

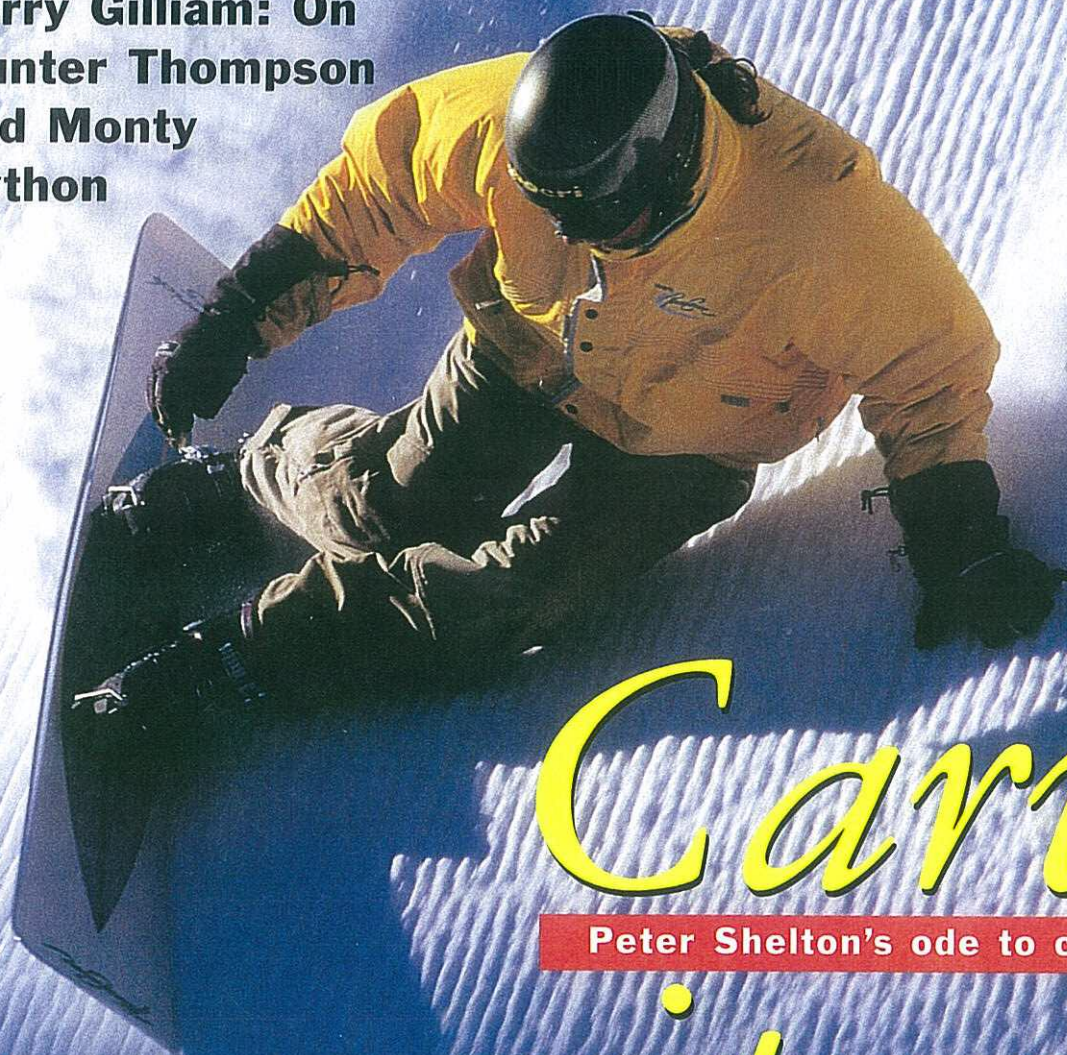
The Future of Snowmass Is Now

ASPEN

SPRING 1998 \$3.95

MAGAZINE

**Terry Gilliam: On
Hunter Thompson
and Monty
Python**



Carve

Peter Shelton's ode to corduroy

it up

