

MOUNTAIN

INSIDE AN ART-FORWARD, AGRARIAN-INSPIRED
SANCTUARY BORDERING ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK WHERE LUXURY DESIGN MEETS
THE RAW BEAUTY OF THE ROCKIES.

MASTERPIECE

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his modern mountain home sits on a 60-acre tract bordering the stunning Rocky Mountain National Park near the town of Estes Park, Colo. The area is special to the owners who visited Colorado independently in their 20s and fell in love with its raw, dynamic beauty. Years later, they were fortunate to make the area their home. “With Rocky Mountain National Park as our immediate neighbor, we feel incredibly lucky to live in such an extraordinary place,” the owner says.

The legacy residence was built into the landscape to offer minimal disturbances to the land and to showcase the impressive views of Longs Peak, Twin Sisters and Estes Cone that are visible from nearly every room in the house. “I’ve never worked on a home with such an abundance of views everywhere you look,” says Adam Harrison, Principal, Shepherd Resources, Inc./AIA, who worked closely with firm partner Bert Willemse on the project. “The site sloped away toward Longs Peak, so even the walk-out lower level allowed for big mountain views.”

OPENING SPREAD: Built seamlessly into the ridgeline to minimize land disturbance, the home’s striking silhouette prioritizes sweeping, panoramic mountain views from every angle. THIS PAGE: Designed to envelope guests the moment they arrive, the home’s curved entryway delivers the “warm hug” the owners desired. OPPOSITE PAGE: The stunning four-sided metal and glass fireplace, which features artisan branches for the blaze, anchors the great room.





The open layout—featuring a central, four-sided propane fireplace by a Brooklyn artisan and a curved entry the homeowner likens to a “warm hug” — was inspired by the historic vernacular of Western barns. The materials are an exquisite mix of weathered wood and organic stone, as well as modern steel and shimmering glass. “These are very simple agrarian forms that we made very modern and sophisticated,” notes Harrison. “The central floating fireplace, which is based on a mid-century ski lodge, is extremely modern.”

The warm wood ceiling and the finishes the designers chose — including shearling chairs, a curved sofa, Native American patterns and hand-crafted rugs — offset the sharp architectural lines and create an intimate and grounded feeling. “Getting a softness in the furniture was a yin/yang to the architecture in a certain way,” says Yvonne Jacobs, Principal, Jacobs + Interiors. “This client was very intuitive about wanting to feel ‘warm and hugged’ in this house, so we added curved and other soft pieces that envelope you.”

The owners also made a dedicated commitment to working with local craftspeople to bring beautiful, handmade touches into the space. “When you find a client who appreciates that level of artanship, it’s a very special experience for a design team,” Jacobs praises. “Together, we created beautiful things that the clients can live with and love long-term.”

In the living room, a petrified wood coffee table is topped by a sculptural branch installation, while a stunning, custom ironwork chandelier illuminates the space from above. Underfoot, the custom area rug was handmade in Nepal. “We received photos of the rug being woven every month to ensure the pattern was exactly what we wanted,” notes Jacobs of the meticulous commitment to the home’s furnishings.

The showpiece kitchen, complete with a cook’s pantry, was an integral part of the design for the family who loves to cook, bake and entertain. A four-sided mirrored hood over the range reflects the mountain peaks, while the kitchen island features a gorgeous piece of functional art: a honed slab of walnut sitting atop a bronze tree trunk harvested directly

Inspired by historic Western barns, the open great room beautifully contrasts rugged architectural elements—stone, iron, and weathered wood—with the soft, organic curves of luxurious furnishings.



ABOVE: Tailored for a family that loves to entertain, the kitchen features a four-sided mirrored range hood that ingeniously reflects the rugged peaks outside. OPPOSITE PAGE: Functional art at its finest: the show-stopping kitchen island pairs a honed slab of rich walnut with a bronze-cast tree trunk harvested directly from the 60-acre property.

from the property. “There was a real effort to create an artist-level interior of the home, and this island is one of the little touches that makes a massive impact,” says Jacobs. “They were willing to put this level of detail into all sorts of places so they can appreciate them now and future generations can, too, for years to come.”

Jacobs’ design for the project is incredibly art-forward, anchoring the primary suite with a “magnetic” fine art black-and-white horse photograph by Drew Doggett. Bronze sculptures stand guard on either side of the metal front door; a striking piece in the loft draws inspiration from a notable National Geographic photograph; historic fur Eskimo mittens from Alaska are beautifully mounted in the gear room; and in the primary bathroom there is a carved wooden Buddha statue that is both Zen-like and whimsical.

Nearly every area of the home offers seamless access to the surrounding landscape. A spacious back deck overlooks Twin Sisters Peak and the forested valley below, playing host to an outdoor kitchen with a custom wood-fired pizza oven. Even the local wildlife enjoys the architecture: mule deer have been known to munch on the living roof of the garage, which was designed to integrate into the natural terrain rather than breaking the skyline view from

the upper-level guest suites.

“We’ve worked on homes where the views are more internally focused on art walls, but here, the focus is entirely external,” explains Harrison. “It’s almost like a luxury summer camp. The ultimate goal when visiting this home is to get outside and go for a hike. There is so much of life that happens indoors, but the design here constantly coaxes you out into nature.”

The home has become the backdrop for countless treasured family gatherings, including Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. Yet perhaps the most memorable occasion was when the owners hosted their daughter’s wedding on the property several years ago. “It was incredibly meaningful to share such a personal and unforgettable moment there with family and friends,” says the owner.

Over the years, loved ones have returned again and again. “We have loved sharing this special place with them,” the owner reflects. “We often host visitors, take groups on backpacking adventures and enjoy introducing them to the beauty of the surrounding area and the charm of Estes Park. There is great joy in watching others experience and fall in love with this remarkable place, just as we did.”

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