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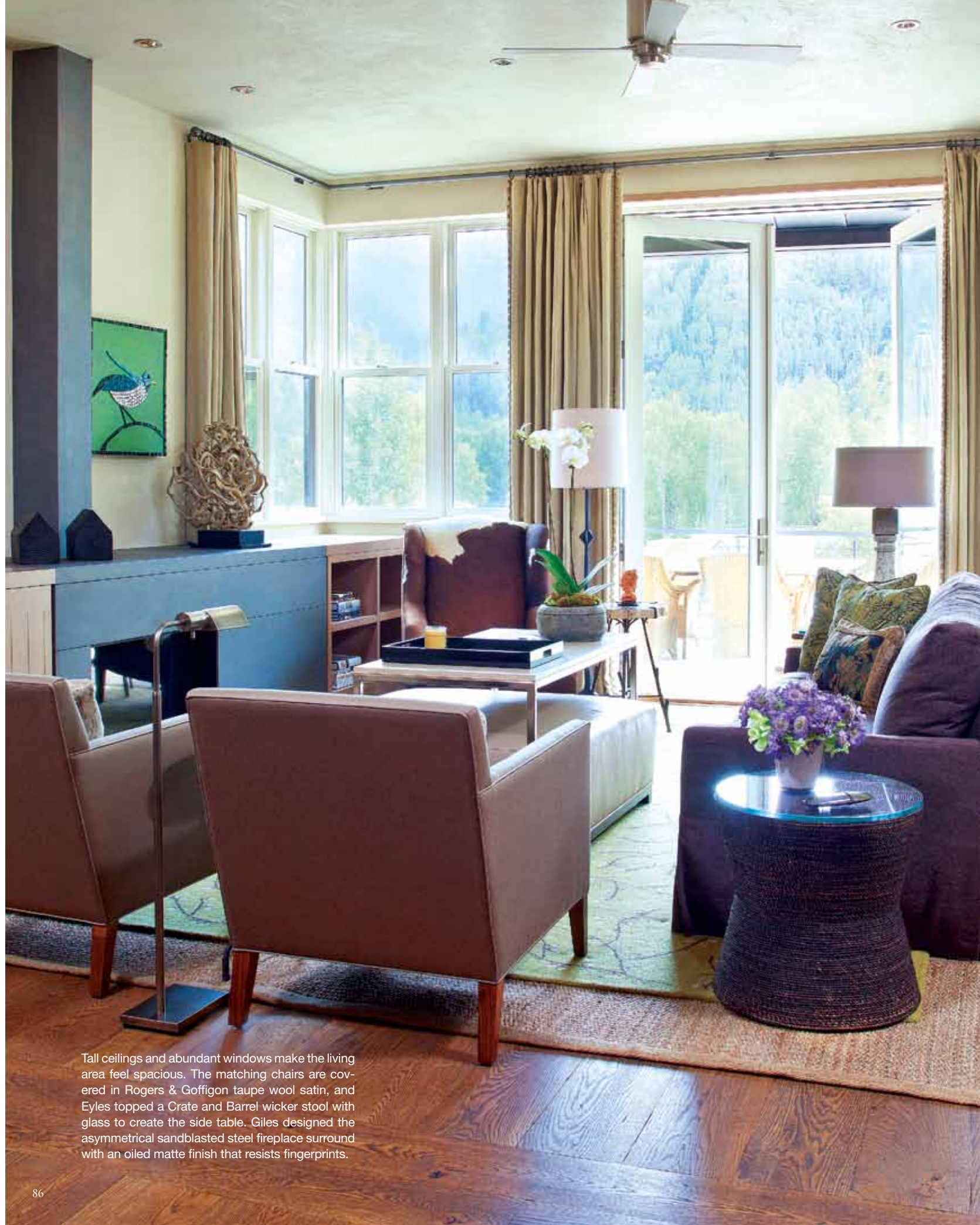
SIZED RIGHT

A NEW TELLURIDE HOME FITS SEAMLESSLY INTO ITS TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD, THANKS TO THOUGHTFUL SPACE PLANNING AND A DESIGN TEAM THAT DEFTLY HANDLED THE UNEXPECTED

STORY BY ELIZA CROSS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES RAY SPAHN

A deck off the living area faces mountain views and the town park below. FACING PAGE: Architect Connie Giles specified tinted board-formed concrete and stained cedar siding for the home's exterior; the custom garage door is clad with panels of bonderized sheet steel. A two-track driveway is a nod to the home's historic roots and satisfies Telluride's mandate to reduce impervious stormwater runoff.



Tall ceilings and abundant windows make the living area feel spacious. The matching chairs are covered in Rogers & Goffigon taupe wool satin, and Eyles topped a Crate and Barrel wicker stool with glass to create the side table. Giles designed the asymmetrical sandblasted steel fireplace surround with an oiled matte finish that resists fingerprints.

