

MOUNTAIN LIVING®



HOME
OF THE
YEAR

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behind the design



home of the year

ROOM FOR GRAND GESTURES

KYLE WEBB AND CINDY RINFRET
TEAM UP TO CREATE A FRESH TAKE
ON HIGH-COUNTRY DESIGN IN THE
MOUNTAINS OF VAIL, COLORADO

EMILY MINTON REDFIELD

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THIS PAGE: The fireplace stands sentry at the end of the entranceway, a nod to the floor plan of the 1960s home that once stood on this property. “The Juliet balcony starts to bring the scale down before you get to the living room,” architect Kyle Webb says. OPPOSITE: A custom-made rock-crystal chandelier from HB Home in Greenwich, Conn., is the crowning jewel in the comfortable living room. “It’s a great balance with some of the exposed stone in the house,” interior designer Cindy Rinfret says. “The mixture of the icicle rock crystals with iron is like jeans and a silk shirt.”



ARCHITECTURE BY **K.H. WEBB ARCHITECTS**

INTERIOR DESIGN BY **RINFRET, LTD.**

In this 10,000-square-foot home tucked into the mountains in Vail, soaring ceilings, big, bold lighting and breathtaking views add drama and glamour to the relaxed, artfully designed spaces. Interior designer Cindy Rinfret of Greenwich, Conn.-based Rinfret, Ltd. collaborated with architect Kyle Webb of K.H. Webb Architects in Vail on this seven-bedroom, nine-bathroom slopeside retreat, making *Mountain Living's* 2010 Home of the Year a stately mix of rustic luxury and mountain-modern style.

MOUNTAIN LIVING: Tell us about your goals for this project. The result is such a fresh look—not your typical mountain home.

KYLE WEBB: The homeowners bought this property with an existing house on it; it was one of the original houses in Vail, built in 1962. The goal, initially, was to renovate the home and reuse as much as we could. But when we got into it, we realized we just couldn't accomplish what they wanted.

At that point, we were working based on the floor plan of the existing house, which we ended up tearing down. So the floor plan of the entry hall and the living room of this house is actually the plan from the old house. We moved the new house a bit—rotating it so we could get better views—but it has a bit of memory of the original house. >>

THIS PAGE: The glassed-in dining room is cantilevered over the deck and pool, maximizing the mountain views. OPPOSITE: “In this house, there’s some serious lighting,” says the homeowner. The dining room’s rock-crystal chandelier by Fuse Lighting is one of her favorite fixtures.



THIS PAGE: A bed made of birch trees was custom-built by Diane Ross of Rustic Furniture to perfectly fit in the master bedroom. Nearly five years ago, the homeowner saw a photo of a similar bed in a magazine. “I held onto it and when we started designing this home, I told Cindy, ‘That’s the bed I want,’” she says. “It’s gutsy, it’s unique, the scale of it is outrageous,” Rinfret says.



KIMBERLY GAVIN

ML: How nice to have that nod to history.

KW: This was the homeowners’ first foray into contemporary design, and they didn’t want to go too far with it. I think a little bit of Craftsman flair, which is rooted in Asian influences, was comfortable for them to consider.

CINDY RINFRET: As you get a little bit older, you want your home to be more streamlined, a bit less fussy. This house is really the epitome of who the homeowners are at this point. It truly reflects them, their lifestyle and their casual elegance.

ML: The home has a lot of polish, but it’s also very approachable. How did you keep the designed spaces feeling intimate?

CR: A lot of it has to do with scale. In this house, it was a little bit more difficult to deal with the scale of things, like the spectacular drama of the entry hall. I believe it’s something like 11 or 12 feet wide and 42 feet high, which makes it challenging to create that intimate feel.

We spent a lot of time finding light fixtures that were the right scale and the right proportion and that made some of these spaces a little less grand. The homeowners wanted views, so they had these long, beautiful windows, but you still want the rooms to feel cozy. I think the lighting plays a large part in that.

ML: We want to hear all about those gorgeous light fixtures. There’s a harmony to the collection, but each one is so distinctive.

CR: It was quite a challenge to find light fixtures that were as unique as the house. For instance, I would never have thought of bringing crystal into this house at all, but the rock-crystal chandelier in the living room was kind of the stepping stone for the whole house. When I saw it, it looked like icicles that had fallen off of a ledge. They’re big and chunky, and the scale is very bold. You wouldn’t think of mixing rusted iron with rock crystal, but the gutsiness of that is what this house is all about. >>



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THIS PAGE: In the master bathroom, a spacious his-and-hers shower echoes the glassed-in dining room extending from the home’s exterior. “It feels like it’s cantilevered in the room,” Rinfret says. The “New Growth” branch chandelier from CP Lighting in Milwaukee, Wis., is custom. The sculptural “Spoon” tub, by Agape, is “like art in the window,” designer Cindy Rinfret says. The spherical “Sorenson” lantern is by Remains Lighting.



BELOW: Squares and rectangles reign supreme in the breakfast nook, which holds a custom-designed table by Gravino Furniture and camel-colored Christian Liagre “Velin Benches” from Holly Hunt. The right angles are offset by the gyroscope-like “Atlas” lantern from Holly Hunt and ephemeral “Bolero” sheers from Zimmer & Rohde.



