



THE NEW FRONTIER

TWO SIDE-BY-SIDE VAIL VILLAGE CONDOS ARE TRANSFORMED INTO ONE STRIKING MODERN RESIDENCE.

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INTERIOR DESIGN / EDDY DOUMAS AND VICKI GLOTZER, WORTH INTERIORS
ARCHITECTURE / MICHAEL SUMAN, SUMAN ARCHITECTS
HOME BUILDER / STEVE ELICKER AND SARAH WYSCARVER, SRE BUILDING ASSOCIATES



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The designers at Worth Interiors—the Vail Valley design firm with a satellite furnishings shop, Worth Home—are reimagining the venerable mountain aesthetic one room at a time. And the design that Eddy Doumas and Vicki Glotzer recently devised for homeowner David Brantley at The Lodge at Vail in Vail Village is a magnificent encapsulation of that progressive vision—modernist style infused with organic elements that pay tribute to the area’s rich history and landscape. “Design in Vail has moved away from a traditional Western sensibility to something more contemporary,” says Doumas, the firm’s owner and principal designer. “Natural materials installed in a clean way create a new mountain look that’s very sophisticated.”

David, who works in finance and lives full-time in Austin, purchased not one, but two units at The Lodge when he found himself regularly visiting Vail. “I’m an avid skier and lived there briefly after college,” he says. “I love the mountains.” He was drawn to The Lodge for its ample amenities and proximity to the slopes, but the architectural style of the building—which strikes a fanciful note in the vein of a European chalet—didn’t resonate with David. “I wanted something modern,” he says. “But when side-by-side condos became available, I had to grab them. I knew I could knock down the wall that separated the units, strip them to the studs and start over.” And David called on architect Michael Suman to do just that.

After gutting the two condos, Suman transformed the space into a single four-bedroom residence with a den and a combined open kitchen, dining and living area. “The Lodge at Vail is an icon,” the architect says. “The exterior has remained largely untouched over the years. Because I started with a clean slate inside, there was a real opportunity to create something that flowed and captured the views.” Builders Steve Elicker and Sarah Wyscarver managed construction and helped to unify the space by removing existing columns in the public areas. “We replaced the posts with a 34-foot steel support beam,” Wyscarver says. The builders “had to crane it up on the roof,” adds Elicker, “and it took about 16 people to bring it in through a skylight and position it in place along the ceiling.”

Suman did leave one room divide in place, however. He swapped the original units’ side-by-side fireplaces for a sculptural four-sided one—clad with gray basalt and blackened steel—that partially separates the living and dining areas. “I wanted it to be new and fresh yet appropriate for The Lodge and all of its charm,” he explains. “I did plate steel because it is modern in style but speaks to the mountain aesthetic. Basalt is a natural stone that’s textured and gives a regional as well as elegant feel, and it’s laid in rectangular slabs that climb the height of the fireplace’s simple form.” Natural light pours into the dining and living areas through new expansive windows, which frame an epic vista of the mountains, sky and village.

Complementing the interior architecture, Glotzer, who led the project, mixed artful and contemporary furnishings with pieces evoking an updated mountain vibe. “David likes industrial accents, but he also wanted it to be comfortable,” the designer says. “So, I juxtaposed the modern, architectural elements with organic pieces.” Leather-upholstered armchairs, a live-edge walnut coffee table and a long-wool shearling rug soften the steel of the fire surround in the living area. “The linen on the sofa is another natural material,” Glotzer adds. “Layers of different textures create visual and tactile interest.” In the dining area, a black anodized-aluminum pendant counters a wood-and-resin table and walnut chairs with wool-covered seat cushions. Across from the fireplace, Glotzer brought more tactile layers to a bar area, where David can entertain his friends. “Sheet metal cut and pieced together in an ashlar pattern clads the front of the bar,” she says. “And the backsplash is covered with a Phillip Jeffries wallcovering that looks like liquid metal.”

The textured layers come together within a neutral palette. “Grays, taupe, black and white create a clean, sophisticated backdrop,” Glotzer says. “And they allow you to add pops of color with the art and accessories.” The designer tied the kitchen to the living and dining areas by collaborating with Suman and Nicole Bradford of Elegant Cabinetry and Design to create gray-toned laminate cabinetry that references the gray basalt of the fireplace. “The kitchen was a really strong piece of the puzzle because it’s open to the whole unit,” she says. Walnut pendants and stools with caramel-colored leather cushions balance the coolness of the gray. For two of the guest rooms, Glotzer designed silvery-taupe velvet-upholstered beds, which she dressed with gray washed-silk bedding.

Altogether, the new interior reclaims the enchantment of Vail’s rich past with new materials that make a current design statement and still relate to the powerful surroundings. “I love Vicki’s use of steel panels on the bar and the fact that Michael chose sheet metal for the fireplace,” Doumas says. “The industrial feel of the steel combined with the live-edge details on some of the furniture and the distressed-leather-upholstered elements is so wonderful and interesting. This is new modern-mountain design.”



In the stairwell of a Vail Village residence designed by Eddy Doumas and Vicki Glotzer, a resin tree-stump side table by Arteriors stands beside a vintage chair. A hair-on-hide rug by Yerra and a Phillip Jeffries wallcovering lend texture and warmth.



