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# SMOOTH MOVES

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WHEN ONE VAIL COUPLE BOUGHT LAND ON A GENTLE SLOPE ALONGSIDE A RUSHING CREEK, THEY PICTURED THEMSELVES RAISING THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN IN A COTTAGE-STYLE HOME. They wanted something comfortable and elegant, that exuded a warmth that would make their frequent guests feel so welcome they would want to return again and again. A cottage, they thought, would be the perfect sort of home for big celebrations, intimate dinners and long weekends with friends and family around the fire.

ARCHITECT	Kyle Webb, KH Webb Architects		
HOME BUILDER	Bill O'Neill, George Shaeffer Construction Company		
INTERIOR DESIGNER	Jan Chenault, Chenault & Associates Interior Design		
BEDROOMS	7	BATHROOMS	7
SQUARE FEET	8,575		





**STYLE SELECTION**

A version of the Victorian rolled-arm bench, this piece incorporates acrylic legs and smooth lines, keeping it with the times. *Regal Bench*, \$2,075; [haziza.com](http://haziza.com)



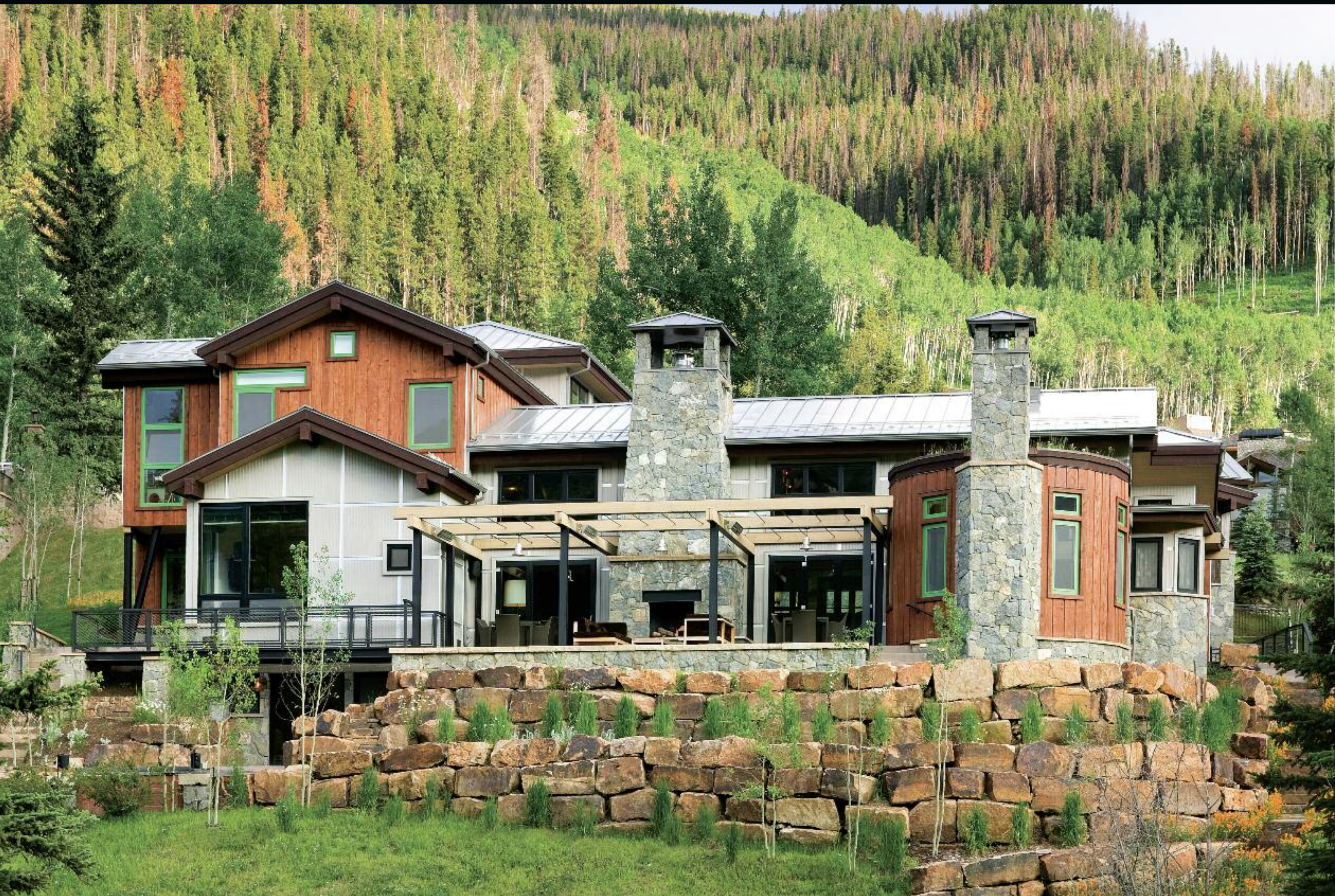
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All that changed when they teamed up with architect Kyle Webb, AIA, principal of KH Webb Architects in Vail, and interior designer Jan Chenault, principal of Chenault & Associates Interior Design in Denver. The foursome traveled to New York and Los Angeles to comb through designer showrooms and, while poring over bathroom fixtures and kitchen tiles, something unexpected happened. The couple found themselves drawn to contemporary materials and super-sleek modern appliances. Ultimately, it was the kitchen furnishings at the Bulthaup showroom in Los Angeles that ended their dream of a farmhouse kitchen. They fell in love with the clean lines of the simple cabinets that hide refrigerator and freezer units as well as pots and pans. "We saw this kitchen and we had to have it," explains the mother of two.

