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MOUNTAIN MODERNISM

ON PAGES
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BUILDER George Shaeffer Construction Co.: Avon, CO: 970.845.5656

INTERIOR DESIGNER Associates III: Denver, CO: 303.534.4444



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A MOUNTAIN HOME IN BEAVER CREEK
IS INFUSED **WITH A MODERN VIBE**





MOUNTAIN MODERNISM

WRITTEN BY **FRED ALBERT**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **SAUNDERS STALEY**

AFTER BUILDING A HOUSE IN LOS ANGELES 15 YEARS AGO, STEVEN NAGELBERG VOWED HE WOULD NEVER TACKLE ANOTHER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. "It tore me up. It killed me. I wanted to die," groans the orthopedic surgeon. But, when Nagelberg and his wife, Jerri, spied a 4-acre parcel for sale in Bachelor Gulch, his resolve melted like a spring flurry.

ARCHITECT Gordon Pierce | **HOME BUILDER** George Shaeffer

INTERIOR DESIGNER Maggie Tandysh

BEDROOMS 5 | **BATHROOMS** 7 | **SQUARE FEET** 9,442



SQUARE DEAL

The front doors establish a square motif that's echoed throughout the house. The window wall beyond frames a Guy Dill sculpture gracing the courtyard.



STYLE SELECTION

Abstract sculptor Guy Dill's strong bronze piece is a study of elements in tension. The artist describes his work as an "intuitive sense of spiritual and physical balance and order."

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Confirmed modernists, the couple asked principal architect Gordon Pierce of Resort Design Associates to create a vacation home that responded to its setting but without the antler chandeliers and other clichés of mountain life. "We liked the idea of a log cabin," says Nagelberg, "but we wanted to do something different."

To strike a balance between modernism and mountain-ism, Pierce and project architect Stuart Smith utilized organic materials like wood and stone but applied them in a refined manner, forgoing logs and river rock for trim cedar shingles and tailored stacks of Telluride Gold. Sandstone floors add finesse underfoot, while windows, doors and railings repeat a square motif, instilling a subliminal sense of order throughout the house, which was built by George Shaeffer, Dennis Thompson and Bob Batten of George Shaeffer Construction Company.

**FIRE AND LIGHT**

A see-through fireplace dominates the great room, its slanted shoulders echoing the vaulted ceiling above. Rooms admit light from several directions, banishing gloom.

