high drama

With a vibrant palette and plenty of bold strokes, designer Kristin Rocke gives a new mountain home an infusion of fearless colors and striking details.

BY BRAD MEE **PHOTOS BY** SCOT ZIMMERMAN

Book-matched Panda marble slabs perform like art on the kitchen backsplashes. A concealed, full-height Wolf range hood allows the striking marble treatment to extend above the cooktop without interruption. A reveal between the cabinets and marble countertops accentuates the stone's thinness. “It's very fresh and fosters a sense of lightness,” designer Kristin Rocke says. Pendant lights designed by Sean Lavin for Tech Lighting.


CAPRI DOLCE VITA

The allure of hilltop living is at an all-time high, as is the number of those seeking a private sanctuary in Utah's spectacular mountains and ski towns. A new house located in Park City's Promontory resort community was created with them in mind. The 7,160-square-foot spec home was collaboratively designed by K. Rocke Design, Inouye Design and Greg Young Construction with Keller Luxury Homes. Together they conceived bold architecture, dramatic rooflines and expansive windows to define the modern structure and to connect it to the view-laden site. Inside the home, designer Kristin Rocke orchestrated the interior's finishes and fixtures to fashion an understated modern-meets-mountain backdrop that would allow any prospective home buyer to infuse personal style into the décor.

Quiet white walls, a dry-stacked stone fireplace, light-toned wood floors and sedate countertop materials are among the elements Rocke used to concoct the sophisticated, low-key canvas. It created an ideal jumping-off point for the texture-rich, neutral décor many mountain dwellers crave for their hilltop residences. But for this property's new owners, it inspired something much more spirited.

"She's a firecracker," says Rocke of the big-personality client who purchased the house with her husband. "They both love to be energized and excited by their environments." Rocke is no stranger





TOP RIGHT: Extended rooflines shade the Promontory home's expansive patios and broad windows. Architecture by Inouye Design and construction by Greg Young Construction with Keller Luxury Homes.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A mix of angled and rounded forms fosters the interior's layered look. A walnut console, stained in hot pink, pairs with a teal Vanguard sofa and custom pillows to deliver colorful statements to the living area.

OPPOSITE: Views of blue skies and a rolling landscape balance the interior's colorful accents. An artful ensemble of coffee tables—including charred wood, walnut and smoked glass-topped pieces—anchors the great room's conversation area with rounded forms. The chandelier is by Kelly Wearstler and the club chairs are by Bernhardt.

TOP LEFT: Blue and green Iittala glasses and pottery mugs by Claireware fill the kitchen's open glass shelves.

BOTTOM LEFT: An open X table base anchors the end of the kitchen's dining island. Bar stools are by Mater.

ABOVE: A crystal-rod chandelier makes a dazzling statement in the great room's dining area. Rocke customized a Kyle Bunting rug featuring a fragmented design of multi-colored hide pieces. It accentuates the home's angled architecture and color-charged décor.

to working with dazzling hues and punchy patterns, so when the couple asked her to amp up their new digs, she was ready to roll.

Empty nesters with grown children and grandchildren, the owners craved color and high drama for their family getaway. Beige was not on the wish list. “This house could have gone a lot of directions and been successful,” says Rocke, who liberally spun her color wheel to enliven the entire home. With such a serene decorative backdrop, you’d might think full-throttle color would feel out of place. Not so, Rocke insists. “A broad palette of bright, saturated colors holds well here because there is so much color in the sky and landscape.”

A mix of patterns, vivid colors and shapely forms enervates the main level’s open living spaces beneath a soaring butterfly ceiling clad in slatted poplar. In the living area, for example, vibrant vases and an array of splashy pillows accent larger color statements made by a curved, raspberry-hued console and shapely teal sofa. Rocke tempered the exuberance with hits of black showing up on everything

A door conceals the pantry from the kitchen. When open, it offers views of the entire great room area.

TOP RIGHT: Christian Lacroix wallpaper wraps the jewel-like pantry in a dramatic green faux bois pattern.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Rocke dressed the windows with tailored blinds made from Christian Lacroix's glowing Herbarium Crepuscule fabric.