Those who build homes in the mountains understand that the rewards are tempered by risks,

from blizzards and forest fires to pine beetles and grizzly bears. What most people never have to deal with, however, is an unwanted intruder in the form of a 33,000-pound boulder. On January 4, 2009, a rock the size of a Volkswagen bus rolled off a Telluride hillside and crashed into the construction site of Simon and Linda Eyles' new home. Fortunately, no one was there at the time.

"The rock destroyed much of the wood framing and bent the steel frame, so we had to start the framing process again almost from square one," says Connie Giles, the project's Telluride-based architect. "It took us about three months to remove the rock and clear the debris, and then we all just got back to work."

The sunny lot was originally the site of a 1970s home that the Eyles discovered for sale during a vacation. "As soon as we drove into Telluride, we knew we wanted to be here," says Linda, a Houston-based interior designer. "Telluride is an authentic town with history, culture and charm—not to

mention a world-class ski resort. But we wanted our home's design to be a little more modern, and we weren't sure if that meant remodeling or building something brand new." And so the couple commissioned Giles to help them create a home with a contemporary aesthetic that would also be a welcoming retreat for family and friends.

"We explored remodeling the existing house, but the foundation would have restricted our design options so much that we decided to start from scratch," Giles explains. "The challenge was to create as much width as possible on a 25-foot lot. With setbacks on either side, that left us with about 19 feet to work with."

Giles researched the other houses in the district to get a feel for the existing architecture, as well as the elements the town's strict architectural review commission had allowed in the past. Her final design, while distinctly modern, relates well to the surrounding neighborhood. "The home's steep roof pitch and vertical proportions acknowledge its tradition >>

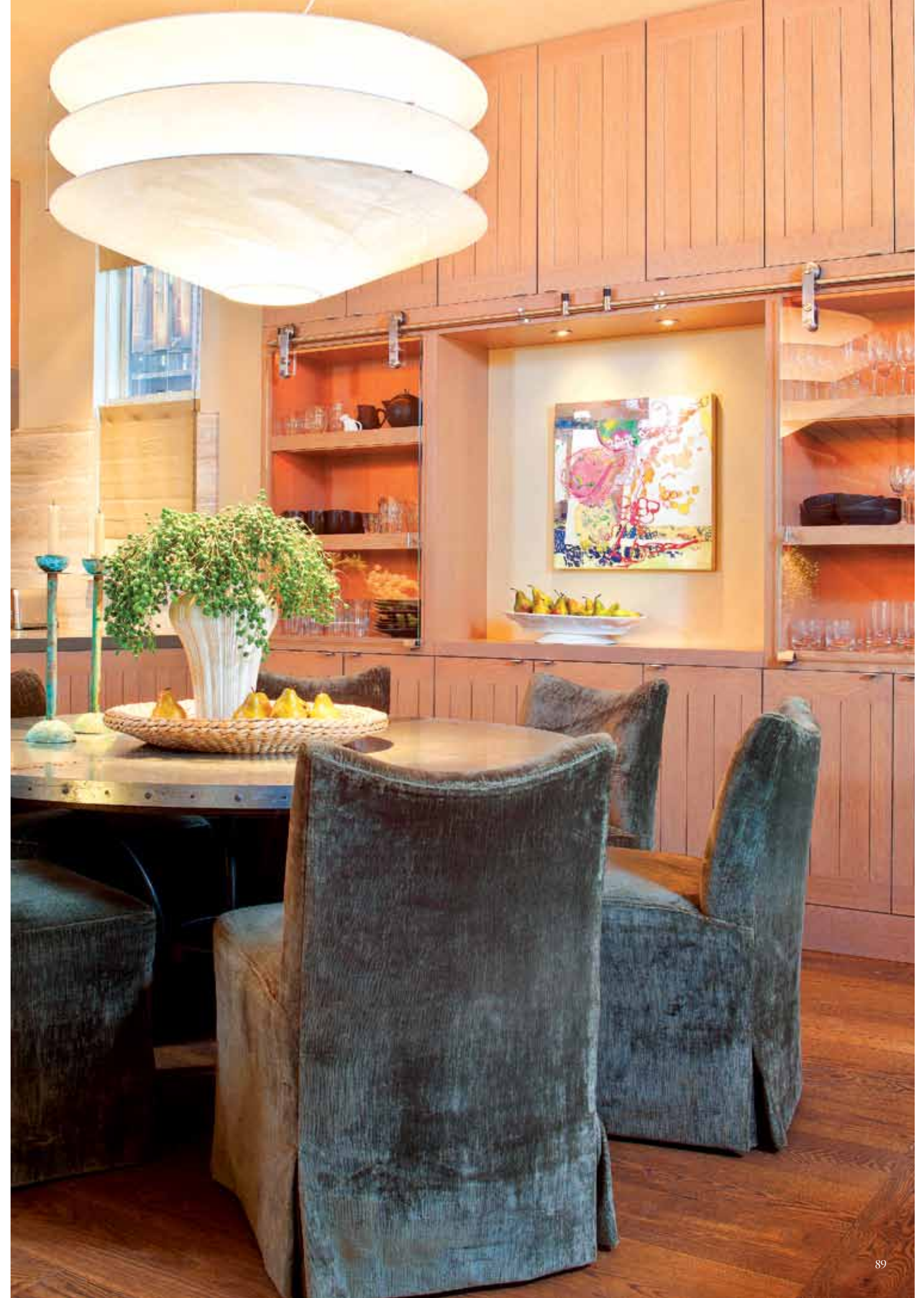
BELOW, LEFT: A pair of slipper chairs can do double duty at the dining table; slipcovers are Schumacher fabric. Bennett Forgeworks created the base for the antique French wooden dough bowl. BELOW, RIGHT: At the home's entrance, built-in cabinetry fitted with baskets provides a place for storing hats and gloves; lower cabinets keep snowy boots off the floor.