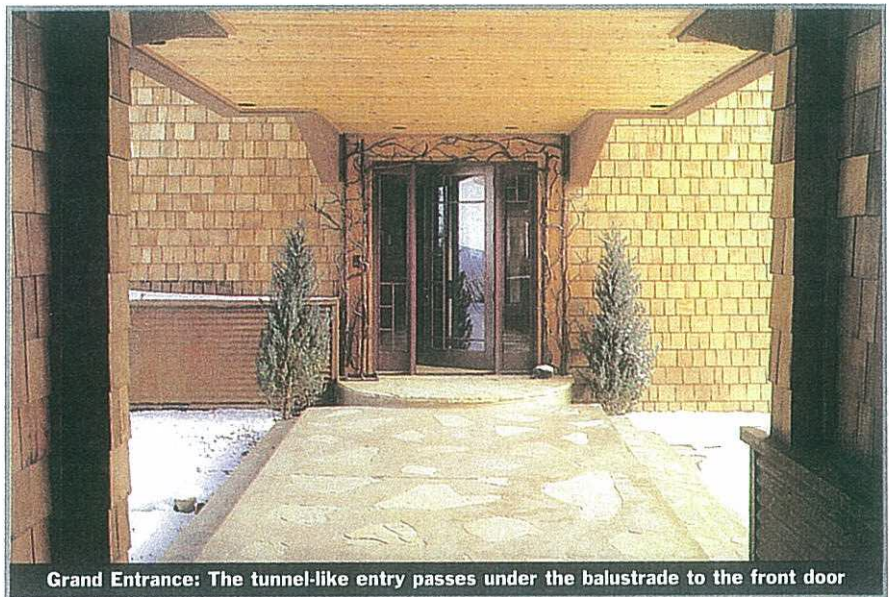
Mountain Serenity

Inside a soulful mountain home



A House of the Mountain

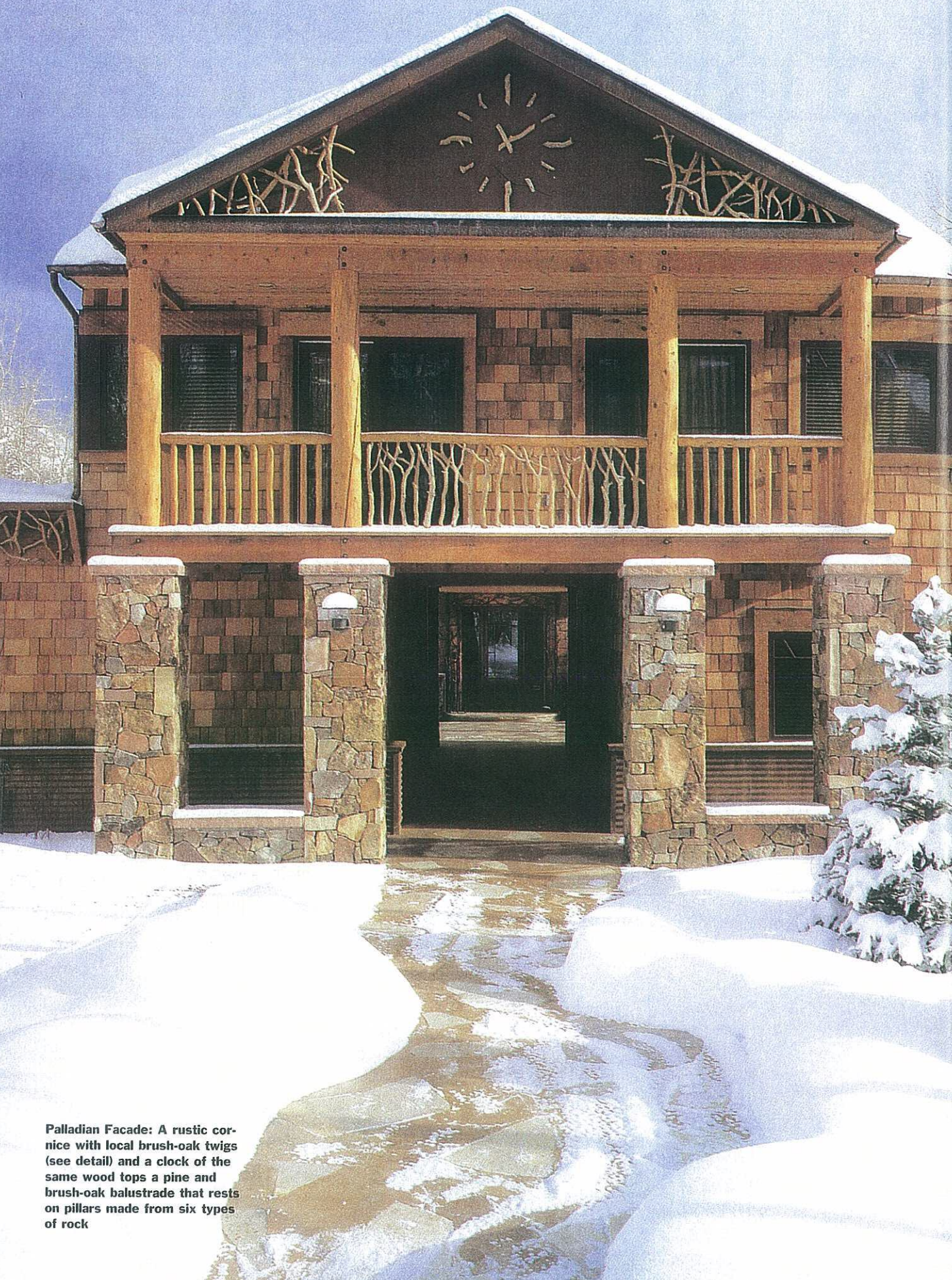
*Mindy Pantiel takes us on a tour of a
Snowmass 'forest house' by architect Bill Lipsey*