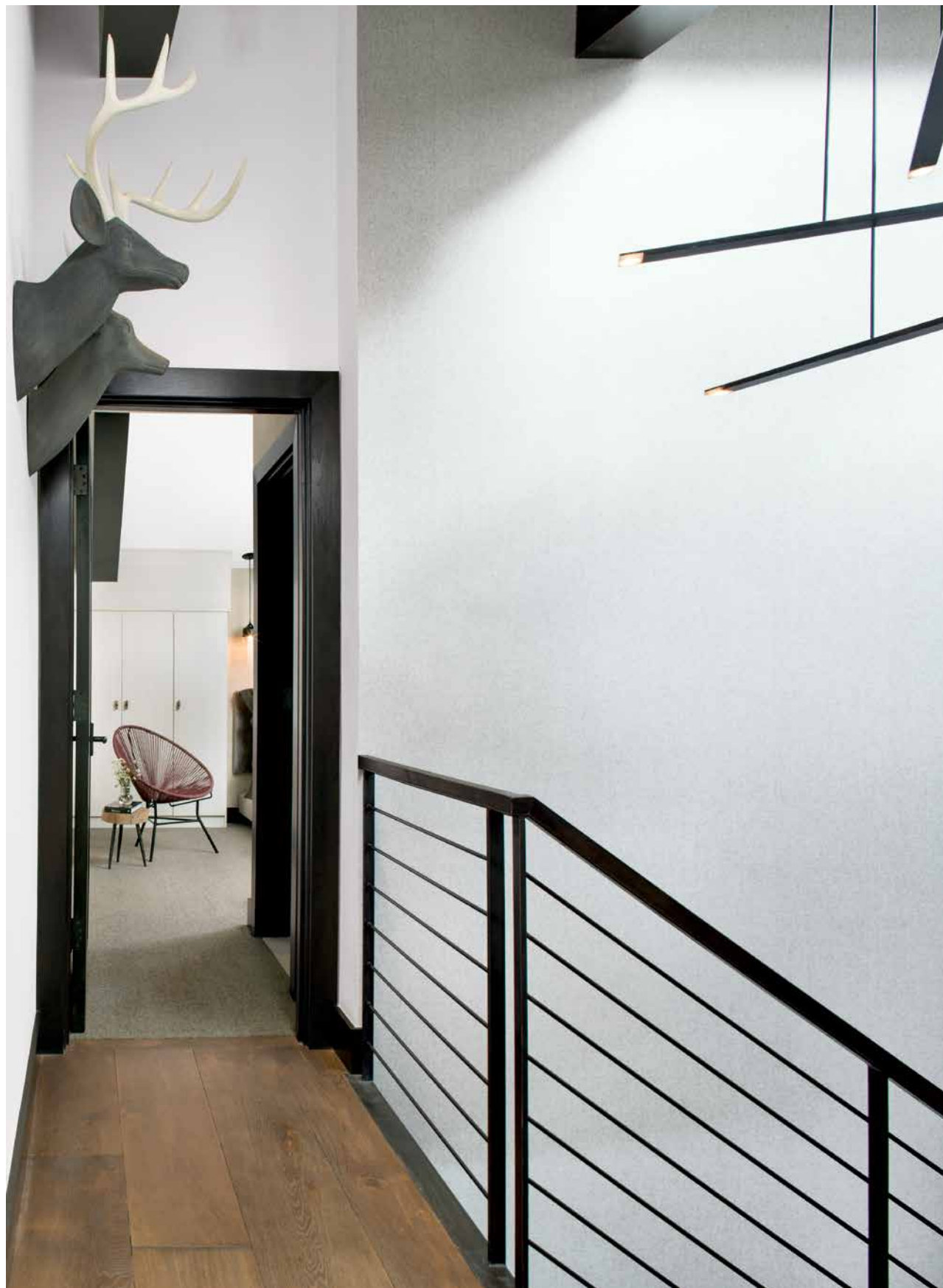
In creating one residence from two units, architect Michael Suman replaced the two existing fireplaces with one massive four-sided one, which is clad with basalt from Decorative Materials and blackened steel. The designers flanked a live-edge walnut coffee table with armchairs by DwellStudio in the living area. The rug is by Fibre by Auskin.



Above: The kitchen's cabinetry, designed in collaboration with Nicole Bradford of Elegant Cabinetry and Design, features Caesarstone countertops and gray laminate cabinets. Antiqued-nickel barstools by Interlude display distressed-leather seat cushions, while walnut Cerno pendants hang above.

Right: Nuevo walnut chairs with wool-covered seat cushions pull up to a wood-and-resin table by Taracea in the dining area, which is partially separated from the living area by the fireplace. The aluminum light fixture is by Cerno.





Above: At the top of the stairwell, two carved-wood deer heads by Roost were painted gray and white so they would blend with the hues featured throughout the residence. The custom triple-bar anodized-aluminum LED pendant is by Cerno.

Opposite: Glotzer designed a platform bed upholstered with Romo velvet for a guest bedroom, where a mirror framed with hair-on-hide by Jamie Young Co. hangs on one wall. The hoop chair and accent table are both by Roost, and the pendants are by Hennepin Made.



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