

THE COLORADO HOME REDEFINED™

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MOUNTAIN LAURELS

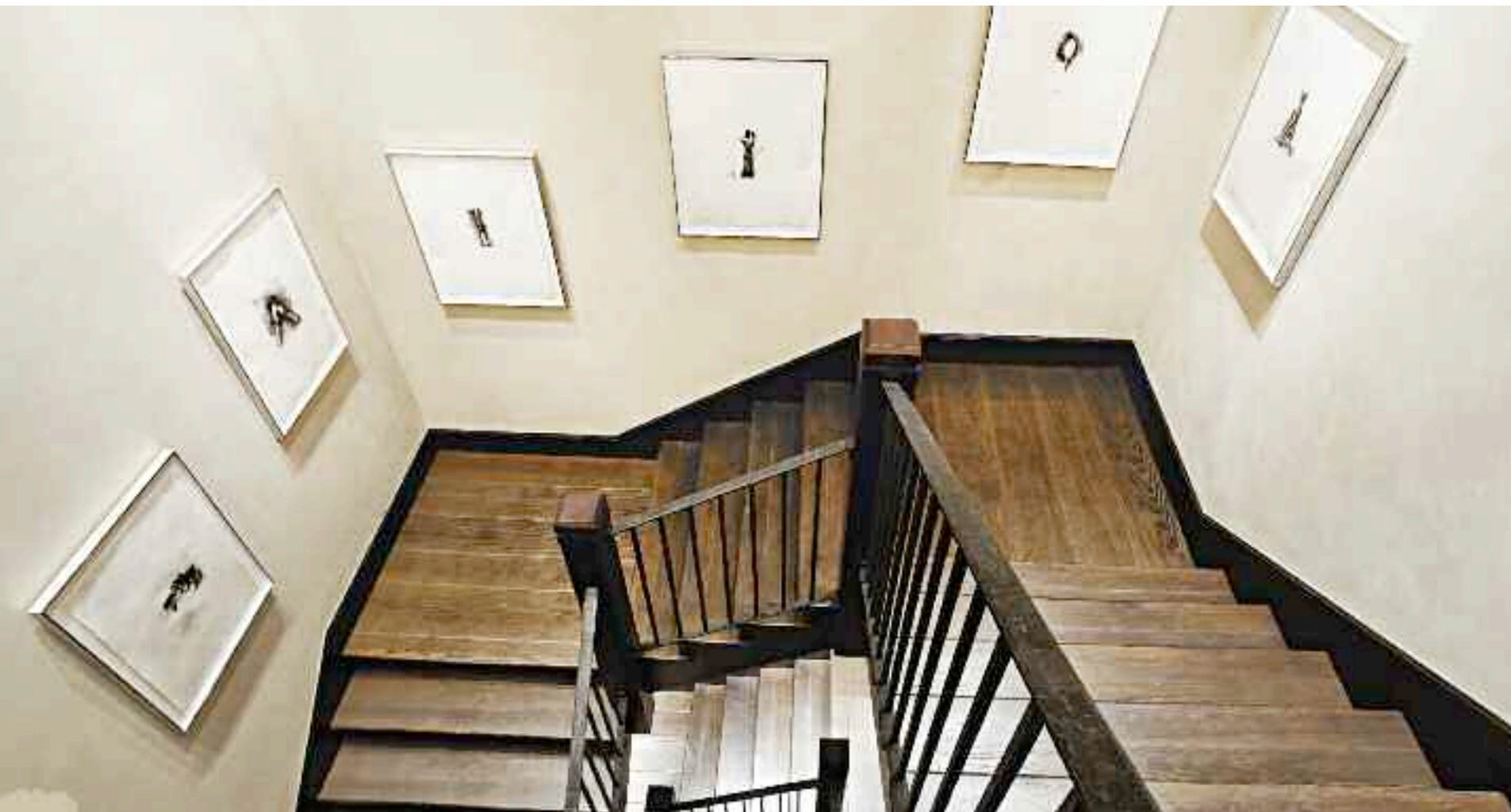
WRITTEN BY SAXON HENRY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL BRANDS & ROSS KRIBBS

