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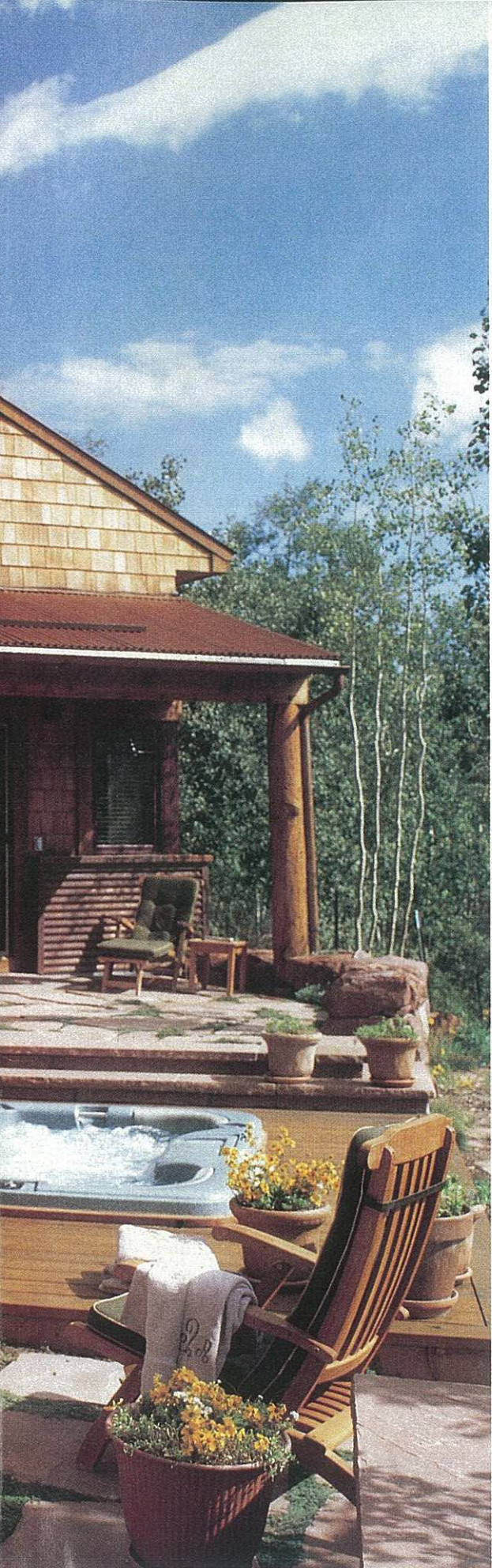
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Soundproof Strategies p. 80 Choose the Right Floor p. 94

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mountain peak

An architect
and interior

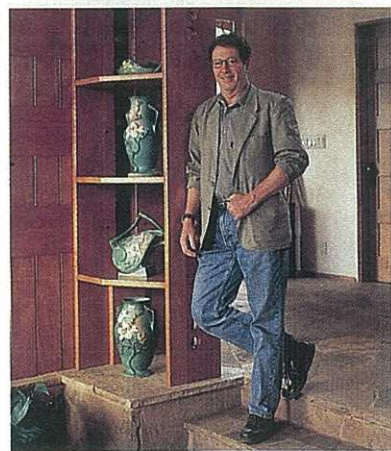
designer blend their arts and crafts
into a Rocky Mountain home.

BY ROBIN SUTTELL

With a foot in two centuries, this Colorado mountain home successfully combines Arts and Crafts-era details and contemporary styling. It also blends the best of two worlds with its site; the secluded mountain retreat is still within a mile of Aspen's bustling restaurants, shops, and ski slopes.

The home's clever blending of apparent opposites is a result of the homeowners' disparate desires. They wanted trees and privacy, but didn't want to be more than a mile from a copy of *The New York Times*. They wanted a home that would complement their Arts and Crafts pieces and extensive Roseville pottery collection, but the rooms couldn't be as dark and hemmed-in as some traditional Craftsman-era houses.

The successful fusion of all these desires is a result of the work of lead architect Bill Lipsey, project architect Luis Menendez, and interior designer Brett Robin. The trio creatively planned and skillfully executed a sturdy



Top and above: Interior designer Brett Robin used Oriental rugs to add richness to a monochromatic scheme, while lead architect Bill Lipsey created showplaces for the homeowners' treasured Roseville pottery collection.

Left: Several rooms open to the red Colorado flagstone patio. Such openings also provide comfortable places for the owners and their guests to bird-watch and enjoy mountain views.



mountain peak

residence that presents Arts and Crafts style with modern twists, meeting the stringent challenges of the Aspen elements: an 8,000-foot elevation and extremes in weather conditions.

