

THE LATEST GREEN DESIGN IDEAS FROM ML'S NATURAL DREAM HOME

# Mountain Living®

## the ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN issue

Top Mountain  
Architects & Interior  
Designers

Home of  
the Year 2008

Home of the  
Year Architect  
Jane Snyder

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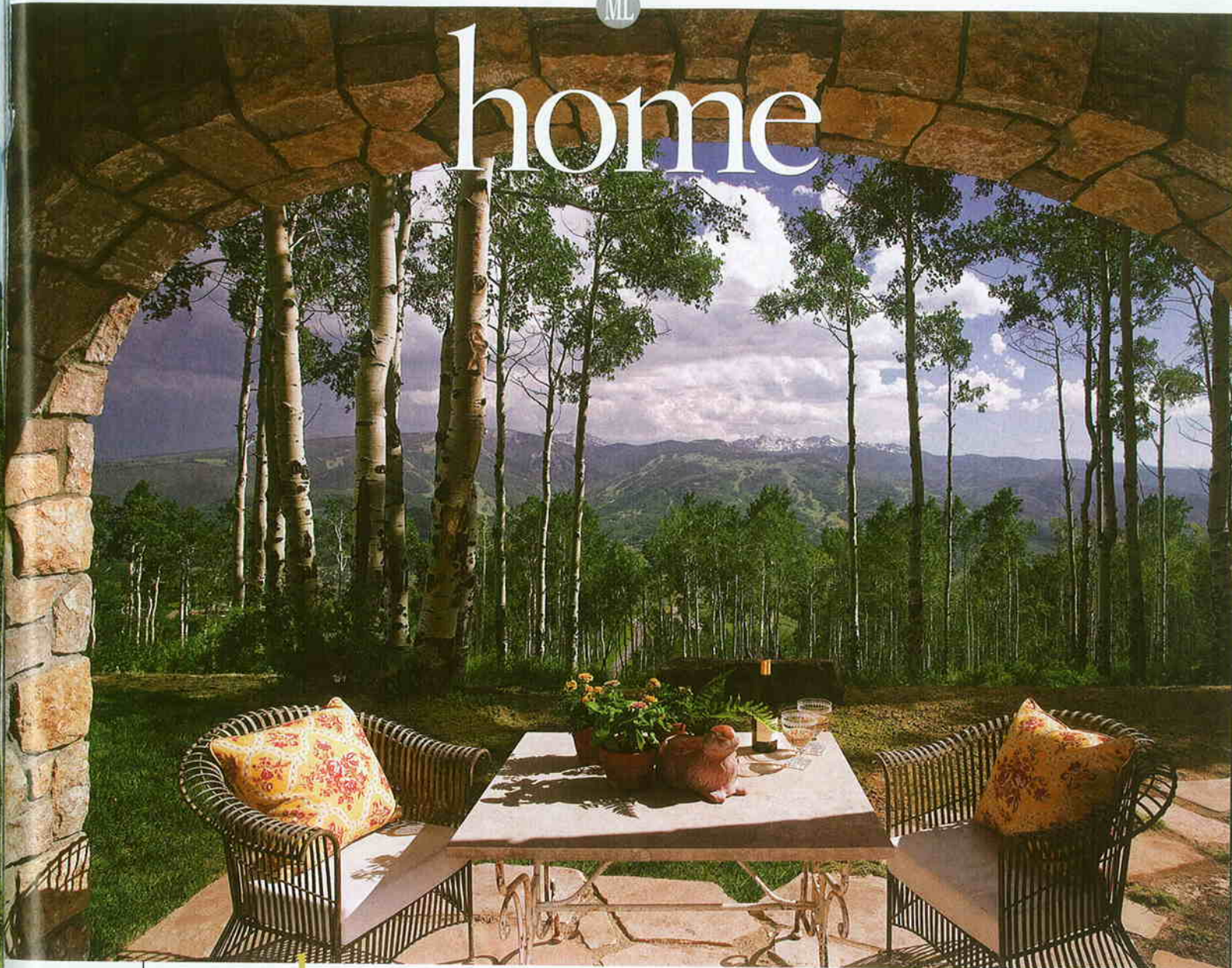


