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SWEEPING LINES, STUNNING VIEWS AND FABULOUS FINISHES ADD UP TO

High Drama in the



High Country

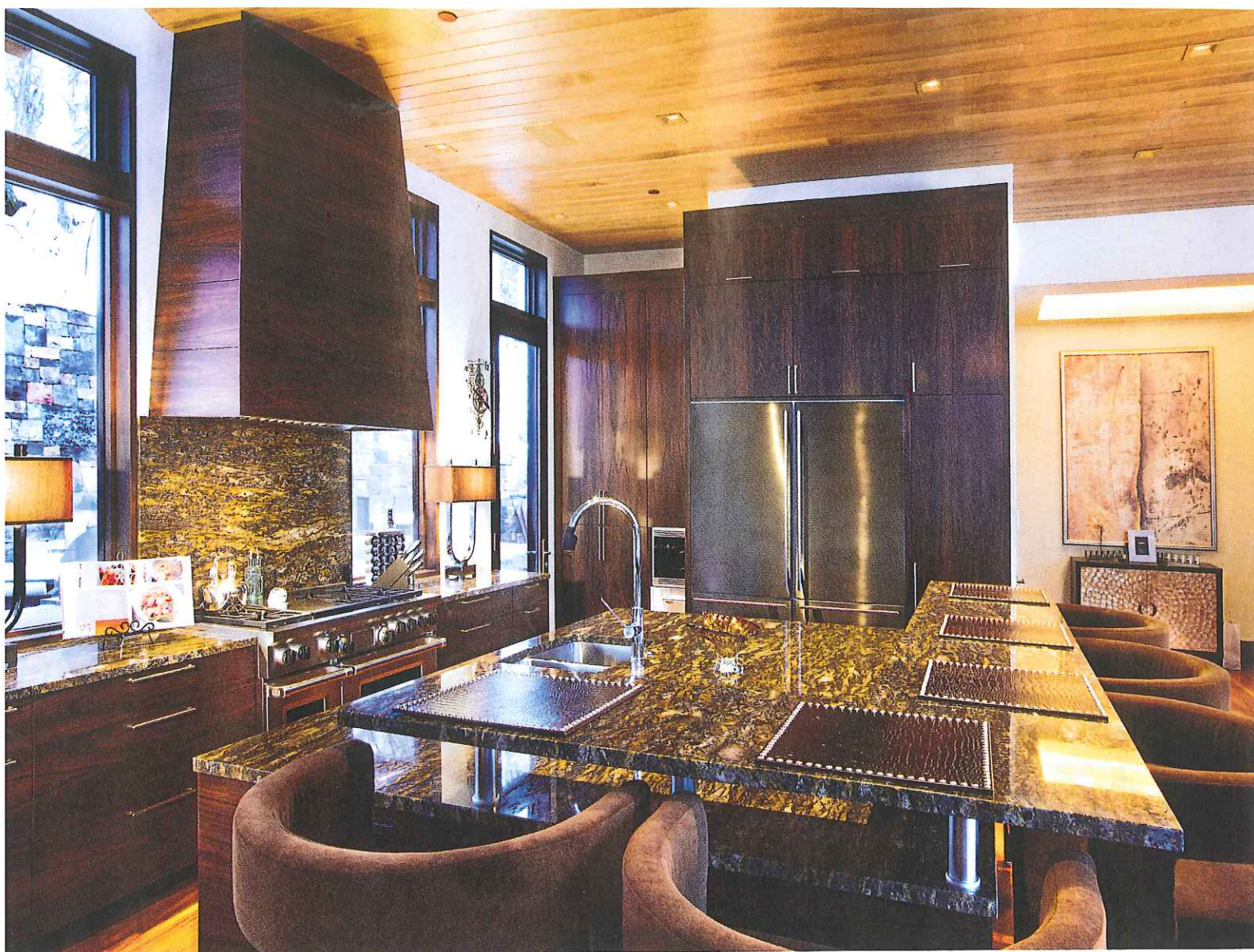
By **NANCY RICHMAN MILLIGAN** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **STEVE MUNDINGER**





