

COMBINING YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH REFRESHING INNOVATION, THIS HOME PRESENTS A SPECTACULAR EXAMPLE OF SPOTLIGHTING THE BEAUTY OF ITS NATURAL SURROUNDINGS WITHIN THE COMFORT OF LUXURIOUS CONTEMPORARY STYLE.

EMBRACING THE LANDSCAPE

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AS YOU ENTER ITS DYNAMIC, mountain-filled space, there's an almost magnetic pull drawing you towards a refreshing sense of open, expansive surroundings, yet with a contented intimacy. Nestled within a mountain golf course community, this magnificent modern home designed by Stephen Dynia Architects demonstrates what's possible with the best in contemporary architecture.

Much of what we think of as traditional Western architectural style actually began as a means of protection from the outdoor elements, such as the long popular cozy, all-American log cabin. These styles often served to block harsh weather conditions right along with most of its surrounding views. With welcomed contrast, Dynia's modern home designs focus on making as many connections to the beauty of the outdoors as possible.

Using a unique cruciform design, the home is centered around a grand main pavilion that has been elevated to provide unobstructed views of its breathtaking environment. "At the home's entrance, you walk right into a higher plane of the main space of the house infiltrated with natural light from all directions, and you start to feel hierarchally that it's an important place to be," explains Dynia.

"By elevating the center pavilion and rotating it just enough, we assured that their views would never be blocked by another house." In this invigorating central section of the home is where you find the main living areas including its luxurious kitchen, dining room, living room and an a pre/post ski area complete with storage for 20 pairs of skis and heavenly boot warmers.

There are two flanking wings, each two stories high that intersect

the main pavilion at half points containing the home's more private areas including bedrooms, a spectacular state-of-the-art home theatre and office space.

"Designing the home with Stephen was a fantastically creative and collaborative process," describes homeowners Chuck and Jan Davis. "The house reflects so many of the visions we had about what our family mountain home should be like...for future generations as well."

Crafting the Beauty of Contrast

Building a home within a prestigious golf community sometimes comes with a few extra requirements. Typically, in an effort to maintain a certain continuity among a wide assortment of custom properties, there are some strict guidelines for home exteriors. For this project,

the subdivision's goals included a more rustic and classic Western feel, whereas the homeowners wanted sleek, contemporary styling. Dynia's team of architects met the challenge of creating a distinctly modern home with some very traditional exterior requirements with incredible flair.

Even though the outside of the home has gable rooflines, the home's interior ceilings were able to achieve an incredibly open, airy contrast. Using beautiful wood textures and a dark zinc roof, all of the subdivision's requirements were fulfilled, but with an updated, modern twist.

Inside the home, alluring contrasting textures abound. Exposed concrete walls provide an edgy contemporary feel, while stylish walnut floors and cabinets lend a luscious rich color and appealing warmth. "I see the house as a balance of strong materials in the form, and more softening objects in the interior," said Jan Davis.



Creating Unity Within Spaces

Part of the challenge and opportunity of large, open spaces in contemporary design is in keeping its spaces unified and intimate at the same time. Through the creative use of scale, object placement and a continuity of neutral color palettes, this engaging 9,000-square-foot home achieves just that.

“There’s a sort of valley that runs down the middle of the main pavilion creating a unique sense of space,” explains Dynia. “Proportionally, the way the valley runs through the home, you tend to see the space as somewhat horizontal, allowing for a sense of intimacy within a very large area.” The kitchen has a sliding door to allow the owners to close off the space and make it more private if desired.

Near the entry, there’s an intriguing built-in wine cabinet that flows along a long, vertical, almost mystical hallway. Its scale is designed so that the top of the structure doesn’t touch the ceiling, providing another spatial sense of intimacy and charisma as golden light appears to escape from above its surface. According to Dynia, “Because of our inherent expectations of height and scale, these nuances not only create interest, but also add a sense of spatial comfort.”

Capturing the Spirit of Light

“One of the things that makes a modern home interesting is its ability to get different qualities of light at various times of the day,” describes Dynia. “And because the ceilings of this home rise at opposite corners of the house they capture light and reflect it.”

Morning light floods through stunning floor to ceiling windows in the kitchen, and throughout the day that same light filters over into the open living areas. While the sun moves around to the western side of the home, the play of light continues to dance across the home’s angular ceiling surfaces as well as its varied textures of glass, wood and concrete.

“What I like most is to sit in the living room in the corner on a Jun Ho chair which looks like it has skis on the bottom, and look all the way across the house taking it all in. Chuck likes to lounge in a leather chair and read or look out at the ski runs,” said Davis.

Grand 14-foot-tall sliding glass panels in the main living area provide what seems





like a seamless connection to the light of the outdoors—inviting an ecstatic feeling of actually entering the gorgeous mountain landscape surrounding you. “Today’s technology has provided architects with the ability to design windows and doors that just weren’t even possible before,” describes Dynia. The strength, durability and energy-efficiency of today’s high-end, large-scale glass doors and windows have truly and beautifully altered the direction of modern design.

“In what I consider a successful home, as well as in my public works, exploring the idea of how a room takes claim of the landscape has always been important to me,” said Dynia. “Not only should the room share claim of the immediate landscape outside of it, but also to the collective landscape of the mountain. That ability to make it feel like it belongs to you and your home is something for which I continue to experiment.” Combining years of experience with refreshing innovation, this home presents a spectacular example of spotlighting the beauty of its natural surroundings within the comfort of luxurious contemporary style. ❖