PHOTO BY JIM BARTSCH

## the ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN issue

Asked to create a warm family home that blended seamlessly with Avon, Colorado's, high-country landscape, Mosaic Architects' Jane Snyder delivers an inspiring—and Home of the Year 2008 award-winning—space that combines an intimacy of scale and the creative reuse of old materials with some spectacular mountain views. ● Niña Williams and her husband, Bill Sidley, transform a bare-bones, "Lincoln log-style" structure into an idyllic cabin in the Wyoming woods. ● Sally Uhlmann's functional family home in Montana showcases classic styling that's made for the mountains. ● A cliff-side site with killer views of Colorado's Needles Range presents designer Alix Kogan with the ultimate challenge—and reward. ● Plus, *Mountain Living* reveals the 2008 list of the most influential residential architects and interior designers in the American West.

THIS YEAR'S AWARD-WINNING HOME COMBINES AN  
INTIMACY OF SCALE, CREATIVE REUSE OF OLD MATERIALS  
AND MOUNTAIN VIEWS FROM EVERY WINDOW

## *home of the year* 2008

Using slat-board shutters and a custom blend of Western limestone, Ashland rubble and Sweetwater stone, architect Jane Snyder, of Mosaic Architects, was able to interpret the French country look desired by her client without copying French designs.

## FRENCH BY DESIGN

STORY BY IRENE RAWLINGS PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM BARTSCH AND MICHAEL SHOPENN

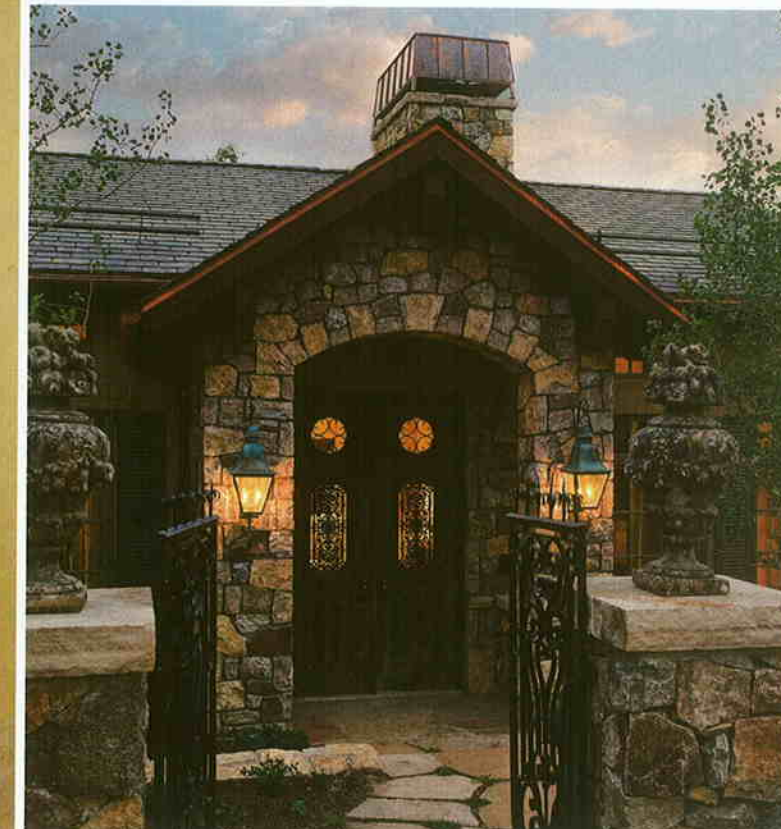


PHOTO BY MICHAEL SHOPEN

PHOTO BY JIM BARTSCH

As the outside world becomes more chaotic and unpredictable, we often turn inward to focus on our family, our friends and our homes. And, indeed, our homes become more than furniture-filled living spaces, they become sanctuaries—sources of comfort, pleasure and renewal. Today's living spaces often nurture many branches of the family tree by offering separate but interconnected suites or zones for families whose members may span different generations and have different interests. A well-designed family home is further defined by intimacy of scale, respect for the environment and the "made-by-hand tradition." When judging our Home of the Year entries this year, *Mountain Living* took all of these factors into consideration, as well as design and liveability.