To start, Lipsey and Menendez of River Studio Architects in Aspen helped the homeowners find the perfect lot: a tree-encased meadow just minutes from Aspen.

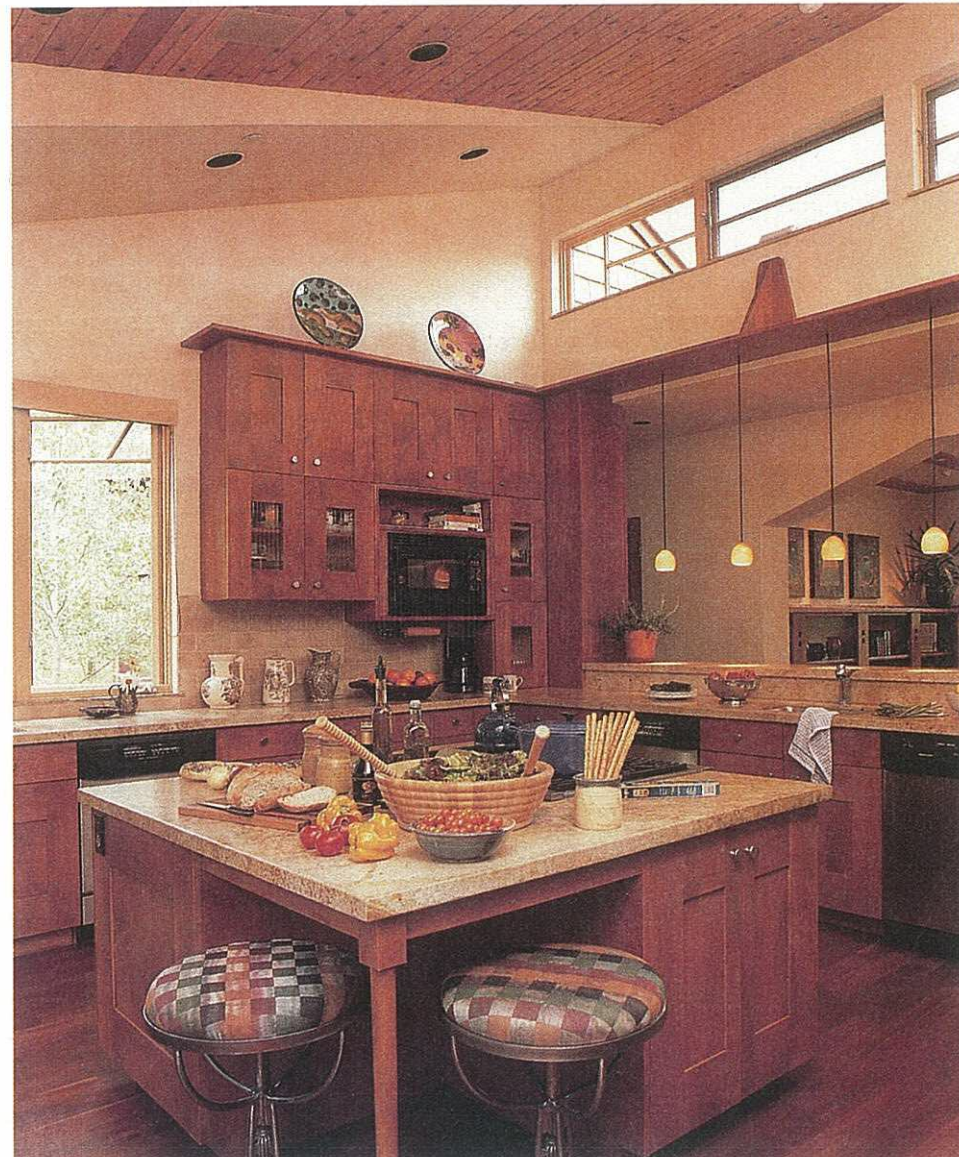
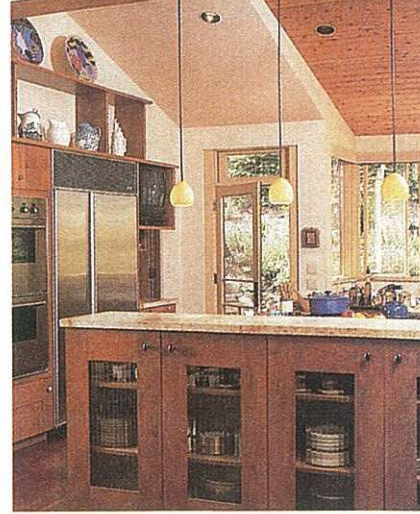
Durable cedar shingle walls and a dark brown corrugated steel roof protect the house

from the encircling elements and reflect traditional Craftsman home colors and textures. Peeled spruce logs and a blend of seven types of stone create Grecian-inspired exterior columns that add to the home's height and rustic elegance.