“WE FEEL VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE HAD SUCH AN INCREDIBLE TEAM TO BRING THIS HOME TO LIFE,” SAY THE OWNERS OF THIS STUNNING ASPEN RETREAT. The design team the owners are referring to consists of architect Scott Smith, AIA, of Aspen’s Reno Smith Architects; Fort Worth, Texas, interior designer Joe Minton of Joseph Minton, Inc.; and contractor Dan Harris of ACME, Inc., in Snowmass. Smith, however, insists that a large measure of the credit goes to the husband and wife. “The homeowners were very

ARCHITECT	Scott Smith, AIA, Reno Smith Architects				
INTERIOR DESIGNER	Joe Minton, Joseph Minton, Inc.				
HOME BUILDER	Dan Harris, ACME, Inc.				
BEDROOMS	5	BATHROOMS	6	SQUARE FEET	6,500



WE TOOK OUR INSPIRATION
FROM NATURE, **CHOOSING MATERIAL TO**
FURTHER AN EARTHY, NATURAL FEEL



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aware of good design,” remarks Smith. “They didn’t want to drag the process out, but they also didn’t want to rush—they wanted to get to the right solution with each decision we made.”

An obvious decision in this renovation and expansion was opening the interiors to the spectacular setting, a feature the original house lacked. “Before, a large shed roof sloped down the south-facing façade, cutting off the views,” explains Smith. “We added banks of windows and large gables for a panoramic effect. We also expanded and reworked the interiors and exterior.”

STYLE SELECTION

Bring modern charm to your home with a table lamp that features a black nickel finish and black silk pongee shade. *Paris Table Lamp, \$1,980; marianjamieson.com*

Though the homeowners are newlyweds, each has a sizable family, so the interior plan was designed to accommodate them, their adult children and spouses, and their grandchildren, while providing everyone with



STONE FACED

The stone fireplace was a structural element that remained from the original home. “The beam and purlin pattern on the ceiling helped give the spaces a more comfortable human scale,” says architect Scott Smith.



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privacy when desired. “We were merging two large families,” says Minton. “The homeowners asked us for a kid-friendly home that would welcome different generations and lots of friends.”

Ample spaces for large get-togethers meant statuesque rooms, some nearly two stories tall, which are sliced in the center by a beautifully undulant stairway. To keep the tallest spaces from feeling overwhelming, Smith and partner Augie Reno designed a pattern of purlin ceiling timbers to complement the beams on the ceilings. Rather than import wood for the ceiling, they chose Aspen wood, which was harvested and milled locally, and had it faux finished to harmonize with the elemental palette.



SCENIC DINE

Special attention was paid to making the retreat comfortable year-round. For summer, cross ventilation was considered, and radiant-heat flooring keeps snow off the porch in winter.



STYLE SELECTION

Featuring elements of style and comfort, this elegant chair is hand carved in mahogany with chocolate leather decking. *Castilla Armchair*, \$1,799; phcollection.com



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Great consideration was also given to the scale of the rooms in which the grandchildren would sleep. "In the guest master suite, there were additional large closets," says the lady of the house. "From them, we created baby-sized rooms where we put baby beds that convert to toddler beds. The toddlers love their rooms because they feel like baby bear—everything's their size!"

