

# ASPEN HOME

FALL 2008

## A Gentleman and His Ranch

INSIDE 40 YEARS ON GEORGE STRANAHAN'S  
WOODY CREEK PROPERTY

**ELECTRIFIED**  
TECHNOLOGY DIALS IN  
HOMEOWNERS

**THE MOD-SQUAD**  
HOME CONSTRUCTION  
DONE ANOTHER WAY

**PLUS**  
INSTANT FALL WARMTH  
NEW ON THE GREEN SCENE  
DESIGNER RETURNS HOME

# A golden nugget

Close collaboration between an architect and his client has earned the professional designer a national award and given the homeowner a mountain retreat with sophistication.

Charles Cunniffe Architects (CCA) recently received the "Gold Nugget Award" for a 6,614-square-foot home located in the Aspen Club subdivision.

Known as "Independence Retreat,"

the home was designed so it would have views of both Aspen Mountain and Independence Pass. Cunniffe and the owner, who refers to himself as a frustrated architect, agreed that one of the greatest aspects of a home is how it responds to its environment. So, the setting influenced the layout of the home, which has its living spaces on the upper level, offering the best views. The living area is in direct line with Aspen

Mountain and the dining room is set on a right angle toward Independence Pass.

The bedrooms, of which there are four, are on the lower level, along with the entertainment room. A large walk-out space is underneath the kitchen deck and serves as an outdoor room that has a fireplace, radiant heat, year-round furniture and a spiral staircase leading to the kitchen.

Unique materials were sought to bring out earth tones throughout the residence. Stone from several quarries were placed inside and out, upstairs and down. Olive wood, stainless steel and glass walls create a clean look throughout the home.

The largest program of its kind, the presentation of Gold Nugget Award is the premiere event of the annual Pacific Coast Builders Conference. It honors creative achievements in architectural design and land-use planning for residential, commercial and industrial projects. Entries come from all over the world and winners share one common theme: excellence and innovation in addressing complex design and building issues.

Founded in 1981, Charles Cunniffe is headquartered in Aspen, and has done projects in 30 states and 17 countries.



David O. Marlow

## Homeowners are ACES

The verdict is in: If you aren't "greening up" your home, you are behind the times. If you are contemplating becoming an environmentally responsible homeowner but aren't sure where to begin, check out the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies.

This fall, the 40-year-old Aspen nonprofit is offering a five-week workshop to help homeowners develop their own "Green Game Plan." The hands-on class will show homeowners how to reduce their impact on the environment in a customized fashion. Led by Suzanne Farver, former director of the Aspen Art Museum, who will soon receive her master's degree in environmental

management from Harvard University, homeowners will look at various ways to make a change — from energy conservation to producing their own energy — creating both short- and long-term plans of action.

"Greening Your Home" meets Tuesdays, Sept. 23-Oct. 21, from 6-8 p.m., at ACES' Hallam Lake Nature Center. The cost is \$110 for members, \$125 for nonmembers. Call 970-925-5756 or log on to [www.aspennature.org](http://www.aspennature.org) to register, or for more information.