"It's a contemporary way of using something historical," Lipsey explains, adding that most of the simple, natural exterior materials are native to Colorado. Metal-clad windows resist sun damage that traditional wood frames would

face at Aspen's elevation. These windows cover the exterior, fulfilling the homeowners' request that each room have at least two sources of natural light and plenty of windows so they could indulge in their passion of bird-watching from any room.

To accommodate this in the kitchen, where an interior wall prevented a second source of natural light, Lipsey popped up the roof and installed clerestory windows to allow the morning sunlight to fill



Left, top, and above: The kitchen cabinets are alder wood, rather than true cherry. "Cherry tends to oxidize and turn red. By cherry-staining alder wood, we were able to control the color," Robin explains. Wavy-textured glass in the cabinets adds visual interest to the room, while colorful upholstery helps connect the banquette to the rest of the kitchen.

Opposite: Keeping in step with the home's Arts and Crafts inspiration, Robin reinvented the homeowners' existing coffee table by covering it in leather.



Arts and Crafts elements, such as built-in bookshelves and ceiling beams, are updated here with sleeker dimensions, but are traditional enough to blend with the Stickley dining room table and chairs.

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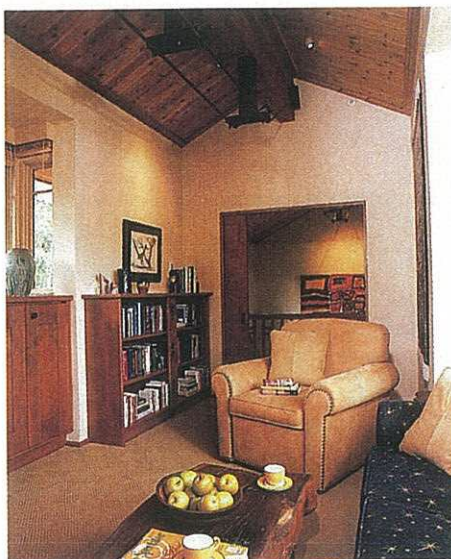
the space. One particularly notable exterior feature is the bridge linking the guest suite to the main house. The bridge serves two functions: Viewed from the exterior, the space under the bridge links the front and rear yards. Inside, the transition space serves as a media room and sitting area for guests.

Throughout the interior of the home, Robin worked her magic. Having worked with the owners on their previous residence, she blended their tastes and style into Lipsey

and Menendez's overall design.

Before construction began, the homeowners selected a monochromatic palette throughout the house to highlight their collectibles. But they wanted an up-to-date home, not a historical re-creation.

Rich woodwork, simple lines, paneling on the dining room ceiling, and built-in cabinets pay homage to the Arts and Crafts era without replicating it. Robin also used Oriental rugs to add elegance and rich color throughout the home. "Oriental rugs are a



Left: The upper-level bridge houses a media room and creates a transition between the main house and guest suite. The guest area is so comfortable, the homeowners often use the space even when there are no guests to entertain.

PLAN TOUR

A unique bridge links a cozy guest suite to the main house, giving visitors ample space and privacy. The transition space serves as a media room and sitting area.

The master bedroom has a door that leads to the Colorado flagstone patio.

