

Rocky ROADS

A COLORADO MOUNTAIN RETREAT BLENDS LUXURIOUSLY REFINED AND
NATURAL ELEMENTS AMIDST ITS MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPE.

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Babbling Brook

The house is divided into two separate wings connected by a bridge that doesn't reach the ground.

"There's a stream that runs under that bridge," interior designer Rebecca Kaufman says. She worked with architects Kevin and Wendy Lind of Axial Arts and builder Forrest Watson of Beck Building Company to craft the home with log and chink exterior walls and snow-fence paneling on the lower level.





Lay of the Land

The front door and garage are on the upper floor of the home, which affords both floors an excellent view of the valley below. Split up into two wings, the unique custom architectural feature breaks up the space; the separation allows the living area to feel intimate instead of sprawling.

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he trick to building your dream home is knowing how you'll use it, and then designing it to suit those needs.

For homeowner Deanna Armstrong and her family, their vision was of a rustic hideaway nestled in the Rocky Mountains of Granby, Colorado.

"We wanted it to be somewhere we could escape," Deanna says. "We wanted a relaxing place, someplace we could host and entertain." The Armstrongs partnered with the perfect team to design, build and decorate the mountain retreat, making their wishes a reality.

Rooted in the Past

It all started with the land, which is part of a 3,200-square-foot guest ranch in Colorado. The ranch hosts both short-term vacationers and also has lots for permanent residents as well. When the Armstrong family bought property on the ranch, they knew they wanted the home to feel like it belonged there.

"The idea we had was to build it as a cabin or home that would fit into the Rocky Mountains," Deanna says. To do this, they hired a team that had worked on several other homes on the same ranch, which allowed the Armstrong structure to blend into the community and feel rooted to its location.

"The whole process took about a year and a half," interior designer Rebecca Kaufman of rebal design says. Once she



View from the Top

Throughout the home, large windows ensure a magnificent view of the Rockies and a flood of natural light. "We added more windows for natural lighting," Rebecca says. "Some cabins can get a dark feel. Bringing light into the space helps with that." Especially with the reclaimed beetle-kill ceilings and stone, the natural light gives the home a warm and welcoming vibe instead of looking cold and impersonal.







LEFT | Go Big or Go Home

The kitchen is Deanna's favorite room in the house. "That's where everyone always is," she says. With its knotty alder cabinetry and handmade clay tiles on the floor, we can see why. She and her husband toured other homes on the ranch that opted for smaller kitchens, but Deanna wanted to go big. "If I did it again, I might even make the kitchen a little bigger."

OPPOSITE | Sit by the Hearth

While the home doesn't feature a lot of color, Rebecca made sure to incorporate subtle tones that would blend well with the natural wood and stone. "There are soft greens, blues and reds throughout the home," she says. Elements such as area rugs, upholstered furniture and wall art provide a colorful touch.

and the team found out what the Armstrongs pictured, they worked together to come up with ideas and samples.

"I go through a sampling process with the architect and builder to make sure the wood all works together," she says. "We pull the finishes together, then show them to the client. It takes a couple rounds to figure it out."

Realizing the Vision

The result was a dreamy mountain retreat where the Armstrongs can vacation for years to come. "It has a relaxed setting that's comfortable and inviting," Rebecca says. From the warm tones of the





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wood on the walls, ceilings and floors to the luxurious furniture and roomy kitchen, the home is a place to long for and relish.

"We wanted to build it for the future so that our children, when they someday have families, will want to come vacation there as well," Rebecca says. The finished product certainly fits the bill.

See Sources, page 128.

Lazy Sundays

The bottom floor of the home consists of three bedrooms and three baths with a lounge area in the middle. "The most comfortable piece of furniture is the L couch in the downstairs TV area," Deanna says. "We're usually there for New Year's, so we spend New Year's Day on that couch watching football." On the wall behind it, Rebecca painted the name of Deanna's childhood family farm.



Recycle to the Rescue

Throughout the home, Rebecca and the team used reclaimed wood to add classic rusticity. In the master bedroom on the upper floor, the headboard and closet walls feature vintage painted wood. The scuffed and peeling paint brings a little color to the room while reminding viewers of its origin.



“We wanted it to be somewhere
we could escape.”

—Deanna Armstrong

A narrow hallway with a rustic wooden ceiling featuring exposed beams and decorative carved brackets. A long, narrow red rug with a bold geometric pattern in blue and white runs down the center of the hallway. On the left, a wooden wall is adorned with a series of black sconces, each holding two lit candles. On the right, a wooden desk with a leather chair is visible, and a sliding barn door is partially open, revealing a dining area in the background.

Bridge to Somewhere

A narrow bridge connects the living area to the mudroom and garage. Yet Rebecca didn't let the space go to waste; instead, she turned it into a convenient office with extra storage. Sconces reminiscent of candles travel the length of the bridge to give the space rustic charm.







Slumber Party

Downstairs are three bedrooms: two adult bedrooms and a room just for kids. "The idea is that each family can have a room, with the kids in a bunk room," Deanna says. With comfortable mattresses, reading lights to sneak a book to bed and curtains for a little privacy, this room is a kid-friendly dream come true.

*"The home has a casual, mountain feel
with warm tones and as much natural light as possible."*

—Rebecca Kaufman



TOP | Custom Class

Throughout the home, Rebecca created a balance between rustic and elegant. "We wanted to keep that guest-friendly character without going too rustic," Rebecca says. "There's a level of refinement but also a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere." Touches such as marble countertops and Roman shades pair with wrought-iron hanging lanterns and reclaimed wood cabinets to exude the perfect blend of rustic-yet-refined.

BOTTOM | Natural Beauty

Grasscloth wallpaper with nailhead trim in a chevron pattern sets a neutral foundation for other natural elements in this powder room. Using hand-painted, custom tiles and a vintage wash sink resting on a cottonwood tree slab, Rebecca was able to decorate the room with elegant, simplistic Southwestern style.



Project Credits

Interior design by rebaL design
Architecture by Axial Arts Architecture
Construction by Beck Building Company