We are proud to announce *Mountain Living's* Home of the Year 2008, a 6,300-square-foot residence perched high above Avon, Colorado, overlooking both the Beaver Creek and Bachelor Gulch ski areas. The winning architect is Jane Snyder of Boulder, Colorado, based Mosaic Architects. "Jane was recommended to us," says homeowner Judy Love, "and as soon as my husband Bob and I saw her portfolio, I knew we were on the right track toward our goal of a warm, family-sized home that looks like it belongs in the mountain landscape and has been here forever." >>

OPPOSITE: This fireplace seating area is actually part of the dining room. "I didn't want a living room because I knew we wouldn't use it," says owner Judy Love. Samarcand chairs are custom finished with a gray-blue wash and upholstered in a gold-and-gray Pierre Frey toile. The Holland & Company sofa table was made in England out of recycled wood. Stone carver Harold Clayton created the stone fireplace to fit the room. ABOVE LEFT: The stone arch in the hallway is one of many stone arches that define the areas between public and private spaces throughout the house. ABOVE RIGHT: "When you turn the latch on the gate and go down to the front-entry garden, you pass through a layer of experience—the stone steps, the small-scale plants, the intricate and exotic look of the front door—even before you get inside the house," says architect Jane Snyder.



PHOTO BY JIM BARTESCI

## We sat down with Jane Snyder,

architect of the Home of the Year 2008, to discover what it took to design this award-winning home, from the initial vision to the design process to all the thoughtful touches that make this home our top pick.

**Mountain Living: How did you work with the owner to create a vision for this house?**  
 Jane Snyder: We looked at it in terms of body gestures. When you stand on this lot, you want to put your arms out and embrace the view. So, we interpreted this first gesture with architecture by creating a courtyard plan. One of the "arms" surrounding the courtyard houses the public rooms: the kitchen, dining room, hearth room and butler's pantry. The other "arm" is the private arm and includes the master bedroom wing.

The second body gesture involved stepping up and down the hill. To interpret this, we created a platform for the main level that floats above the forest floor. The lower level was designed to be a walk-out. The third body gesture created the scale of the home. If I take my arms and frame a peak above my head, it says, 'I don't want a big house, I want an intimate house.' The scale of the architecture is in keeping with what feels comfortable and doesn't dwarf the people living here.

**We've never heard an architectural vision described in those terms. It sounds a little bit like poetry in motion.**

Funny you should say that. I've been inspired by the French philosopher and author Gaston Bachelard, who wrote "The Poetics of Space." He says that we don't actually think about the spaces in which we find ourselves, but that we respond to them on a deeper, instinctual level...like dusting off the memories of childhood and fondly remembering grandma's house. I wanted to create spaces that create memories.

**This house doesn't have a great room and, in fact, none of the rooms are very large. Is that unusual in mountain architecture today?**

Judy and Bob Love are the first clients who have not asked me to build a great room. The largest room on the main floor is the dining room, which is divided into two smaller zones, one for dining and a smaller one for sitting in front of one of the home's carved stone fireplaces. >>

OPPOSITE: The keeping room is connected to the kitchen and provides a sitting area with warmth and views. The ladderback chairs by Holland & Company are crafted from old wood and covered with a Pierre Frey burgundy-and-olive plaid cotton. The no-maintenance jute rug adds to the informality of the room. ABOVE: This view of the home shows the two arms surrounding the courtyard and "giving the mountains a bear hug," as well as the French doors that open to walk-out spaces on the lower level.

## the architect's favorite details

**ENTRY DOORS** replicate an antique pair the homeowner loved but which were not quite sturdy enough to use outdoors.



**RECLAIMED BRICK**, used as a backsplash behind the stove, adds to the kitchen's old French boulangerie look.



**THE FIREPLACES** are made of stone, hand-carved in a simple design often seen in homes in the French countryside.



**THE WINE ROOM CEILING** is a mini-barrel vault with antique timbers and brick tiles installed in a herringbone pattern.



This home's focus appears to be the kitchen and its adjacent keeping room, which you also call the hearth room. How did this evolve? Judy loves to cook and the family loves to hang out in the kitchen, so we spent a long time laying out the flow of the kitchen and hearth room which, Judy said, had to have a fireplace and be open to the kitchen. Judy chose the color for the rooms after being inspired by an antique French boulangerie sign. Then we found reclaimed bricks that mirror that mustard-gold color. We also used reclaimed wood sourced from California barns.

This sounds like a family that enjoys a good glass of wine. Tell us about the wine room.

