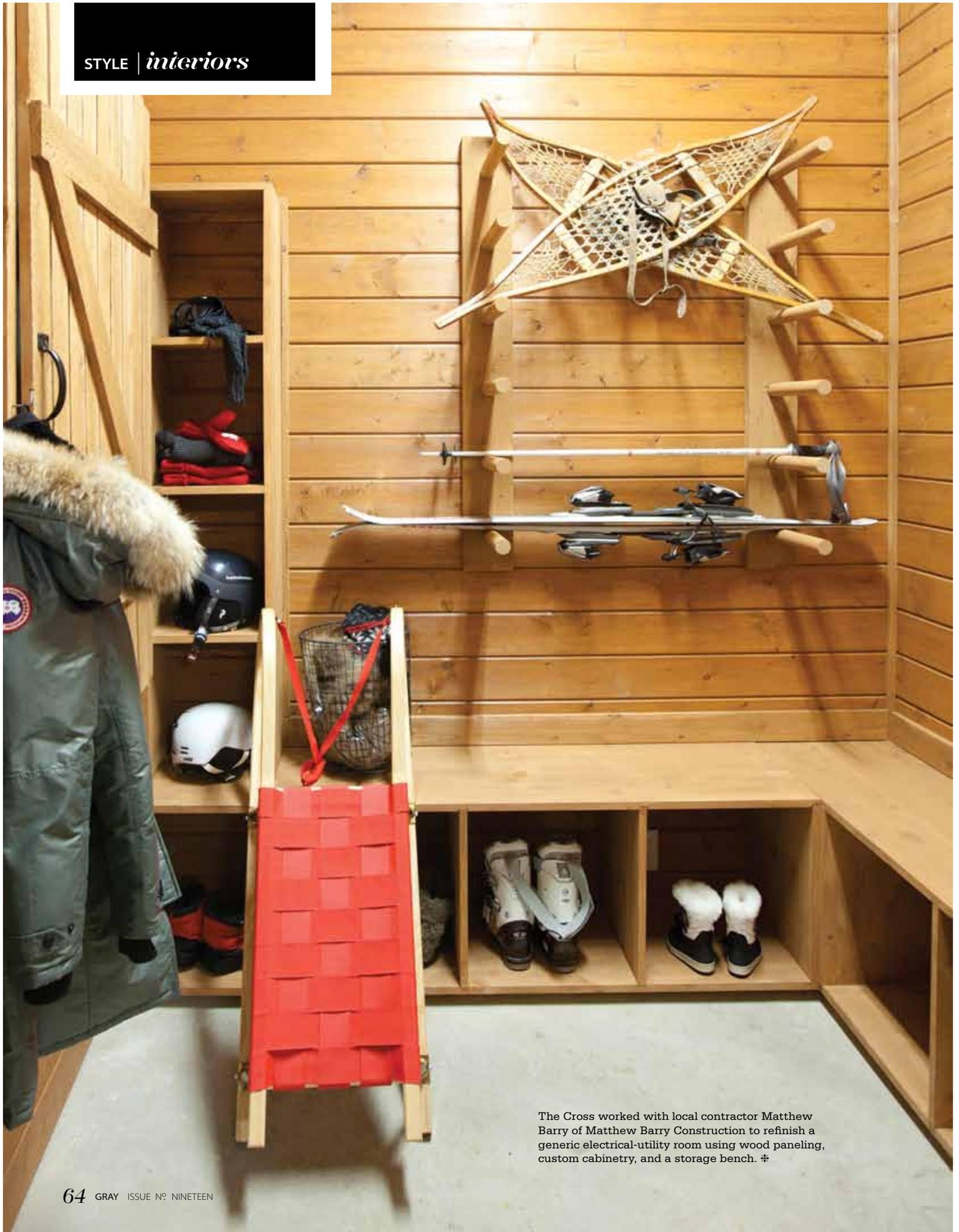
—JOANNA VAGELATOS, INTERIOR DESIGNER



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The custom-upholstered wall and bed base are from the Cross; Vagelatos designed them to soften the principal bedroom while visually lowering the 15-foot ceiling. Lacquered wall-mounted side tables, lighting, and Venice Collection bedding are from the Cross. A vase of purple sea holly lends botanical texture to a side table. The bathroom is finished in Carrara marble and walnut cabinetry.

A guest bedroom also features an upholstered wall, as well as Mobital two-drawer side tables and Robert Abbey lighting from the Cross. The overall mood reflects the homeowner's desire for a calm, contemporary environment. »





The Cross worked with local contractor Matthew Barry of Matthew Barry Construction to refinish a generic electrical-utility room using wood paneling, custom cabinetry, and a storage bench. *