Grand Entrance: The tunnel-like entry passes under the balustrade to the front door

When a longtime Philadelphia couple retired to Aspen, they wanted to create their ideal mountain home. The couple imagined a residence that would blend into the environment, capitalize on the exquisite views, house their cherished collectibles, and accommodate a steady stream of visitors. After interviewing a number of leading designers, they found in local architect Bill Lipsey a similar vision of a domicile that would draw upon, and add to, the natural setting.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY CURTIS



Palladian Facade: A rustic cornice with local brush-oak twigs (see detail) and a clock of the same wood tops a pine and brush-oak balustrade that rests on pillars made from six types of rock

When Lipsey first visited the Snowmass site, he found a stunning meadow surrounded by a dense growth of aspens, which left the sensation of emerging from darkness into the welcoming brightness of the clearing. The experience so moved the architect that he set about trying to replicate the feeling architecturally.

A not-so-simple answer emerged. The house's rusticated Palladian facade gives way to a tunnel-like passageway that leads to the front door. A sunken garden stands off to one side; Snowmass ski area looms on the other. "Basically you go through a dark area into the light—similar to the feeling of going from the forest into the meadow," explains Lipsey. "How you get to the front door is almost a theatrical experience. It's not the usual way people come to a house."

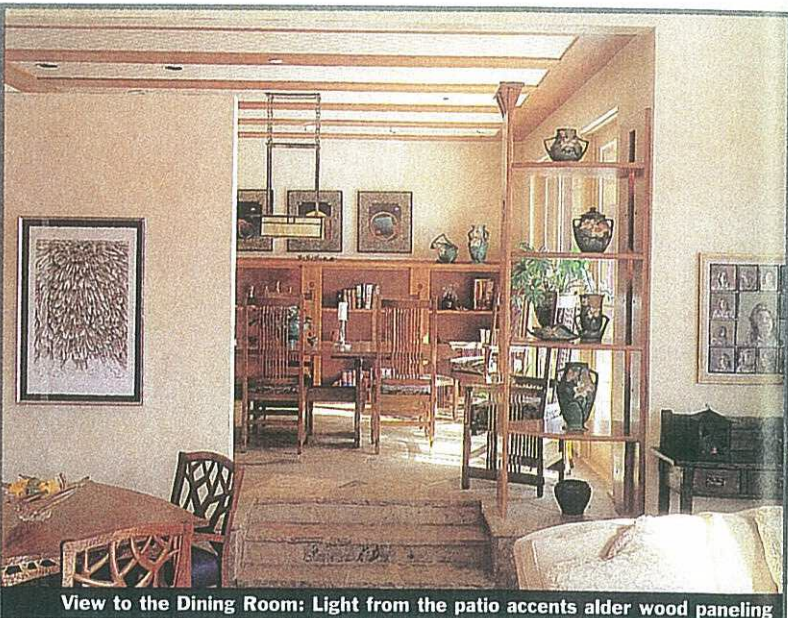
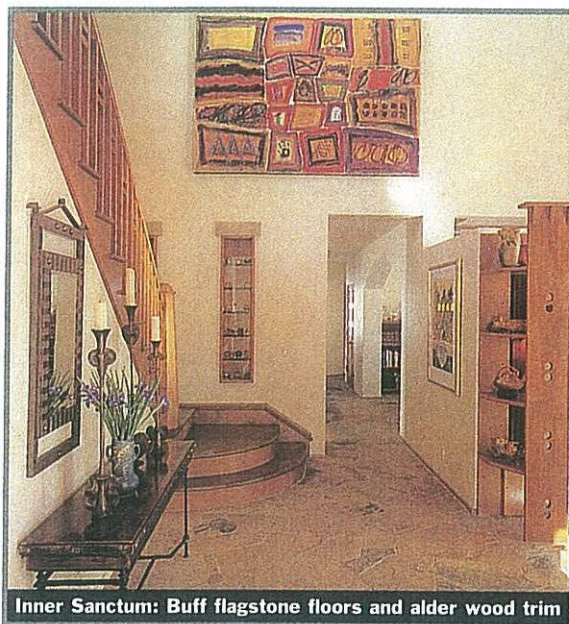
And Lipsey is not your usual architect. With more than 30 years in the business, most of that spent designing houses in the Roaring Fork Valley,