**CULINARY ART**

Epitomizing sleek functionality, the Bulthaup kitchen occupies one end of the great room. A pair of steps separate it from the dining area, creating a distinct yet connected space.



**SEEING MULTIPLES**

Two types of cedar and mountain ash stone are blended with aluminum channels and steel girders. The eclectic mix of materials includes a small sod patch on the roof that blooms into wildflowers in summer.



**BRIGHT AND SHINY**

Huge windows welcome Colorado's clear mountain sunshine into every corner of the great room throughout the day, adding warmth to the large space.

**STYLE SELECTION**

Inspired by the designs of René Lalique's jewelry, this brightly colored vase works well with dark woods and neutral fabrics. *Bucolique Anise Crystal Vase*, \$2,750; 1.800.214.2738

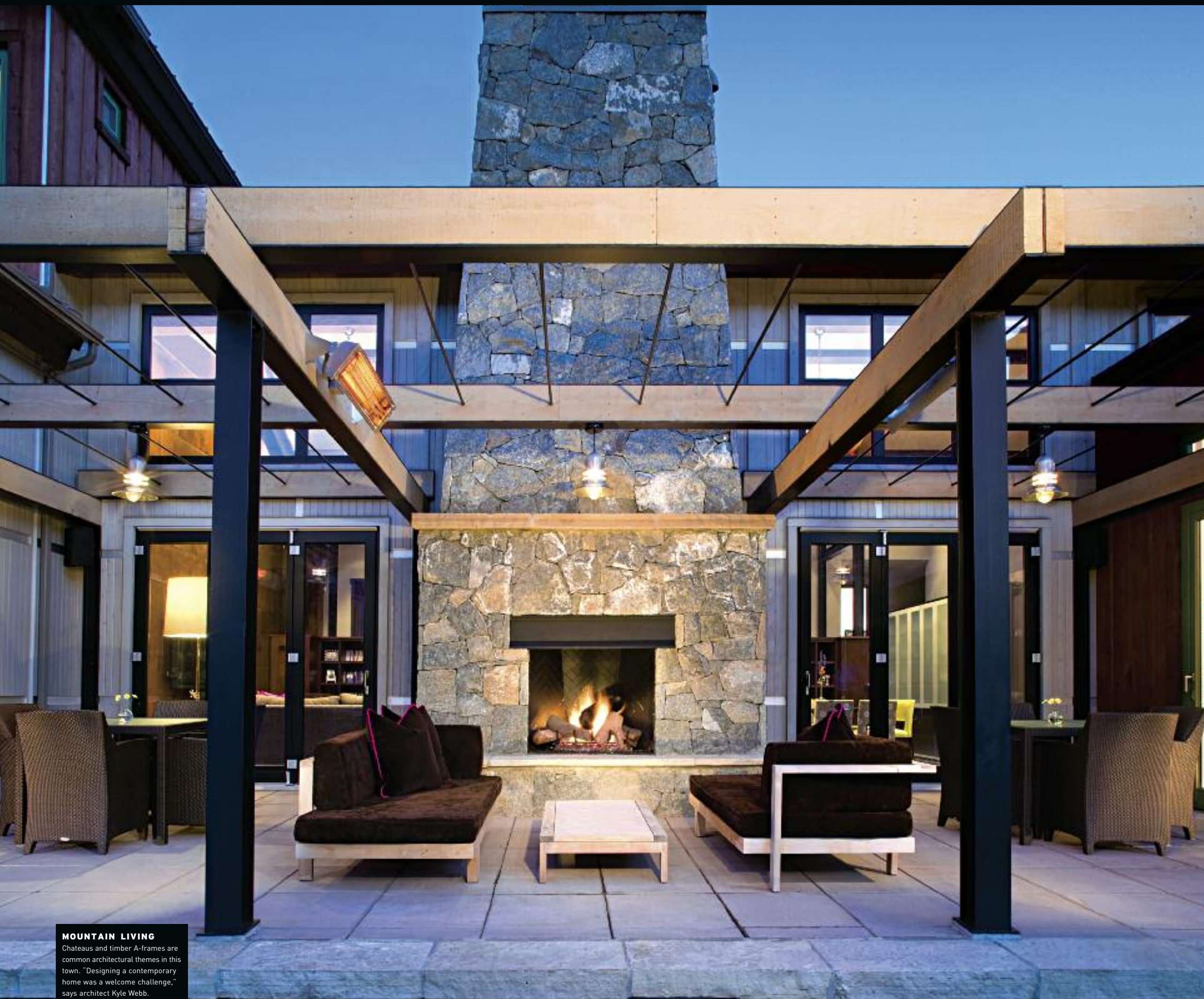
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With that one decision, the style of the entire house changed. The end result is something they never would have imagined when they began planning the 8,575-square-foot home four years ago. Its lines are contemporary and clean, created with up-to-the-minute green products like bamboo floors, but with a warmth and character they had never associated with modern homes. "This is not at all what we pictured in the beginning," says the lady of the house, "but it is perfect for us."

Neither Webb nor Chenault has a signature style that they impose on clients. Rather, they believe in a collaboration that involves leading clients to a broad range of styles and materials they may not have seen before, helping them to create a look and feel that is all their own. "We worked completely as a team," says Webb. "Everyone brought something to the table, and the end product is the result of all of us working together."

