MODERN CRAFT

On a mountain top high above Deer Valley, pros create a harmonious home where design, artistry and million-dollar views are perfectly aligned

BY BRAD MEE **PHOTOS BY** SCOT ZIMMERMAN

The great room opens to mountaintop views above Deer Valley. Designer Kristin Rocke fashioned a curved sofa and fitted console table to counterbalance the room's powerful lines and architecture. The cedar-clad ceiling features steel beams, and the asymmetric fireplace teams Delta Stone's Jackson Ledge with an Indiana limestone surround. The abstract painting is by Nina Tichava.



From the outside, the large wood, glass and stone house mimics its surroundings with soaring peaks and a monumental, grounded form. Perched atop Empire Pass, the home is located in Red Cloud—one of Deer Valley's most desirable ski-in, ski-out communities offering to-die-for views from most any vantage point. The setting is astonishing both in its beauty and in the inspiration it offers to those who design the homes located there. One such residence—recently completed by architect Ron Lee, builder Mike McNulty and designer Kristin Rocke—was originally conceived with a crisp, contemporary edge. But to better suit the community, the team recast it into the warm and welcoming dwelling it is today.

"Like so many things in life, this project began as one thing and evolved into what it was meant to be," says Rocke, who dubs the home's mountain style "Modern Craft." She explains, "It's artisanal, forward, elevated and, above all, comfortable." These are the same qualities prized by the home's new owners,

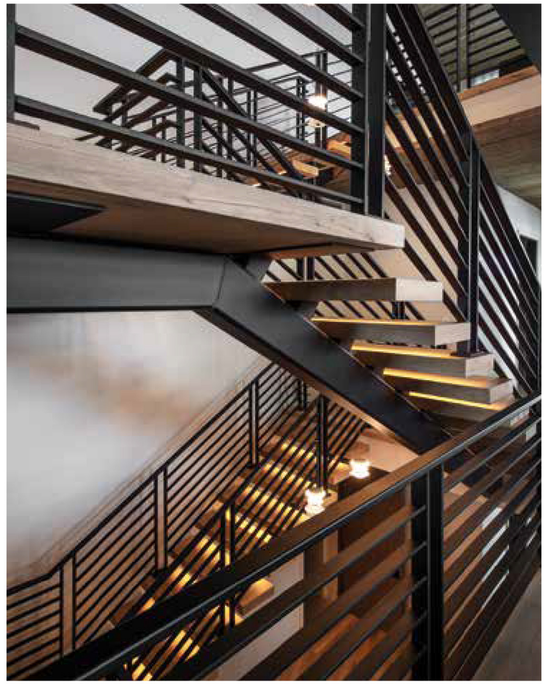
ABOVE: The morning room joins the open kitchen, dining and living areas on the main level. Varied ceiling planes and furniture groupings define the separate zones while white oak floors, warmed with a natural matte finish, help to unify them.

RIGHT(CLOCKWISE FORM TOP LEFT): The open-tread staircase climbs three stories and is illuminated by custom light fixtures that resemble cairns, or stacked stones.

Horizontal windows help foster the home's mountain-meets-modern architecture.

A collection of metal bowls celebrates the beauty of imperfect forms and finishes.

Rocke custom designed a multi-piece walnut coffee table that can be reconfigured in varied shapes and features open shelves.









Rift-sawn white oak floors and a comfort-driven mix of natural tones and organic materials unify the main level's open dining, kitchen and morning room areas.





who discovered and purchased the house while it was being built. It was a natural fit, Rocke explains. "The home found its people and the people found their home."

The owners were drawn to the interior-exterior marriage of architecture and materiality that lives large throughout the house. "There is a lot of inside-out in this home," says Rocke, referencing, for example, a stone wall that extends from the back of the home directly through its interior, imparting impressive scale and mass. "This architecture has a lot of muscle." Rugged stone fireplaces team with cedar-clad ceilings and large steel beams that adorn and accentuate the dynamic architecture and marry it to the alpine landscape and jaw-dropping views. And while the clients admired these powerful elements, they also coveted ease and comfort.

To deliver, Rocke walked a fine line, honoring the

ABOVE: "Dry, natural and extremely durable," says Rocke, describing finishes in the open kitchen. A clear, matte finish dresses walnut cabinetry and Taj Mahal quartzite countertops boast a leathered finish. The cabinets are by Swirl Woodcraft and the stone is from Apollo Marble and Granite.

LEFT: Fronting a pair of cabinets in the kitchen, kiln-fired glass panels by artist Kerry Transtrum resemble abstract landscapes.

RIGHT: One of the kitchen's two islands doubles as a counter-height dining table supported by sculptural hoofed legs, adding an unexpected art form to the space. Pendant lights are by Lasvit.



Kristin Rocke, principal of K. Rocke Design.