*'We wanted lots of natural light
and at least
two light sources in every room'*

Lipsey obliged by providing ample fenestration and connections to the outdoors from virtually every room in the house. Whenever possible he relied on porches to ease movement between indoors and out. "Porches allow you to capitalize on the relationship between nature and a house," observes Lipsey. "They are great transition spaces which allow you to linger between the two."

Bringing sufficient light in accomplished one major design goal; the quality of the light and how it interacted with interior finishes was another key. "We opted for colored-plaster walls," says the architect, "because the way light plays off of pigment embedded in plaster is so rich and fulfilling compared to the same light hitting paint on dry wall."

This interplay of light with color and texture exemplifies the sensuous aspect of Lipsey's designs and is one part of what he dubs the three S's: style, sophistication and sensuality. Unexpected details like



Inner Sanctum: Buff flagstone floors and alder wood trim

View to the Dining Room: Light from the patio accents alder wood paneling

Lipsey has developed an architectural philosophy that, among other things, mandates meticulous attention to a building's surroundings and the progression from outdoor spaces to interiors.

"You can't improve upon nature, but you certainly can work it into architecture," he says. "And in the Aspen area, outdoor spaces should be considered just as important as the living room or family room."

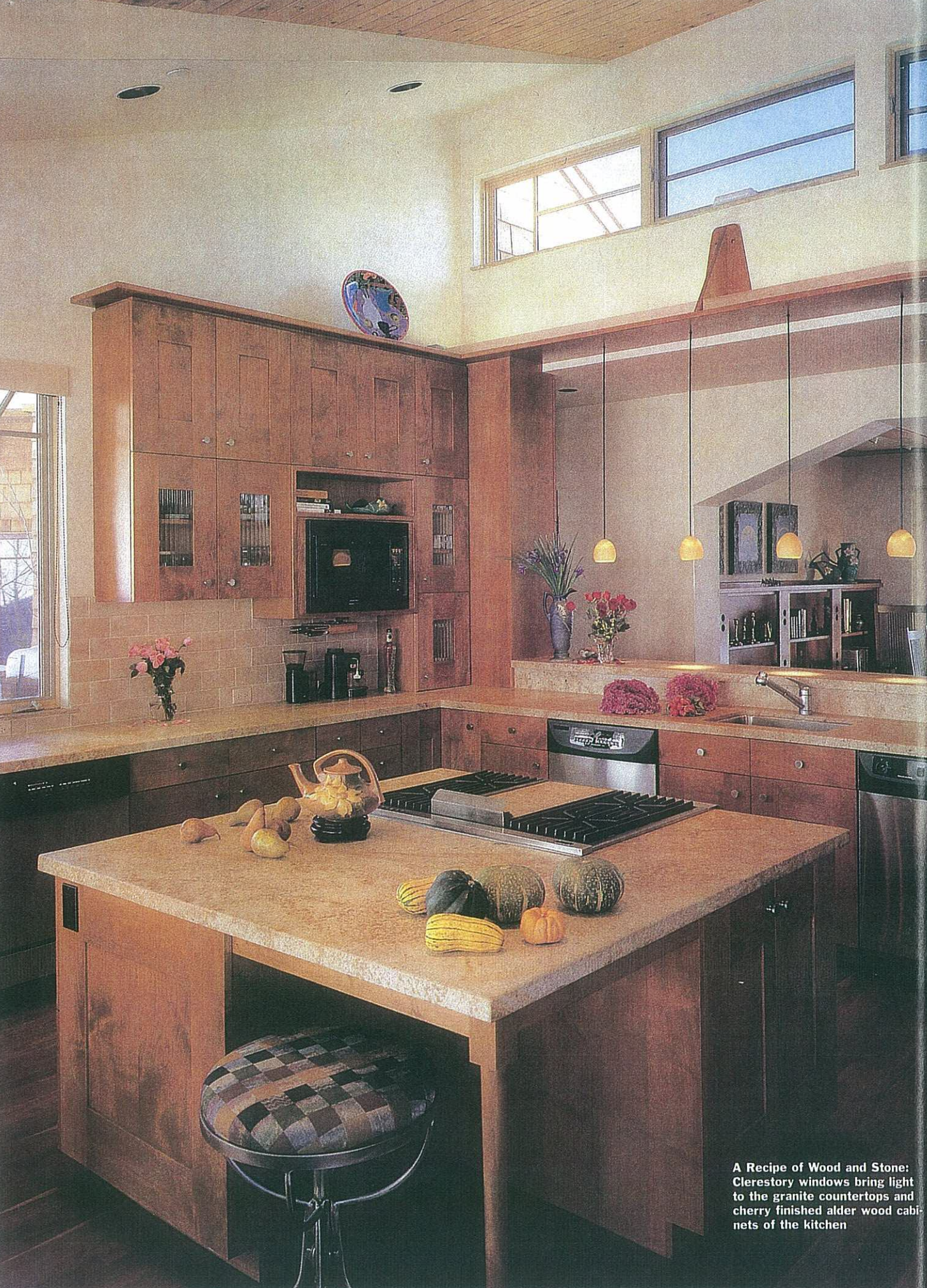
The owners of this 4,500-square-foot "forest house" readily concur. "We gave Bill no less than 15 pages of ideas and thoughts," one of them says, "and one thing we definitely wanted was a strong connection between the outdoors and inside. We also wanted lots of natural light and at least two light sources in every room."

exposed crisp edges of metal on wall corners, stone rather than wood window sills, honed granite kitchen counters in lieu of traditional glossy, and deep wood hues intensify the visual and tactile experience. "I'm a potter, so the way things feel is important to me. I like to walk along and touch the smooth wood with the rich grains," says the homeowner.

For Lipsey, sophistication means awareness of all aspects of design (including art, furniture, and industrial and graphic design) and the ability to integrate those elements into an architectural plan. The lighting nuances utilized in the multifaceted entry illustrate that concept. "I wanted to create a feeling of layers, so we backlit the columns, washed the walls with light and worked slightly random patterns of illumination on all the major surfaces," says Lipsey.



The Twilight Hour: Views of Snowmass surround the hammered copper fireplace, cherry wood floors, and cedar ceilings of the great room



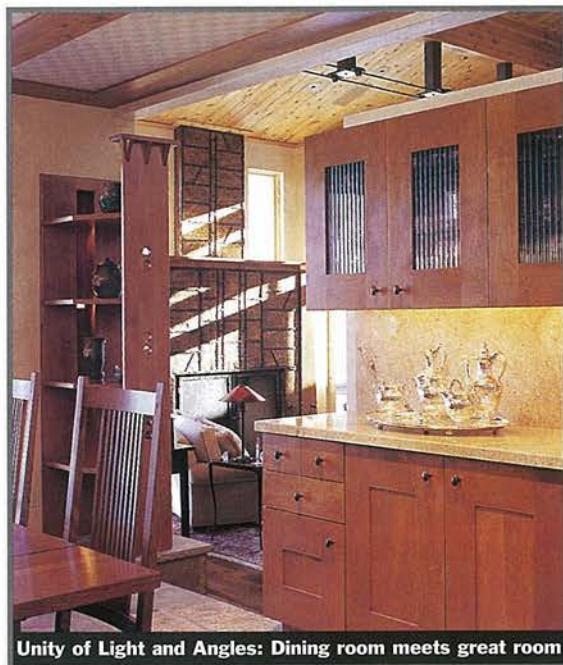
A Recipe of Wood and Stone: Clerestory windows bring light to the granite countertops and cherry finished alder wood cabinets of the kitchen