WHERE THIS GRACEFUL HOME NESTLES into the steep mountainside on its ski-in/ski-out site near Aspen Mountain, gondolas are strung across the horizon like party lights, and magnificent views stretch from Hunter Creek to Independence Pass. But while the structure appears to hug the mountain effortlessly, its design was anything but effortless. "We always start with the site," says Aspen architect Charles Cuniffe, who designed the house. "This site, in particular, was

(left) A soaring barrel-vaulted hemlock fir ceiling unifies the great room. The expansive fireplace wall is made of sleek bronze and walnut panels surrounded by stonework similar to that of the home's exterior. The homeowners selected intimate seating that complements the interior finishes and allows the architecture to shine. *(above)* The centerpiece of the 9,000-square-foot house is a walnut-and-steel staircase that moves fluidly to access each of the three levels. "There is a lot of wood in the house and we created contrast with subtle changes," says interior designer Donna Guerra. "The hemlock fir ceiling complements the natural walnut floor, allowing the darker trim and cabinetry to have a stronger presence."



steep and challenging.” He met the challenge with a lyrical design that moves seamlessly among three levels and connects to the outdoors with floor-to-ceiling windows and 2,000 square feet of decks and patios.

“The intent was for the house to be sculptural in form—a kind of regional modernism,” explains Cunniffe. Elements of the Colorado vernacular are evident in the generous use of native stone, metal and wood, as well as exposed timber rafters and large overhangs that provide sun shading. “The modern

elements are the overall forms—flat roofs yielding to curves on the exterior and creating open spaces inside,” Cunniffe says. “The curve adds a little elegance to what otherwise would be a flat roof.”

Interior designer Donna Guerra of Dallas-based DGA Interiors worked closely with the architect to select finishes that flow from exterior to interior. “We wanted to create a sense of cohesiveness with the natural materials,” Guerra says. She selected wide-plank walnut floors, custom-designed rosewood and

(above) Guerra used a stunning array of finishes in the kitchen, from her custom-designed rosewood cabinetry (built by Genesis Innovations in Loveland), to sparkling Midnight Metallica schist countertops and a carbon-finish Sub-Zero refrigerator. Hidden storage on the end wall and large windows make up for the lack of upper cabinets. The kitchen design, with its furniture-quality cabinetry, won a national award from Sub-Zero. (opposite, top) A billiard table, TV, fireplace and game table entice family and friends to gather. A linear-patterned carpet from Truett mimics the look of wood but is softer underfoot. (opposite, bottom) Craftsman-style influence is evident in the office/library, where Guerra custom designed the dark-stained rift-cut oak cabinetry that lines the room. The sleek fireplace wall combines matching oak paneling with Repose tortoise-colored glass tiles from Waterworks and a custom metal ledge. Uplighting on the tray ceiling and a Hubbardton Forge pendant light brighten the room.