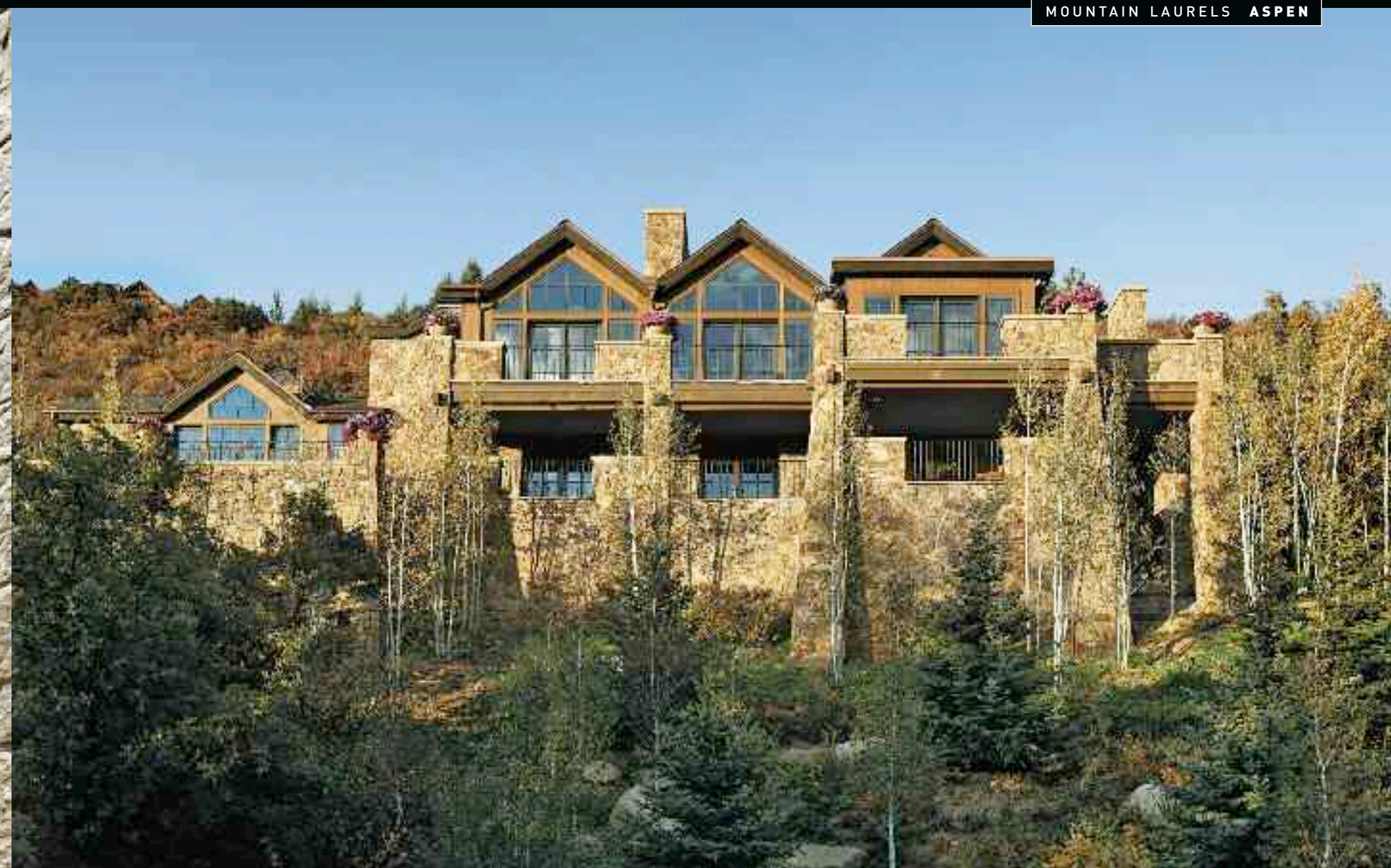
The homeowners spend each summer in the 6,500-square-foot retreat, and because a number of families visit for as many as six weeks at a time, the guest suites are equipped with kitchens and laundry rooms to make everyone feel at home. "At one point, we had 14 people here, and the home handled it so well," says the lady of the house. "We were thrilled to discover that the fire pit became the perfect place for roasting marshmallows for s'mores each evening."

SEE THROUGH

"I wanted the intimacy of panes," says Minton. "Everyone else feared they would block the views, but I explained that the panes would frame the views and make them prettier."

**SMOOTH MOVE**

"I am very happy that we achieved a unified design that doesn't look like an addition," Smith says. "That was the biggest challenge, and it provides me with the most excitement."



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There are a number of avid cooks in the family, so a well-appointed main kitchen was a must. Because the home would be a gathering place for all ages, Minton and his colleague Paula Lowes were asked to find materials that would weather spills and romping. Minton has known the homeowners for nearly three decades and has designed residences for the wife in the past, so he set out to create warm, welcoming spaces for bringing loved ones together. He also created a serene backdrop for the couple's art collection, which was curated by Dallas-based John Runyon. "I kept the color palette neutral so the art would stand out," says Minton. "We took our inspiration from nature, choosing every material in the house, including the fabrics, to further an earthy, natural feel."

The couple couldn't be happier with the results. "The minute we walk in," says the lady of the house, "we're uplifted by the art, soothed by the fabrics and exhilarated by the views!" **L**

BLENDED ELEGANCE

Farmer's stone ensures the home is in tune with its setting. "Because the house is up so high," says Smith, "it provides us with the perfect opportunity to capture Aspen's magnificent views."