A geometric Mondrian-style pattern of muntin windows was chosen for the front door, so that when visitors go from the low ceiling space under the bridge to the entry, with its soaring ceilings and exposed trusses, the quality of light is somewhat refracted. It's at this moment that the sensual and sophisticated merge, setting the stage for the stylish elements of the interiors.

"Style can be misconstrued as surface and 'what's hot,' but things that are really stylish have staying power, and it's longevity that gives them meaning," explains Lipsey.

That description fits the homeowners' timeless collection of Arts and Crafts pottery and furniture to a tee. "These things have been around for decades and still look fresh," says Lipsey, "and there was no question such powerful decorative objects would affect their environment." The simple

'This need to have a separate space for guests is becoming a pretty typical program in the Aspen area'



Unity of Light and Angles: Dining room meets great room

wood-paneled doors, railings, and cabinets reflect the straightforward use of materials and good proportions that reflect the Arts and Crafts tradition. In the great room, floors are cherry, with Colorado buff flagstone used elsewhere. Throughout the house, lighted display shelves hold collections of Roseville ceramics, English teapots, paperweights, and candelabras.

The construction was completed by Structural Associates of Glenwood, and Aspen designer Brett Robin handled the interiors. "This is our third house with Brett," say the homeowners, "and we depended on her to make sure the house was very livable as well as having a style that was uniquely ours."

The owners, who are now full-time Snowmass residents, also wanted a place where visiting kids and grandchildren

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A PORTRAIT OF THE ARCHITECT

Ask Bill Lipsey to describe his dream home and the loquacious architect falls silent. After several moments, he describes a two-room domicile, with one space quite spare and the other a warehouse-style chamber overflowing with art. "The rule of living in such a place would be that you could bring only one object at a time from the storage area. When you were done enjoying it, you would have to return it before bringing something else."

Lipsey admits the two-room design is a bit impractical, but the idea of designing surroundings that mandate the appreciation of art and other special items is enormously appealing. "In Japan they have *tokonoma*, which are small niches where a favorite object is placed so it can be admired for a period of time," says Lipsey. "From a design standpoint, the Japanese culture is definitely my favorite."

The 55-year-old Lipsey heads Aspen's successful River Studio Architects, which specializes in residential design. Lipsey, a Chicago native who studied architecture at University of Illinois, began his career working for Chicago architect Harry Weese. "Harry was one of the early board members of the Aspen Ski Corporation, and

he had such zest for life I figured there must be something good going on out here," Lipsey recalls. "Then one day I got a call offering me a job in Aspen and I thought I'd better take it."

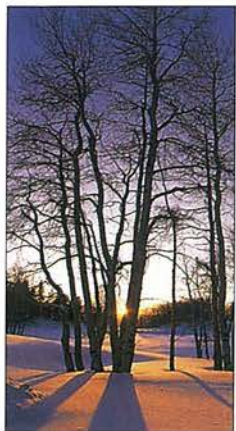
That was 1968. By 1970 he had established his own business, and he's been leaving architectural marks on the local landscape ever since. Surprisingly, the projects he remembers most fondly do not include the scores of houses he has designed. Rather, he recalls an innovative sculpture garden that once graced downtown and his contributions to one of Aspen's early affordable housing endeavors. The one house he does discuss is a sentimental favorite: his own residence, which *Architectural Record* cited in the 1970s for its innovative solar passive design. "It started as a solar cabin for a bachelor and evolved into a mountain farm house for an architect and his family," says

Lipsey of the house he shares with his wife, artist Linda Girvin, and their son, Max.

After more than 20 years on the mountain, Lipsey is preparing to move into town. Odds are his new home will be more than two spare rooms, but the final product will benefit from a lifetime of architectural lessons. ♦



Bill Lipsey



The menu and the scenery are all natural.