ARCHITECTURE BY **CONNIE GILES ARCHITECTURE**

INTERIOR DESIGN BY **LINDA EYLES DESIGN**



The custom kitchen cabinets are white oak, and the backsplash is a slab of natural limestone. “Because of its pattern, it’s a very forgiving surface,” Eyles says. Counters are easy-maintenance NuCrete by Sonoma Cast Stone, and the glass-front refrigerator is by Thermador. FACING PAGE: Eyles had the dining chairs upholstered in plush velvet, and they can easily be moved to other areas for versatility. The round dining table is trimmed in steel and topped with galvanized metal. “The surface patinas over time, so you never have to worry about the finish getting damaged,” Eyles says. Giles designed the space-saving built-in cabinets with sliding glass fronts.



in a historic town,” Giles says. “We used a limited palette of materials and muted colors to create a backdrop for the dramatic landscape toward which the home is oriented.”

Giles situated the main living area of the three-story, 2,500-square-foot home on the central level, giving it generous 11-foot ceilings. “The added height really helps the space feel less narrow,” she explains. The garage, entrance and guest spaces are located at ground level, and the top floor houses the master suite and a home office.

Eyles created the home’s clean-lined, comfortable interiors with durability and low maintenance in mind, choosing wood paneling for the entry walls, sturdy wide-plank hardwood floors and a galvanized-metal-topped dining table. “We’re in snow country and we have three chocolate labs, so we appreciate easy-care materials and furnishings,” she says. “We also wanted the home to feel peaceful and calm. The

color palette puts the focus on the views outside, with natural browns, beiges, taupes, greens and blues highlighting the trees, sky and earth.”

Flexibility was the key to making the relatively compact space work. “Many of our furnishings do double duty,” Eyles says. “I had the velvet dining chairs custom made, and they’re extremely comfortable. We often pull them into the living room when we’re entertaining. We also have an ottoman that fits underneath a custom coffee table, so you can pull it out and put your feet up or use it for additional seating.”

Glass doors open out to a spacious deck, further extending the living area and overlooking magnificent views. High above the house, a sturdy rockfall catch fence is a safety feature that provides added peace of mind—and a reminder that a tenacious design team’s determination to overcome the challenges of mountain living yielded a great and lasting reward. ○

LIVING LARGE in a COMPACT HOUSE

Architect Connie Giles and interior designer Linda Eyles share seven secrets for squeezing maximum livability from every inch of space:

White and light-colored ceilings reflect the natural light in a room.

Flexibility is key when creating sleeping spaces for guests. "Our guest room has a king-sized bed that separates into two twins, and we also have a bunkroom, and a day bed with a trundle," Eyles says. "These options are great for guys' ski weekends."

Skylights make spaces feel larger and brighter. "If a skylight is placed close to a wall that's finished in a light color, then that wall will reflect light into adjacent rooms," Giles says.


Sliding doors are a space-saving choice, since the doors glide along the wall rather than swinging open.

Built-in cabinetry installed near the front entrance "keeps things off the floors and helps everyone stay organized," Eyles says. "It's our 'mud room.' When we have guests, they're each assigned their own basket."

Closets under the staircases provide spacious, unobtrusive storage.

Rooms that do double- or triple-duty maximize space. The couple's home office serves as both a guest room and laundry room, with a washer and dryer hidden behind closet doors.



more  For a guide to this home's products and pros, visit mountainliving.com/sizedright.



Tucked beneath the eaves of the house, the master bedroom feels spacious under the soaring roofline. French doors open to a private balcony, and Giles fit tall, narrow windows around the doors and bed to bring in additional sunlight. FACING PAGE: A large soaking tub invites relaxation in the master bathroom, and skylights wash the walls with natural light.