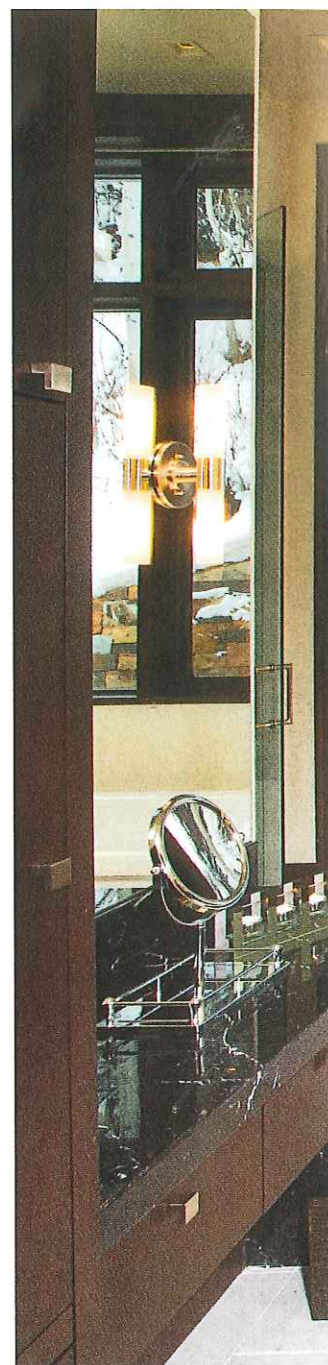


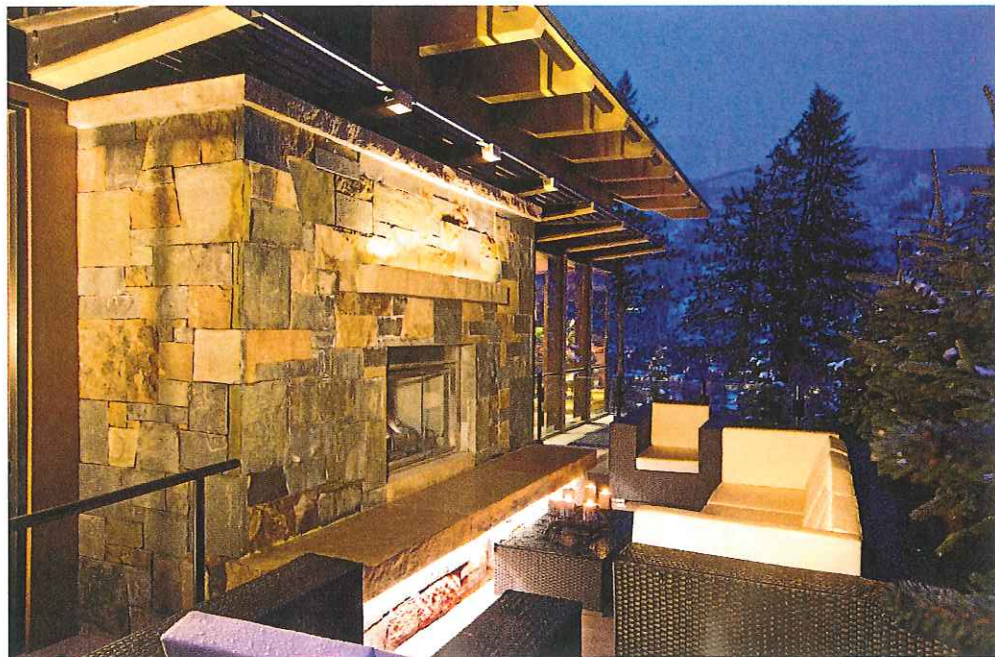
walnut cabinetry, and hand-picked exquisite glass tiles, marble and stone surfaces. "The interior finishes are a little darker than the outside [finishes] and more dramatic, too," she says. Drama also comes from the barrel-vaulted ceiling, walls of glass, and a spectacular meandering staircase that allows light and traffic to flow from upper to lower levels.

The 9,000-square-foot house is specifically zoned to feel comfortable whether occupied by one person or a crowd. "There is an interesting flow from the entertainment level to very private sleeping spaces," Guerra

says. "Every room has a different perspective." The upper level comprises the living room, dining area, kitchen and master bedroom suite, providing single-floor living for the homeowners. The mid and lower levels house family bedrooms, an office/library, exercise room, media room, recreation space and guest bedrooms. "The design provides ease of movement for the owner, space to closely connect with family and a separate wing for guests," Cuniffe says. "This house was designed for contemporary living—for a multi-generational family to enjoy the house together." □

(above) Classic-patterned wool carpet from Truett and sumptuous bedding warm the master bedroom. The airy bronze light fixture is from Corbett Lighting. (opposite, top) The bedroom's neutral colors flow into the spa-like master bathroom where the bathtub is positioned under a window for bathers to take in the views. Custom walnut cabinets are cantilevered with lighting underneath and topped with Nero Marquina Italian marble countertops from Ann Sacks; the Carrara marble flooring is from Waterworks. (opposite, bottom) The outdoor stone fireplace warms a conversation area on cool mountain evenings.





DESIGN DETAILS

Architects

CHARLES CUNNIFFE

CHARLES CUNNIFFE ARCHITECTS

cunniffe.com

Interior Designer

DONNA GUERRA, DGA INTERIORS

dgainteriors.com

Builder

JOHN OLSON

JOHN OLSON BUILDER, INC.

(970) 923-4233

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