Discover the atmosphere of the new Meadows Restaurant. Dine in the serenity of the Roaring Fork River Valley, on the forty-acre grounds of The Aspen Meadows. Savor our mouth watering cuisine as stands of aspen reach into the floor-to-ceiling windows of our spacious dining room. The Meadows is a dining experience like no other restaurant in town.



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NIGHTLIFE

11:30 a.m. Bar open until 2 a.m. Closed Maty 5-June 1. 420 E. Cooper Ave., 925-9043.

ROARING FORK TAVERN This tavern specializes in satellite sports on four TVs and dart boards. Live local music weekly. Happy hour 4:30-6 p.m. Mon-Fri. and 11-2 a.m. Sat. & Sun. 215 S. Galena St., 920-9666.

SHOOTERS SALOON AND DANCE HALL A country-western saloon. Pool tables, foosball, darts and frequent live music complete a true down-home atmosphere. Open nightly Mon.-Sun, 8 p.m.-2 p.m. Free country dance lessons Thurs. Corner of Galena St. and Hyman Ave. below the Hard Rock Cafe, 925-4567.

SU CASA A festive Mexican bar serving flavorful, authentic margaritas. Happy hour 5-7 p.m.; dinner until 10 p.m. Smoke-free; wheelchair access. 315 E. Hyman Ave., across from the Wheeler Opera House, 920-1488.

SYZGY This renovated jazz club showcases local talent Steve Peer. Enjoy late-night jazz in one of eight cozy booths. Try a bite from the late-night menu, available until midnight. Closed mid-April to early June for off-season. 520 E. Hyman Ave., second floor, 925-3700.

THE TIPLER Serving lunch from 11:30 a.m., and an après-ski menu daily. Gregarious crowd, occasional live music, drink specials. Open seven days a week until 2 a.m. Closed mid-April to early June for off-season. West of the gondola at Aspen Mountain, 535 E. Dean St., 925-4977.

TOWER BAR This intimate bar offers daily drink specials and live performances by a magician. Bar open until 2 a.m. Closing in mid-April for the off-season. On the Snowmass Village Mall, 923-4650.

UTE CITY BAR & GRILL Lively tapas and wine bar in the Ute City Banque building. Light bar menu available 3-10:30 p.m. Live music Friday and Saturday nights. 501 E. Hyman Ave., 920-4699. FBS, AE, DC, MC, V, local checks. H.

WOODY CREEK TAVERN A locals' haven of knotty pine splendor, and one of the few spots where you can literally kick your boots up on the table. Bar open until 11 p.m. featuring fresh lime margaritas, a pool table, and TVs. 0002 Woody Creek Plaza, 923-4585.

ZANE'S TAVERN A sports bar and restaurant specializing in East Coast-style pizza and authentic Philly cheesesteak. Enjoy darts, billiards, and foosball. Sports events on new satellite TV. Open daily 5 p.m.-2 a.m. Upstairs in the Snowmass Village Mall, 923-3515. ♦

Although there are no exclusively gay bars in town, the Aspen Gay and Lesbian Community can recommend nightlife options, 925-9249.

HOUSE

Continued from page 61

could feel at home. "This need to have a separate space for guests is becoming a pretty typical program in the Aspen area," says Lipsey. "Many retired couples are setting up primary residences and want their families to stay with them when they visit rather than at a hotel. That translates into a bigger house but not a pretentious trophy house."

The architect's solution was to create distinct guest quarters connected to the main house via a bridge. The bridge itself houses a day room where kids can watch television and play games and grownups can escape for privacy. "Sometimes we all meet up on the

'A house that Frank Lloyd Wright described as 'of the mountain,' rather than on the mountain'

bridge," says the owner, "but mostly we gather in the kitchen or in the hot tub. We have a lot of space but there's also lots of intimacy."

"What I wanted," adds the homeowner, "was a house that fits into its surroundings, what Frank Lloyd Wright described as 'of the mountain' rather than *on* the mountain." This house, with its rusty corrugated roof, broad overhangs, and aubergine-clad windows, fits so snugly into the landscape that someone glancing back up the valley would barely notice it. ♦

Boulder-based contributing editor Mindy Pantiel writes about home design for magazines including Better Homes & Gardens, Country Home, and Metropolitan Home.