



DEFINING STYLE

THE BOOK OF INTERIOR DESIGN

PHAIDON

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ELLIOTT BARNES
CHALET DES BELLES D'ARBOIS
MEGÈVE, FRANCE
2016

Elliott Barnes is known for using texture and tone to tap into a home's authenticity and sense of place. The Los Angeles-born, Paris-based designer worked in the studio of French avant-garde creative Andrée Putman for many years, eventually heading it, before establishing his own firm in 2004. When a return client asked for Barnes's help designing a ski chalet in the storied French Alps town of Megève, he partnered with local architect Gérard Ravello to create rooms that would reflect the

steely gray tones of the mountain surroundings. "The location determined everything," says Barnes. "The use of barn wood as the main finish was a response to the chalet's wooded setting. The stonework was inspired by the quartzite found in the Alps. It's a restricted palette of finishes that accents the fundamental language of a chalet." In a small salon off the living area, walls of locally sourced pine combine with highly-grained Pierre de Vals tiles that Barnes deployed on both the floor and chimney wall. He also

installed a few skylights throughout the home and broad picture windows, such as the ones in the salon, to ensure that the mountain's crisp, clean light was omnipresent throughout the day. "It is almost impossible to harness," says Barnes, "because it changes with such frequency." A chic gathering of furnishings includes a 1960s Guillerme et Chambron sofa, upholstered in a forgiving steel-gray wool, a 1950s Hans Wegner Flag Halyard chair with white steel legs, and a rare Kerstin Olby Tanga chaise longue,

draped in sheepskin. The scaly figure of the taxidermied armadillo (from the client's own collection) may be out of place on a mountainside, but it fits the color scheme.