I love the antique wood timbers and the herringbone pattern on the mini-barrel-vaulted roof. We worked to get the grouting just right so it would look old. The counter is a thick Colorado buff sandstone, hand-selected to have lots of iron (rust) spots so if someone spills a little wine on it, it doesn't much matter. The wine room is temperature- and humidity-controlled, of course, but we wanted it to be a useful space and not just a storage space. So, it is the ideal place to sit down at the small table and have a glass of wine. The air temperature of the room comes up from 55 degrees to 65 degrees, but the wine doesn't change temperature in the 20 minutes or so that you're enjoying appetizers.

Can you tell us about the green features of this home?

The first objective, of course, was orienting the house toward the south. The tall windows allow for heat gain when the sun is low in the sky in autumn and winter. In summer, when the sun is high, the overhangs shield the windows. Inside, we used low-VOC finishes, wool carpet, sustainably harvested wood floors and high-efficiency mechanical systems. For example, instead of using air conditioning, we cool the house in the evenings by letting in the cool outside air. The roof is insulated to R-50 and built in two layers: The first layer is made of floor joists and engineered lumber with blown-in, closed-cell insulation. On top of that is a cold room that lets cold air flow under the 1/2-inch-thick concrete roof tiles, preventing ice from forming and popping the tiles. ☺

OPPOSITE: "I love high beds for easy bed-making," says Judy. The headboard is a custom design by Louis Solomon with a hand-rubbed finish by Carlos De Torres. "He rubbed gold leaf on it and it is especially visible on the edges, giving the piece an antique look." For the sofa, she chose a Bergamo fabric in a very light gold on a greenish-gray background. The pillows are from B.D. Jefferies, a shop that sells home décor ranging from antiques to accessories.

**ML** Inspired by the Home of the Year 2008's blend of warmth, intimacy and luxury? There's much more online! Visit [mountainliving.com](http://mountainliving.com) and find even more photos of this year's award-winning home.

THE HOMEOWNERS' FAVORITE COLORS GREEN, GOLD AND YELLOW—REALLY SHOW OFF IN THE MASTER BEDROOM





THIS PAGE: Working together, the architect and homeowner planned the kitchen to make it functional for two people or a holiday crowd of 25. "I use the island for everything from food preparation to a buffet table," says Judy. OPPOSITE: All of the guest rooms are on the lower floor but have French doors that open onto private patios and great views.

## Interiors that Reflect Your Style

Blending style with comfort, homeowner Judy Love finished her warm family home with areas where people can gather to talk, play games, cook or just sit and enjoy the views. Here's how:

**MAKE A DETAILED LIST** "I wrote down everything Bob and I wanted in a house," says Judy. "My list was four pages on a legal pad and included everything from a great kitchen and spacious guest rooms for our six children and seven grandchildren to shallow steps so going up and down would be easier on our knees."

**CHOOSE A DESIGNER YOU LOVE TO WORK WITH** Mary Sheridan and Jane Hogan have been interior designers in Macon, Georgia, for more than 50 years and they have worked with Judy since the 1970s. Working first from plans, then from construction photos, they helped Judy give her cozy home an old European flavor.

**USE NATURE-INSPIRED DESIGN** The woodwork is an off-white to give it a crisp, fresh look against the walls, which are faux-finished in greens, golds and yellows, colors found right outside the tall windows and French doors that frame the mountain views. Some walls have the texture of nubby linen, others are eggshell smooth.



## DESIGN BOOK

**ARCHITECT** Jane Snyder, Mosaic Architects, Boulder, CO, (303) 247-1100, mosaicarchitects.com  
**BUILDER** Joe Rzepiejewski, Rzepiejewski & Co., Avon, CO, (970) 904-0669

**INTERIOR DESIGN** by homeowner in consultation with Jean Hogan and Mary Sheridan, Valentinis, Macon, GA, (478) 747-6923

**LANDSCAPE** Jamie McCluskie, Sonesmac, Silverthorne, CO, (970) 949-6490. Additional design: Glen Ellison, Land Designs by Ellison, (970) 949-1700

**MASONRY** Gallegos Corp., Vail, CO, (970) 926-3737  
**DOORS & MILLWORK** R&R Millwork, (970) 352-8949  
**FIREPLACES** Harold Clayton, (214) 824-7625

To learn more about all of the products and pros that contributed to the Home of the Year's winning design, turn to ML Sources on page 158 for your complete guide.