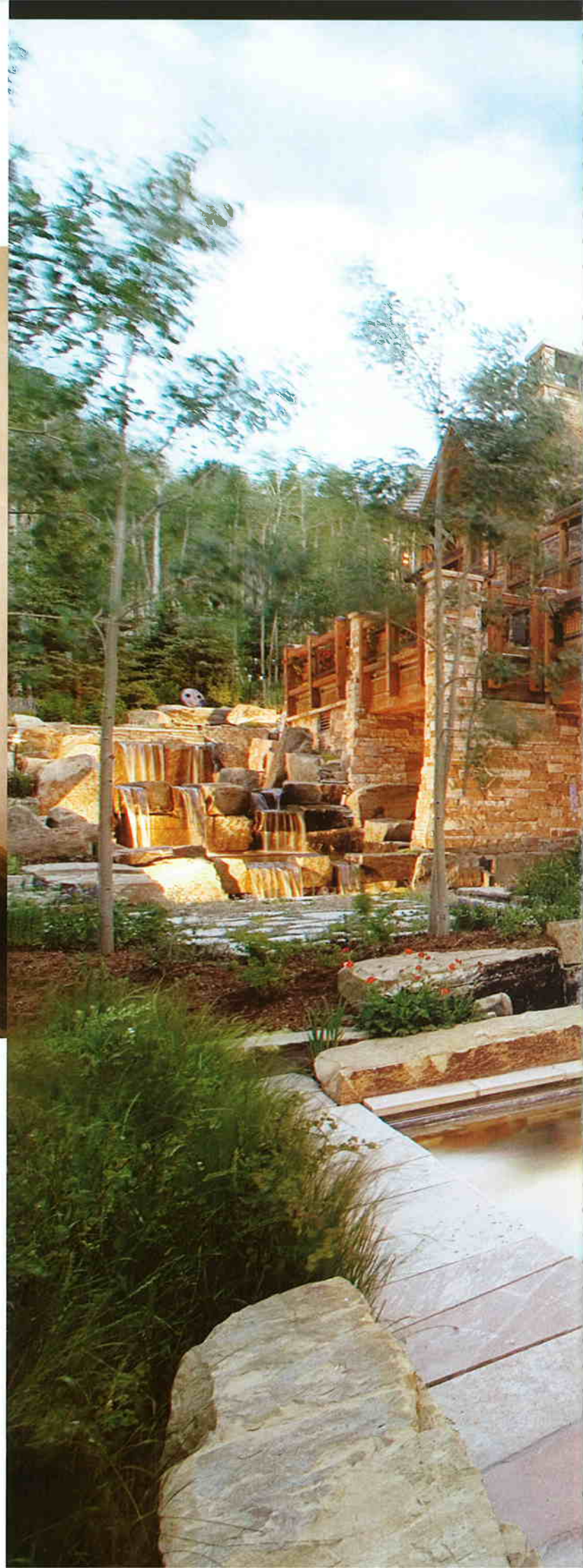
STYLISH STAIR

Squares pierce the railing in the staircase. Niches throughout accommodate collectibles gathered on the owners' travels.



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To help link the home to its hillside setting (and accommodate their recreation-loving clients), the architects divided the 9,442-square-foot structure into a series of low-profile wings that amble down the slope, assuring easy access to the outdoors from every room. "Light was very important to the Nagelbergs," notes Pierce, who kept each wing just one room wide, so light enters from several directions (along with stellar views of the Gore Range). The wings are arranged around a central courtyard, providing a protected retreat from prevailing winds and the distant drone of traffic on I-70. Heated ponds designed by landscape architect Pam Granade, of Land Design by Ellison, cascade down the hillside, attracting birds and filling the air with a melodious gurgle all year long.





WATERSIDE SERENITY
A heated water feature cascades along the side of the house, culminating in a 10-person spa. Stone walls are crafted from Telluride Gold.



RUSTIC MODERN

Neutral colors and subtle patterns make mountain staples like leather and chenille feel contemporary, and provide an understated backdrop for art.



BATHED IN LIGHT
 A glass-walled shower takes advantage of the view; alder cabinets and limestone floors and counters establish an air of harmony.

STYLE SELECTION

A small side table, like this deeply patinated one, is ideal for adding seating to small spaces like the bathroom. *Square Teak Block Side Table/Stool*, \$400; 1.800.896.7266



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The great room is dominated by a towering fireplace with a peaked sandstone hearth and sloping shoulders that echo the contours of the vaulted alder ceiling. “I was striving to give the Nagelbergs a fresh look, as opposed to the typical arched fireplace,” explains Pierce. Cedar trusses and rings of electrified candles lend a sense of scale to the two-story space, which interior designer Maggie Tandysh of Associates III furnished with stocky tables and commodious seating rendered in muted shades of tobacco, umber and moss. “We didn’t want the house to be fussy. We wanted things that could take a little bit of abuse,” explains Nagelberg, who insisted on testing the comfort of every piece of furniture—including the toilets—before they were purchased.



STYLE SELECTION

This clean, minimal arc in sterling silver, designed by Paloma Picasso, instantly transforms any wine bottle into a chic work of art. *Paloma's Groove Wine Holder*, \$825; tiffany.com

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Divested of pattern and extraneous ornament, mountain staples like chenille and leather feel surprisingly contemporary. "We kept the materials textural and interesting, but soft and quiet, so it was more of a backdrop for their art," says Tandysh. Inveterate travelers and collectors, the Nagelbergs filled the home with a vast array of works, ranging from the towering Guy Dill bronze in the courtyard to pieces by Sam Francis, Roy Lichtenstein and Jun Kaneko, whose striking ceramic sculptures stand sentry in the living room. Niches throughout accommodate and complement beaded dolls from South Africa, Murano glass from Italy and tribal art from Indonesia.

When they're not skiing Beaver Creek or hiking the network of nearby trails, the homeowners enjoy entertaining friends in the 1,000-bottle wine cellar (a dumbwaiter delivers dinner from the kitchen above) or visiting with grown daughters Elyse and Jodi. Sometimes Nagelberg just plants himself by the ponds with a stogie and a glass of port, watching the water course past drifts of new-fallen snow. "It brings tears to my eyes," confesses the homeowner. Fortunately, with this construction project, the only tears shed have been tears of joy. **L**



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INTERESTING BUT SOFT AND QUIET



WINE AND DINE

A dumbwaiter delivers food to the 1,000-bottle wine cellar, where computerized bar codes link each bottle to tasting notes.