



THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Jamie Brewster McLeod's Colorado-based architecture and design firm takes pride in the close customer service it offers to every client

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“Our clients are very involved in the design process,” says Jamie Brewster McLeod, president of her eponymous boutique architecture firm in Aspen, Colorado. “It’s about meeting them at their level, really listening, and providing first-class customer service.”

With majestic mountains rising above forests and lakes, the landscapes around Aspen and Telluride provide spectacular backdrops for Brewster McLeod’s sought-after architecture. “Each of our homes is unique,” she says. “We start with a blank piece of paper and a two-way conversation with a client.” Despite being a featured architect on the *Luxe Interiors + Design* Gold List 2017, Jamie has deliberately kept her firm on a boutique scale to ensure a close client relationship on every project. “We provide our clients with our full attention,” she says. “Our clients understand how passionate we are about architecture and they value our dedication.”

When she established her business in 2006, Jamie was already a mold-breaker—only 31 years old, a woman in a male-dominated industry establishing herself in Aspen’s elite property sector. “I was determined to provide unique customer attention,” she says, “to be there throughout a project, providing a one-to-one luxury service.” Her success is evident in the number of clients for whom she has designed multiple homes and the roll call of influential clients that she is too discreet to name.

Aspen is celebrated as a year-round outdoor destination and Jamie’s designs combine the warmth of open fires during the ski season and shaded loggias and sun decks for the long summer. “We design homes that layer the indoor-outdoor effect,” she explains, “so the clients can choose how they live and how their home functions.”

A new design will make the most of the views and sunlight, but as important is the lifestyle and routines of its future inhabitants. “If a client travels with staff, for example, their accommodation is a factor,” says Jamie. “If they have a chef, we work with the chef to design the kitchen around how they would use it.” Brewster McLeod’s clients often own significant art collections, so where to hang a particular picture may be the starting point in orienting a room.

Typically, a new home will take three to four years to design and build, during which time the collaborative relationship between client and architect ensures every aesthetic and technical detail is attended to. Brewster McLeod is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified and ensures the efficiency and environmental sustainability of every design. “These homes have pools, spas, outdoor heating, and so on,” says Jamie, “but they should all be energy efficient, so hopefully we can make a 10,000 sq ft home as efficient as a 5,000 sq ft one.”

After years working in Aspen and Telluride for clients who have become friends and long-term design partners, those same clients are now luring Brewster McLeod to work on projects with them further afield. “We are starting to travel with our clients, so we are able to adapt our designs to suit wherever they are, which is really exciting.”

The trust and mutual understanding between client and architect is an asset that Brewster McLeod has worked hard to achieve and yet, as she explains, it doesn’t feel like work. “I feel very fortunate to have found a career where I live in Aspen, have a great staff, and can offer people homes where they can unwind in luxury,” she says. “With my clients, I am like a kid in a candy store saying, ‘Yes, you can have that. You can do whatever you want.’”