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PHOTOGRAPHY BY **DAVID O. MARLOW**



LUXURY IS

In the Details

CONTEMPORARY DESIGN IS SOPHISTICATED YET COMFORTABLE IN THIS CUSTOM ASPEN HOME THAT SHOWCASES RICH COLORS AND TEXTURES, AND EXTRAORDINARY ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Contemporary Comfort Ten-foot glass doors smoothly glide apart, melting away the distinction between indoors and outdoors in a dining room that celebrates its connection to nature. “It feels like the room is flowing into the outdoors,” says architect John Galambos, who designed the disappearing corner doors and glass deck railings to maximize the panoramic views of mountain and valley.

Interior designer Donna Guerra and colleague Katherine Taylor selected colors and finishes that reflect the warmth of a Colorado sunset: rich walnut floors, a modern mahogany trestle table and a golden jacquard upholstery fabric to unite a disparate grouping of chairs. “We had the homeowners’ classic X-back chairs refinished with a dark ebony stain for an updated look,” Guerra says. She added high-back chairs for a more stately presence in the tall room. A light cove and dropped fir ceiling bring down the volume of the vaulted ceiling and add glowing ambient lighting. A very simple bronze-and-glass chandelier seems to float in the air, while silver branch candlesticks shine in its spotlight. Drop-down window shades are hidden in the ceiling cove. “We went really clean with details, subtle and sophisticated,” says Galambos, who worked on the home with fellow architect Rich Pavcek. >>

ARCHITECTURE **GALAMBOS ARCHITECTS**

INTERIOR DESIGN **DG & A INTERIORS**

“The conjoined tub and shower form the centerpiece of the master bathroom. Everything is smooth and clean, and then we have this wonderfully textured shower wall for contrast.”

—John Galambos

Bathing Beauty

“This is the view of the master bathroom as you approach it from the bedroom,” says interior designer Donna Guerra. “We wanted to make a statement and not say ‘bathroom.’” The designers and architects worked together with an eye for drama and a desire to set an inviting scene in the generous space.

“The main reason for the high ceiling is to bring in natural light from high above,” says Galambos, who had the clerestory windows above the shower frosted for privacy (the house is set on a steep slope with windows visible from the street). He added a distinctive ceiling element with a curved light cove to soften the space. “It’s the same fir wood as in the living room, just expressed a little differently,” he says.

Luxe materials fill the grand space, from chocolate-stained rift oak on the bath surround and floating vanities to the Crema Marfil marble countertops and limestone-encased floors and walls. “But it’s the texture of the basketweave tile that just lures you into this bathroom,” notes Guerra. “You want to go in and see it up close.” Adding to the luxurious spa experience are the hydrotherapy air-jet tub, waterfall bath faucet and cantilevered stone bench in the shower. >>



“The transparency of the wine cellar enhances the feeling of luxury and opens the room to the entire entertainment space.”

– Donna Guerra

Dramatic Display

Far from hidden in a stone grotto, the wine cellar unabashedly stands out front and center. Located at the base of an elegant floating stone staircase that leads up to the main living area, the cellar is visible from the entire lower-level media room. “In contrast to a wine room as an afterthought, this is really part of the big entertainment space,” says Galambos. A clean glass wall is all that separates the temperature-controlled room, allowing the eye to peruse the brilliant displays of wine bottles. “The visibility makes the cellar more intriguing and inviting, allowing wine collections to be displayed almost like trophies or artifacts,” Guerra says.

With a nod to the exterior of the house, a mixture of Colorado Buff and Chico sandstone gives some heft to the wine cellar walls. A walnut wood column with an exquisite grain pattern offers contrast to the glass. “The column helps ground the room,” Guerra explains. The interior designer coaxed a skilled craftsman out of retirement to fabricate the custom copper sink. And to top everything off, she selected a clean, boxy light fixture that echoes the shape of the sparkling glass room. >>






“Luxury does not have to be over-appointed. It’s about the details, how everything fits together. And comfort. Luxury is simplicity.”

—John Galambos

Exhibition Kitchen

A stunning balance of form and function, this glowing kitchen serves as the heart of the home. “This is a visual kitchen because it is open to the living and dining areas and positioned for entertaining,” says Galambos. “But it also must serve as a functional kitchen.” To accommodate multiple requirements, the architect and interior designer camouflaged the refrigerator, food pantry, dish pantry and microwave with wood cladding. “The whole 9½-foot wall reads as a paneled wall,” says Guerra. Floating shelves, rather than upper cabinets, also contribute to the kitchen’s nontraditional look.

The custom cabinets are fashioned of ribbon-cut mahogany and have a sleek, furniture-like appearance. “The warm palette of the cabinetry and wood floor is contrasted by metallic elements,” says Galambos, referring to the metallic porcelain backsplash tiles and the imposing range hood made of plated steel with a blackened finish. For the countertops, Guerra chose honed Absolute black granite. “With so much daylight in the kitchen, we didn’t want something highly polished or reflective,” she says, “so we went with honed granite to complete the soft, modern look.” ●

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