“The powder room is very high-drama and sexy,” says Rocke, who positioned a stone floating vanity above a lower level devised for storage. The wallpaper is by Phillip Jeffries, glass tile is by AKDO and the gold sconces are by Kelly Wearstler for Visual Comfort.

from upholstered armchairs and charred wood coffee tables to a Kelly Wearstler chandelier and steel fireplace panels. “Black is a thread that helps hold the décor together,” Rocke explains.

In the nearby kitchen, black makes a jaw-dropping statement on new countertops and book-matched backsplashes rendered in Panda marble. Recessed lighting illuminates the walls’ striking stone. “It’s nature’s artwork,” Rocke says. Black recurs with thin, wire-framed pendant lights and the dining island’s weighty X table base. “A contrast in heavy and light elements prevents the black from being domineering,” the designer explains. Nearby, the dining area’s dazzling light fixture composed of crystal rods hangs above a dark table and a custom rug artfully crafted in rainbow-hued pieces of cowhide. “With an almost fragmented look, it picks up on the angles and colors of the décor,” Rocke says.

The designer didn’t save all of the surprises for the main living areas—far from it. In the butler’s pantry located behind the kitchen, Rocke covered the walls in emerald faux bois wallpaper and dressed the windows with blinds of vibrant blooms on black. The powder room is no less eye-popping. “This is a more-is-more moment,” the designer explains. Gilded black wallpaper, shimmering glass tile and a floating, petrified wood stone vanity lead her list of scene-stealing players. “No surface went untouched,” she says.

Multi-colored bunny wallpaper animates the guest bathroom, where a light composed of blue and green handblown glass globes resembles bunches of grapes connected by fabric-covered swags. “We didn’t use a lot of restraint here,” Rocke jests. A teal-hued version of the same wallcovering dresses





TOP RIGHT: For the guest suite’s bedroom, Rocke chose Hunt Slonem’s Hutch in a turquoise-on-white variation. “Teal tones work well in mountain homes,” she explains.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Rocke devised a whimsical chandelier made from colorful pendants of blown-glass orbs united by fabric-covered swags.

OPPOSITE: Designer Hunt Slonem’s Lucky Charm bunny pattern animates the guest bathroom’s walls. A column mirror and diffused-glass walls help foster the room’s light and bright ambiance.

OPPOSITE PAGE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): Picturesque mountain views inspired the primary bedroom's saturated colors. Phillip Jeffries Longitude wallpaper pairs with draperies tailored in Whimsical, an embroidered watercolor fabric by Kravet.

A ceiling covered with a zebra pattern crowns the lower-level powder room wrapped in Scalamandré's fanciful zebra wallcovering. Obscured smoke glass doors and a marble countertop compose a vanity that floats below illuminated metallic wall tiles. Pendant light designed by Peter Bristol for Visual Comfort.

Offering views of the scenic landscape, a hanging daybed by Dedon furnishes one of the home's spacious decks.

ABOVE: A commissioned screen by artist Jimmi Toro doubles as a room divider and art installation in the lower-level family room. The expansive fireplace features a combed-plaster face, Cristallo quartzite surround and a terrazzo hearth that extends to form a floating bench. Detailed plaster work is by Iconography.

PORTRAIT HEATHER NAN

the adjoining bedroom. "Blue-greens are another thread that promote continuity throughout the home." In the primary bedroom, an embroidered watercolor-like drapery fabric pairs with textured, multi-hued striped wallpaper to frame vast mountain scenery. "The views here are breathtaking," Rocke says. And like a dialed-down take on the color-charged main-floor spaces, the lower level family room is equally detail-driven. Cristallo quartzite and combed plaster define the fireplace, Designers Guild pillows splash with color and a commissioned screen by artist Jimmi Toro performs like a space-defining art installation. "Screens are great at segmenting space and creating intimacy," Rocke says. Not surprisingly, this one also delivers big personality, not unlike the countless other details and features that define the mountain home's drama-driven design. ■



Kristin Rocke, principal of K. Rocke Design