

MODERN LUXURY

# ASPEN

MIDWINTER

FEATURING  
*INTERIORS*  
*COLORADO*

## THE INFLUENCERS

ASPENITES MAKING THEIR MARK

PLUS

SPRING FASHION HITS STRAIGHT FROM THE RUNWAY  
ALL THAT'S NEW IN ASPEN DINING  
EYE ON THE ARTS: A LEGACY OF THEATER & DANCE  
FROM PEAK TO BASE: ASPEN'S 4 SKI MOUNTAINS



# PEAK INTEREST

A Bay Area husband and wife find their ideal mountain manse in Telluride's tony Mountain Village.

By Linda Hayes

A search for the perfect Rocky Mountain retreat led a San Francisco Bay Area couple on a high country tour. "We looked at Aspen and Ketchum, but neither place felt right," shares the husband, an executive with GoPro. "And then we went to Telluride and fell in love."

A particular house in Telluride's upscale Mountain Village caught their eye, offering everything they wanted: sunshine, 360-degree views of surrounding mountain ranges, direct access to the ski slopes and—perhaps most importantly—a flexible floor plan. "We knew the layout would work whether we had a whole bunch of people over or it was just the two of us," the husband notes. "That was the best part." The fact that the home was meticulously furnished sealed the deal.

Architect Lea Sisson had a hand in nearly every aspect of the home's creation. Originally designing the three-level, 6,500-square-foot structure as a spec home for Los Gatos, Calif., developer Diana Grubbs, Sisson anchored it at the highest part of the site in order to maximize mountain and town views. Keeping with the woody setting, Sisson scheduled a traditional wood and chinking treatment for the exterior walls, then paired it with linear-stacked, golden ledger stone walls and columns, accented in turn with timber trim, beams and brackets, and peaked roofs.

Wood and stone elements also carried over into the home's interior, creating an aesthetic that mirrored that of the exterior, yet was distinctively its own. "The theme was to give the feeling of being in a large renovated barn with exposed timbers, modern trusses and walls of windows," explains Sisson. A muted color palette added a sense of comfort and warmth, as did a preponderance of stacked stone fireplaces, including a double-sided one in the entry. "You can warm your back as you remove your shoes," she notes.







**STACKED UP** The home's exterior highlights stacked stone and timber detailing, as well as outdoor living spaces.



GLASSED IN Two-story windows offer a glimpse of the interiors from the outside and panoramic mountain views from the inside.





**TYPE**

Second home

**LOCATION**

Telluride Mountain Village

**ARCHITECT**

Lea Sisson  
Lea Sisson Architect LLC  
leasissonarchitects.com

**INTERIOR DESIGNER**

Donna Figg  
Donna Figg Design  
donnafiggdesign.com

**BUILDER**

Rod Kukulan, owner  
Alpine Mountain Construction  
alpinemtn.com

**DEVELOPER**

Diana Grubbs  
Mad Investments  
408.656.1528

**WINDOWS**

Jeld-Wen  
jeld-wen.com



**GATHER AROUND** From top: A lower-level family room guarantees that guests are always well-entertained; a spacious kitchen; a guest master suite allows for quiet time.



Sisson's touch also extended to the finishes throughout the house, including cabinetry, flooring, plumbing, appliances and countertops, among other details. "If you turn the house upside down, anything that doesn't fall out, I did," she says, laughing.

To help encourage buyers early on, interior designer Donna Figg was enlisted to stage the home's ample interiors. Figg—who was working with Slifer Designs in Edwards, Colo., at the time but has since opened her eponymous design studio in Austin, Texas—recalls, "The home was just a shell, but the spaces were so strong and dramatic and open to the views. We really went off the architecture for the furnishings."

Figg got down to basics, starting with the great room, where subliminally separated, high-ceilinged spaces flowed into one another along floor-to-ceiling window walls. "It was a really large space," she says. "We wanted to create different seating groups and think about them independently, but so they still encouraged mingling."

For both comfort and intimacy, Figg oriented a grouping of Barclay Butera chocolate leather chairs and cream-colored leather chaises around a fireplace, accenting them with colorful pillows. Vibrant artwork on the nearby walls added a bright personal touch. In the adjoining open kitchen, she installed eight chocolate velvet barstools from Slifer Designs along a wraparound slab granite counter.

"The kitchen is the centerpiece of the house," notes the husband. "Cooking is part of the action." So, to "engage the main dining room into its own space and encourage visual comfort," as Figg put it, she installed not one, but three chandeliers above the 12-seat dining table.

Up a level and completely secluded, the master suite boasts spot-on mountain vistas, a double-sided fireplace, a spa-like bathroom and a loft-like office that overlooks the great room via a glass wall. On the lower level, a large entertainment area, wine room and bar are ideal spots for entertaining—after which, family and guests can make ample use of the guest master suite, plus two guest bedrooms and a bunk room.

Since they've been in the house, the owners have been making it their own, incorporating a media center downstairs with a turntable for listening to "lots of old-school vinyl," and a shuffleboard game. "It's all part of the evolution," says the owner. "With the house so move-in ready, we were ahead of the game. Adding things now, like artwork, makes it even more livable." ■