The Mazama Meadow Guest House is part of a vacation retreat located in the Methow Valley in North Central Washington. The area is rich in year-round recreational opportunities. In the summer, the warm dry climate offers many outdoor activities such as horseback riding, hiking, and river rafting. In the winter, the area receives abundant snow and is ideal for snowmobiling and cross country skiing. The Mazama Meadow Guest House was built as an added amenity to the client’s main home to allow their large, extended family and guests to enjoy these recreational opportunities together.

The two-bedroom guest house features 1,020 square feet of living space. The main living area features a vaulted ceiling with a large window wall to take advantage of views of the mountains to the south. Large glass doors connect the great room to a concrete terrace for outdoor entertaining. The large doors also provide natural ventilation by catching the prevailing southerly breezes. Additional cooling strategies include slab on grade construction which acts as a thermal mass and large fans for circulating air. These strategies allow the home to stay quite comfortable without the use of air conditioning even during the hottest weather which regularly exceeds 100 degrees.

The aesthetics of the home are a direct response to the homes surroundings. The design utilizes low slope shed roof forms inspired by vernacular architecture seen in the region which consists of mining, logging and agricultural structures. Raw corrugated steel siding, weathered barn wood and concrete floors are the primary materials used which further reinforces the vernacular aesthetic. These low maintenance materials were also selected in response to the environmental challenges of the region. The dry forested nature of the area makes homes susceptible to wild fire. Special care was taken to incorporate Firewise design strategies when designing the Mazama Meadow Guest House. Some of these strategies include the use of fire-rated metal roofing, non-combustible steel support beams, slab-on-grade construction to prevent flames from moving through a crawl space, and open soffits. The landscape strategy incorporates rockeries and gabion walls as fire breaks and was specifically designed to limit the use of combustible vegetation and large trees while utilizing a sprinkler-system to keep the low-growing plants consistently well-irrigated.