

TWIST OF FATE

FOR A COUPLE WITH ROMANTIC ROOTS IN VAIL,
LIVING IN A GLASS HOUSE HAS MANY CHARMS.

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Overlooking Gore Creek, this home created by designer Dana Hugo and architect Kyle Webb has the perfect après-ski vibe during Vail winters. The Colorado Buff Strip Stone fireplace features eye-catching steel details by A.G. Welding for a more contemporary take on Alpine style, while A. Rudin armchairs covered in a purple Nobilis upholstery sit alongside custom sofas by Tom's Upholstery.



If you happened to be waiting in line by yourself for the ski lift on the Vail slopes in the early 1980s, you were obligated to yell out, “Single!” A little embarrassing, yes, but for the owners of this house the practice resulted in becoming a couple. “I yelled out ‘Single!’ and these two guys turned around and said, ‘Come on up!’” the now wife recalls. “So, I went up and we skied together for the rest of the day, and that’s how I met my husband—a cheesy lift line pickup!”

Needless to say, the Vail region has held a place in the couple’s hearts ever since. In 2001, they purchased the secondary side of a duplex overlooking Gore Creek, a tributary that runs toward Vail Valley. But as their family grew, space began to feel tight, so when the owners of the duplex’s primary townhouse decided to sell, the couple snapped it up for themselves. It took the owners a good six months to decide whether to combine the two townhomes into one house or tear it down and build a single-family dwelling from the ground up. Eventually, they chose to start from scratch and build a new five-bedroom house with a rustic-modern ambience that capitalizes on the spectacular views.



Regular entertainers, the owners wanted an open-plan, one-level living space and as much outdoor usable space as possible for summertime gatherings. Large glass walls open up onto a deck that wraps from the home's north side to the west side dining and lounge area with a fire pit. Inside, the living, dining and kitchen areas flow together in one organic space that opens up to the decks. "We had the opportunity to really take advantage of the views of the creek and the mountains around the house," architect Kyle Webb explains. "They gravitated to a kind of traditional great room idea, but they also wanted a home that brings the outdoors in. We settled on something that you could call a modern glass house with a rustic flair."

The secret to that aesthetic lies in the materials. Webb worked with general contractor Ted Leach on a combination of stone veneer, stucco, reclaimed barn wood and steel accents to tie it all together. The furnishings are a similar

material mix. "The couple was looking for modern but not over-the-top," designer Dana Hugo says. "They wanted a rustic mountain feel with a little bit of industrial flair, so I knew it would be about textures. At one point we realized we had enough metal and wood, so we softened it with the fabrics, pillows and throws."

To bring warmth to the neutral, modern spaces, Hugo brought in specific accent colors for each room. Alongside the purple chairs, pillows and throws for the great room space, she also used a creative interpretation of the hue for the pantry door—a black and white print of beets by a local artist in Denver. Downstairs in the media room, blue and orange accents complement wallpaper with an industrial tanker print. The wallcovering appears so real, Hugo says, that guests find it temptingly tactile. "People automatically go in there and touch the walls thinking that it's really metal flaking off the wall."

Thanks to floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors, to sit in the open-plan living and dining room is to be surrounded by views of the forested landscape. The scenery inside includes a rift-sawn white oak and steel coffee table by Summit Woodworks and a New Moon rug with a bespoke ombré pattern.



A striking Berman I Rosetti table crafted with a charcoal-colored walnut surface and a steel base anchors the dining room. It's lined by rows of Contemporary Klismos leather side chairs by RH in brushed black oak and leather. The Hubbardton Forge chandelier overhead continues the home's industrial theme.



The home's modern-industrial feel is embodied in the kitchen. Wood panels covering the refrigerator and composing the cabinets are treated with a finish that mimics steel and complements the range hood, all of which are by Genesis Hospitality Corporation. Rustic finishes are found in the island, which is crafted with a leathered Calacatta Fendi countertop and reclaimed barn wood. Giada, the family's golden retriever, seems to appreciate the look.

Hugo continued the modern-industrial theme with lighting in the dining room and kitchen, as well as an operable steel dining table cranked up just above the 36-inch countertop level. "I think it weighed about 1,200 pounds and it took about eight guys to get in there," Hugo laughs.

Outside, the cultivated garden and expansive yard by landscape designer James Fitz provides a gentle natural contrast to the more rugged expanse of aspen, spruce and pine trees of the surrounding terrain. "I've never gotten tired of the view here. To wake up in the morning and look down the creek—I love it," the wife says. "During winter, it's beautiful and snow covered, and as everything melts in the summer, it becomes like a raging river by June and sounds like we're living beside the ocean."

That's just one of the scenes the largely glass house allows the couple to view. "We've seen quite a few bears and foxes over the years, and last year we had an eagle that was roosting down the creek from us," the wife says. "But I have never seen a mountain lion—and I'm not unhappy about that!" But the scene from the windows that is the most sentimental is not fauna, it's the mountain face where they met nearly 40 years ago. As the wife says, "We still giggle about it when we use that lift." 

In the den, an RH sectional upholstered in a washed Belgian linen capitalizes on the views out across Gore Creek. A Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams armchair brings a sculptural note to the space—as does the owners' woolly sheep side table. The custom live-edge walnut table is by Summit Woodworks, while the Chinese rug is one that the wife inherited from her grandparents.



The sliding glass doors roll away to blur the line between indoors and outdoors. They wrap around multiple sides of the house, opening to a deck which, in the warmer months, is a seamless extension of the living and entertaining spaces.



Above: In the son's bedroom, materials and textures abound. The accent wall behind the bed is covered with Nature Précieuse, a woven wallpaper by Elltis. A custom bed by Tom's Upholstery is home to Casamance cushions with an antler motif and an X Marks the Spot lumbar pillow from Inside Out Home Furnishings and Design. The Pili Pendant Light is by Arturo Alvarez.

Opposite: There is ample space for lounging elsewhere in the son's room after a long day skiing in the modern cream and black Flag Halyard-style armchair purchased at Rove Concepts. The petrified-wood side table from Jayson Home strikes a rustic note while the artwork purchased at Inside Out Home Furnishings and Design has an equine theme.