

CAPTURING VAIL

WRITTEN BY MINDY PANTIEL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIMBERLY GAVIN

"WE CALLED IT, 'THE HOUSE THAT YODELED,'" SAYS ARCHITECT KYLE WEBB ABOUT THE SWISS CHALET-STYLE HOME HE HELPED REDESIGN FOR A TEXAS FAMILY OF FIVE IN VAIL. With its repeating gables and excess of balconies, the house lacked both subtlety and a relationship with its surroundings. "The structure was only a few years old, but the roofline

ARCHITECTURE Kyle H. Webb and Michael Current, k.h. webb architects, pc

INTERIOR DESIGN Martina Lorey, Martina Lorey Architects, Inc.

HOME BUILDER John Roeland, R.A. Nelson & Associates, Inc.

BEDROOMS 5 | **BATHROOMS** 7 | **SQUARE FEET** 6,720







FIRE SCENE
dining room, classic
leather chairs surround
oak claro walnut table.
wall print is by El Paso
Suzi Davidoff.



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dramatically blocked the views, and the chopped up floor plan didn't work either," adds Webb, principal of k.h. webb architects in Vail.

On the plus side, the property was among one of the few hidden parcels in the valley. "There were no highways nearby and no houses or hiking trails behind it," says Webb about the just-shy-of-an-acre lot that backs into a forest and is just minutes from the town center and nearest lift.

Webb collaborated with Martina Lorey, an architect and interior designer from El Paso, Texas, who had worked with the clients previously and shared his assessment of the architecture. "It was basically a vanilla box

ARTISTIC REPOSE

A sculptural Herman Miller chaise provides a comfortable place to lounge in the lower-level guest quarters, which are accessible through a private entrance.



ORGANIC MENU

Carving out a nook in the kitchen made room for a bay window where a table and bench crafted from rift-cut white oak provide seating. Granite countertops, rift-cut elm cabinetry by bulthaup, and Wolf and Sub-Zero appliances dress the kitchen.



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that we needed to transform," says Lorey, noting the existing wood shake roof, stucco siding and dilapidated wood handrails among the features that had to go. "We started by peeling everything back to the basic structure and reconfiguring the roof line to open the house up to the mountains and scenery beyond."

A new high-performance window system further enhanced the building's relationship with the outdoors, while the introduction of a series of dry-stack stone walls served to anchor the structure to its site. "The point was to have the stone look like it grew out of the ground," says Webb.

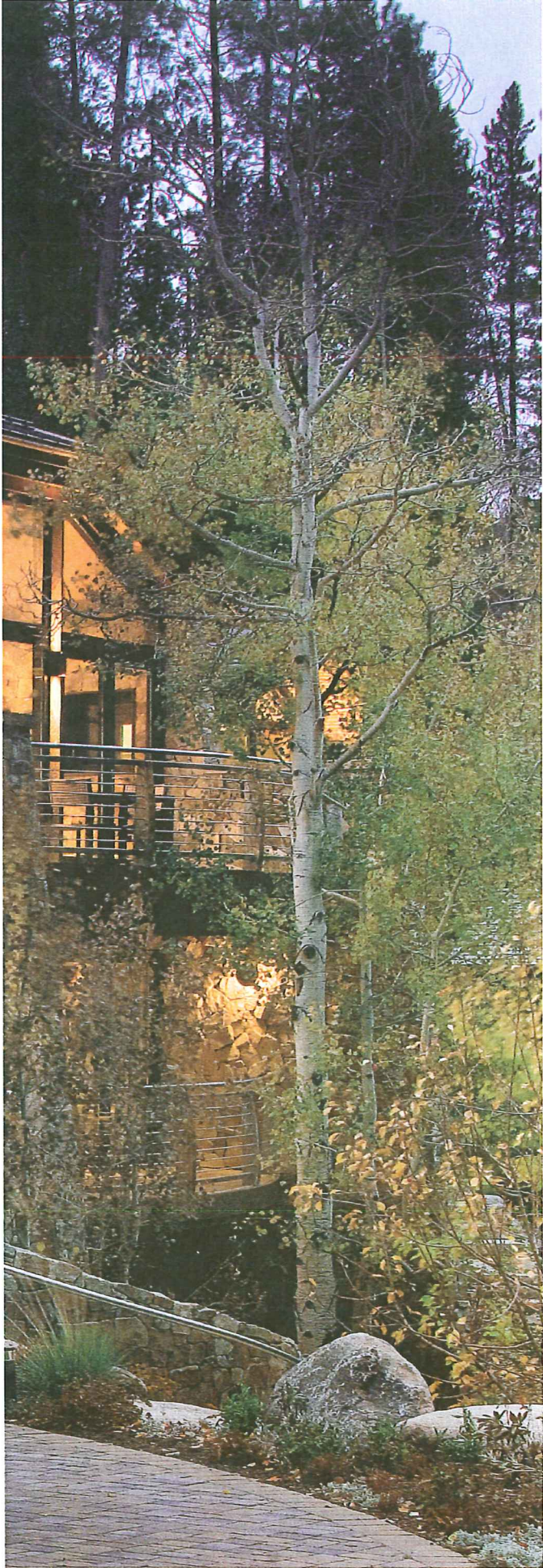
More refined stonework defined by smoother, tighter joints appears on the inside, where two major walls continue all the way through the structure to form the basis of two separate living room fireplaces. "We couldn't decide which wall to put the fireplace on, so we did both," says Lorey, who placed oversized sofas across from each other to establish two conversation groupings. "This way, there's no fighting about who gets to sit by the fire."

The textural theme established by the stone partitions drove other material choices as well. "This house was all about creating a palette that responds to the outdoors, using natural materials like acacia wood floors, plaster walls and things indigenous to the area like stone and slate," says Lorey, who also selected furnishings with an eye toward texture and visual enticement. Case in point, the entry where a cowhide bench—"You have to have a little bit of Texas," she says—is offset by glazed porcelain tiles set in a grid of zinc, and a felt rug. Retro artichoke-shaped fixtures fashioned from copper-clad pieces light the space.



SEAMLESS STYLE

A newly installed standing-seam copper roof covers the wide board and batten siding that dresses the home's exterior. The addition of rustic stone walls laid up in dry-stack style help ground the house to its mountain site.



STATEMENT PIECE

Originally designed in the late 1950s by Louis Poulsen, the fixtures that light the entry are created using 72 copper-clad leaves formed together to resemble the shape of an artichoke.

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Upstairs, one of two additions that took the structure from 4,500 to 6,720 square feet houses the master suite, where the home's neutral color scheme is punctuated with crisp apple green accents. "The homeowner loves the color and couldn't resist the Anichini green linens," Lorey says. A subtler version of the verdant hue was employed in the glass tiles that line the shower in the adjoining master bath. The spa-like room boasts a double-headed shower where swivel mirrors conceal shampoo bottles and other necessities, and a stainless steel tub, flanked by exposed heating coils, has its own floor-to-ceiling window view.

"The house responds to its surroundings on the outside while providing a perfect backdrop for beautiful materials on the inside," says Lorey, who counts famed designer Christian Liaigre as a key influence. "Liaigre is able to distill everything to its essence, and he has the ability to capture a place. I feel like we did that here. I feel like we captured Vail." **L**