Once the couple settled on a contemporary aesthetic, Webb and Chenault showed them that by combining diverse textures and materials, they could create a modern home that would be far from antiseptic. Indeed, in their sun-flooded grand room, soft and spare American clay walls are offset by a dramatic drape of copper panels on an opposing wall. The fireplace of mountain ash stone and sparkling mosaic tiles brings in soothing elements of nature, giving the room a soft focal point. To tone down the industrial steel girders on one end of the room, they connect to smooth wood beams stained the color of driftwood.





**MOUNTAIN LIVING**  
Chateaus and timber A-frames are common architectural themes in this town. "Designing a contemporary home was a welcome challenge," says architect Kyle Webb.



#### AU NATURAL

The homeowners used concrete and two types of bamboo flooring throughout the house. "We tried to use as many green materials as possible," says Webb.

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Project manager Bill O'Neill, of George Shaeffer Construction Company in Avon, notes the home is one of the most richly conceived properties he has worked on. "There is so much detail work in the house," he says. "It was a challenge to work with so many materials, so many finishes." The palette of the house was kept intentionally quiet. The neutral tones, notes Chenault, are the perfect backdrop for the couple's preference for brightly colored rugs and playful furnishings.

Last summer, the owners threw open the collapsing doors that lead to a creek-side balcony, and invited friends and neighbors over for an inaugural bash. They delighted as guests took in the details, running their fingers over a chunky wall of pillared walnut and stooping to get a closer look at the aluminum trim running through a concrete floor. After taking it all in, their guests settled in for an evening of conversation and laughter. "It was just what we wanted," says the homeowner. **L**