DECODING THE DETAILS

- Evoking the quiet tones of white oak, walls painted with Benjamin Moore's Pale Oak allows the interior's palette of natural materials—woodgrain marble, knotty cedar, Jackson Ledge stonework, walnut and more—to triumph.
- Custom glass installations by Kerry Transtrum deliver one-of-a-kind artisan pieces to the interior.
- The soft curves and rounded shapes of select furnishings and fixtures lend softness to the architecture's hard lines and sharp angles, fostering a warm and welcoming décor.
- Understated moldings allow the focus to be on the woodgrain, color and design of the doors they frame.
- Whether through color, scale or "look-at-me" detailing, design elements were selected to complement rather than detract from the home's million-dollar views.







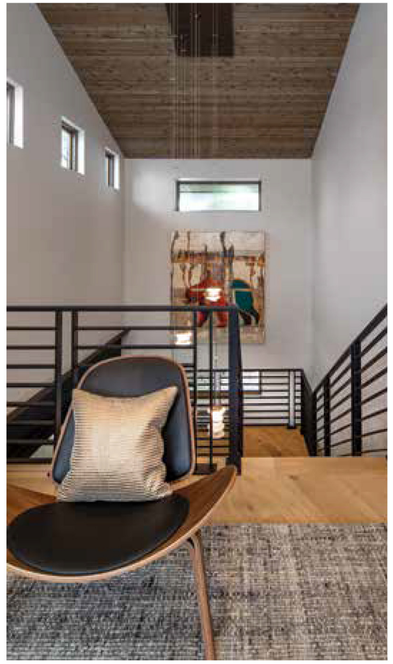
RIGHT: Amorphous hand-blown crystal pendants by Lasvit illuminate the powder bath uniquely dressed in dimensionally articulated woodgrain marble.

OPPOSITE TOP: "It feels like you're in a tree house," says Rocke, describing the primary bedroom. Curved furnishing lend a Zen-like ambiance to the space while tranquil colors foster its serenity. Custom chaise fabric is by Osborne & Little and the wood-framed chair's fabric is from Savel; the bench is by Vanguard.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Symmetry calms the primary bathroom, where a large window and freestanding tub draw they eye past facing custom vanities and a large, glass-doored shower. Cabinets by Swirl Woodcraft and the Grigio Perla marble is from Apollo Marble and Granite. Pendant lights are by Visual Comfort.









(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT):

The ski-in, ski-out home features bonderized steel elements that take on a natural patina while Jackson Ledge rock work introduces rugged texture and earthy hues. Designed by architect Ron Lee and built by contractor Mike McNulty.

The front door's design was influenced by rustic, vertical-plank style doors reimagined as modern and clean. The door features a cast glass inset by Kerry Transtrum.

Topography of the home's mountaintop site was replicated in the carved cabinet front of the lower-level powder room.

Custom light fixtures hang from the cedar-clad ceiling into the open stairwell.

\Wine supports are mounted to Backlit Cristallo Quartzite inside the lower-level wine room. Boxes and grids were custom designed to accommodate the owner's wine collection. A stone-topped, wood-slatted bar and attached walnut counter-height table invites guests to sit and gaze through the room's glass wall and suspended glass shelf.



home's majestic mountaintop site and bold architecture, while designing for the casual, comfortable lifestyle of the owners and their teenage sons. To front the great room's stone fireplace and offset the soaring ceiling and massive steel beams, Rocke designed a curvaceous, 18-foot sectional hugged in back by a crescent-shaped sofa table. "The curved seating promotes togetherness," she says. "It also relaxes the room's strong lines." Four rounded swivel chairs in the nearby morning room perform similarly, as do the wine room's drum-shaped pendant lights and contoured stools as well as the primary suite's shapely furnishings.

To elevate the decor's craft-inspired style, Rocke curated artisanal elements throughout. In the poised-for-action kitchen, for example, a hoofed metal sculpture serves as a base for the dining table extending from one of the room's two islands. Nearby, kiln-fired glass panels adorn cabinets framing the kitchen's large window. "They look like abstract landscapes," the designer says. Light fixtures resembling cairns illuminate the three-story staircase, undulating cast-glass panels in the front door bring to mind snow drifts and carved cabinet fronts portray the topography of the home's mountain site in a lower-level powder room. "Speaking to a Taliesin-esque aesthetic, they are all stylized takes on nature," the designer says. To unify the décor and allow these and other artisan elements to prevail decoratively, Rocke orchestrated a "quiet" backdrop of rift-sawn white oak floors, loosely patterned rugs and lux textiles including fine linens, velvets and mohairs. "They are authentic and discrete," she says.

The compelling mix of straight-lined and curved, commanding and restrained, modern and craft resonates equally with the dynamic architecture and comfort-loving clients. The effect is at once relaxed and engaging, an impressive feat inspired by a spectacular site. Rocke relished working on the home and recalls the delight of being greeted by a baby moose when arriving at the project numerous times. "It's unique and very special," she says. "It's an exquisite place to be." ■