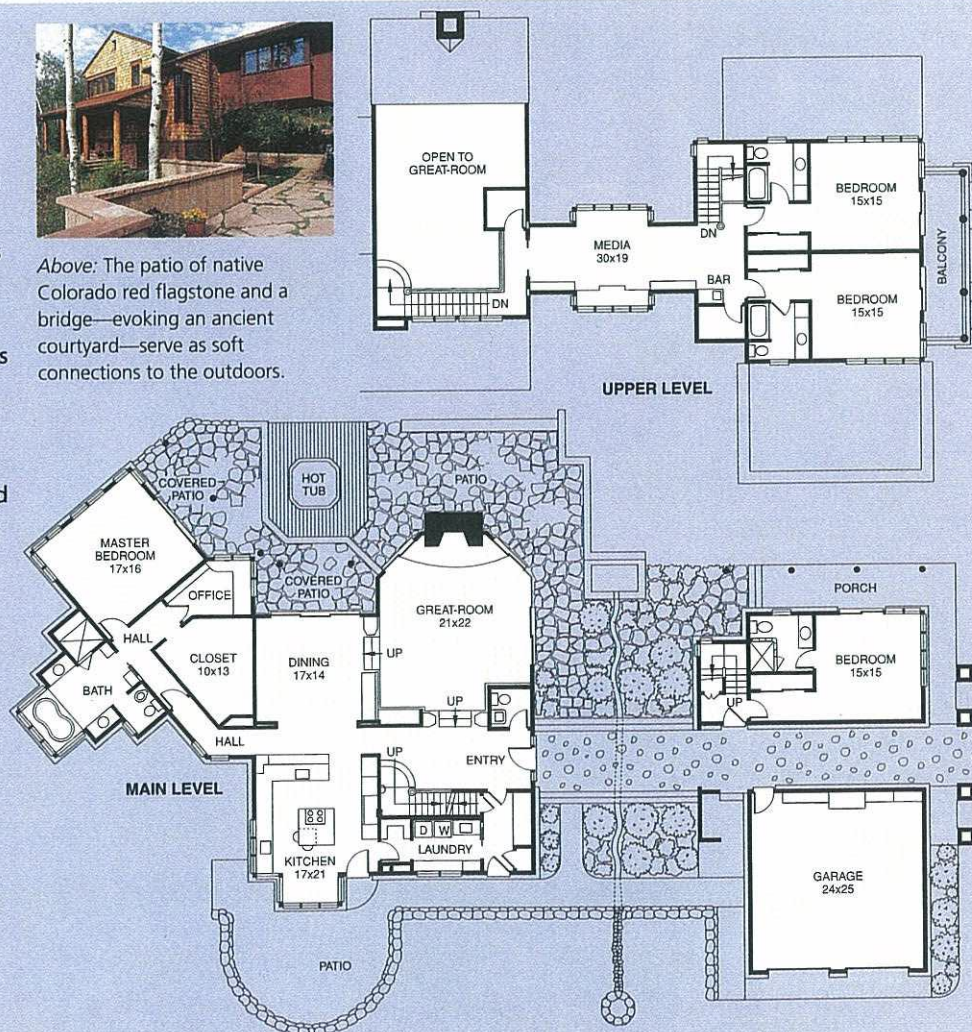
The hearth in the great-room screens an unwanted view of an adjacent property, in favor of mountain views.

A laundry room is accessible directly from a side entrance and from the entry foyer and kitchen.

Each guest bedroom has its own bathroom.



Above: The patio of native Colorado red flagstone and a bridge—evoking an ancient courtyard—serve as soft connections to the outdoors.



Illustrator: Carson Ode

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major dimension of the Arts and Crafts period," she explains. "They define the space and tie in the elements."

In the kitchen, large windows enclose a cozy breakfast nook, creating a perfect early-morning bird-watching venue. Robin chose benches instead of chairs and covered these and the kitchen stools in a colorful sapphire-and-emerald fabric. These colors add a spark to the otherwise neutral palette, which also is accented by the Arts and Crafts feel of rich cherry-brushed alder wood, a cherry floor, and Italian marble countertops.

From almost every other spot in the public portion of the house, the great-room's hammered-copper fireplace constitutes the focal point. Not only does it draw attention to this dramatic space, it controls the room's view.

"The view was straight out at a condominium development, while the diagonal view looks at the sunrise and the mountains," Lipsey says. "We used the fireplace to block the 'bad' view."

To make the most of the "good" views, Robin arranged four comfortable love seats around a bright rug, creating a comfortable conversation area. Each seat offers a different, spectacular view.

In the dining room, Colorado buff sandstone floors and alder wood built-ins tie the room with the rest of the home by repeating materials found in the kitchen and

entry. The built-ins provide the perfect spot for the homeowners' book collection, allowing the room to double as a library. The room's Arts and Crafts-style table and chairs add clean, simple lines and fit in perfectly with the home's overall feel.

The same buff sandstone ties the dining room and entryway into the master suite. The stone even runs up the sides of the master bath's tub. Brushed nickel accessories lend an old-world feel, while the Oriental carpet defines the space of the vanity and bathtub. □

Buying Guide on page 108

Photographer: J. Curtis
Architects: Bill Lipsey and Luis Menendez / River Studio Architects
Interior designer: Brett Robin
Field editor: Mindy Pantiel



Above: Dramatic yet elegant draperies counterbalance the master bedroom's tall ceiling and enhance the mountain views.



Left: The marbled portion of the master bath's tub has light veins of "dull" gold running through it, adding visual interest and light. Large windows and views of aspen trees outside surround the bathtub, the room's focal point.