TRICKS OF THE TRADE Incorporating a Motif

Motifs lend cohesion to a space. When used subtly, they unite a room’s disparate elements, creating a pleasantly—seemingly professionally—balanced interior design scheme.

In the master suite, it’s branches, which bring life and interest to the distinctive canopy bed and bedside lamp, as well as the bathroom’s twiggy chandelier and ethereal curtains. In the kitchen and breakfast nook, it’s squares and rectangles, which add cornered consistency to the pendant lights over the island, the camel-colored barstools and benches, the custom table and the quilt-like rug.

But before you rev up your chainsaw to create a branch theme of your own, bear in mind that motifs are not one-size-fits-all.

“People will call me up and say, ‘Can you tell me the paint color in this one room?’ And I’ll say, ‘Well, the paint color is only as good as the environment it’s in,’” interior designer Cindy Rinfret explains. “A lot of the repeated shapes really had to do with the strength of the architecture. They felt very natural in this space, and that’s why they work.”

In other words, use these pages as inspiration. Then take a good look at your own home and its surroundings—the colors, shapes and textures in your home’s finishes and outside your windows—and decide which elements you’d like to accentuate. “A lot of the decisions have to do with the context,” Rinfret says.

ABOVE: Custom walnut cabinets and commercial-grade appliances arm this kitchen for entertaining. The glass tiles on the backsplash are from Ann Sacks. The pair of cube pendant lamps over the island is from Holly Hunt. “Mixing up the materials in the kitchen—granite and stainless-steel countertops, a glass-tile backsplash—makes the design more interesting and more fun,” the homeowner says.

This chic bedroom belongs to a daughter who is now nearly 19 years old, so “we didn’t need a babyish, girly room,” says the homeowner. “This was designed to stand the test of time.” White flannel curtains inspired the room’s wintry design. “The cut-outs look like snowflakes,” Rinfret says. A custom-designed, oversized modern canopy bed draws the eye up to the beamed ceiling. A cozy sofa with nailhead detail is custom, and the “Visconti” cabinet is from Bungalow 5.



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“THIS HOUSE IS REALLY THE EPITOME OF WHO THE HOMEOWNERS ARE AT THIS POINT. IT TRULY REFLECTS THEM, THEIR LIFESTYLE AND THEIR CASUAL ELEGANCE.”

ML: Speaking of gutsiness, tell us about that amazing bed in the master bedroom.

CR: Those are actual birch trees. The trees were trimmed inside the room so that they reach right up to the peak of the ceiling. Literally, a guy was in there with a chainsaw cutting the tops of them to fit the room. How often does that happen, right?

ML: It should happen more often if you end up with dramatic results like that. But what about the drama outside: How did you design the home to measure up to those magnificent mountain views?

KW: We played with the form and added grandiose transitions to it. You enter into great spaces, but as you transition out of those spaces, the scale comes down. The dining room, for example, which is cantilevered off the north side of the house, is a glass room that has an intimate scale of its own.

CR: And the color scheme is sort of inside-outside. Because of the views and the way Kyle sited the house on the property, we wanted it to feel like there was a unity between the “organicness” outside and the inside of the house. I think Kyle did that very well with the materials palette—the stone, the beams and the wood. When you have really great architecture, you don’t have to over-gild it. >>



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The home's contemporary façade—featuring stone and weathered COR-TEN steel—has “a little bit of Craftsman flair, which is rooted in Asian influences,” Webb says. Flanking the entry, “there are massive stones that we incorporated into the design to really ground the house.” From this vantage, the homeowner's love of great lighting fixtures is particularly evident. “It makes such a difference when you walk into a home where the lighting is front and center,” she says. “Without it, a space just doesn't feel as warm.”

THE BEAUTY OF
Handcrafted Details



CUSTOM-DESIGNED AND HANDMADE FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS ARE THE ULTIMATE LUXURY, AND THE 2010 HOME OF THE YEAR IS FULL OF SUCH ONE-OF-A-KIND TOUCHES. HERE ARE A FEW OF THE DESIGN TEAM'S FAVORITE THINGS:

ARCHITECT
Kyle Webb

CUSTOM FRONT DOOR by K.H. Webb Architects, Vail, Colo. “It's made of walnut with zinc panels near the glass. The sense of arrival that front door creates couldn't have been better.”

EXTERIOR ENTRY LIGHTS by Ironstone Lighting, Eagle, Colo. “When you arrive in the evening, this whole entry is glowing and it's just majestic.”

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Cindy Rinfret

CUSTOM ROCK-CRYSTAL CHANDELIER by HB Home of Greenwich, Conn. “It's gutsy, it's unique, and the scale of it is outrageous.”

CUSTOM BIRCH-TREE BED by Rustic Furniture of Willow Creek, Mont. “It feels so natural in this house without being corny—and it could have gone either way.”

HOMEOWNER

ENTRY HALL TABLE by Burgess Fine Woodworking of Eagle, Colo., and Mark Ditzler Glass Studio of Seattle, Wash. “I saw a similar table online and loved it, so I asked a local craftsman to reinterpret it for me.”

BAR TOP by Burgess Fine Woodworking of Eagle, Colo. “This bar is unbelievable. I love that the wood looks so natural.” ●

For a guide to this home's products and pros, visit mountainliving.com.