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From top: Large expanses of glass define the home and allow for an easy connection with the outdoors; the warm, neutral color palette is energized by colorful throw pillows, which can be changed out seasonally.

PERFECT VISION

A Toronto interior designer connects with a Snowmass site.

By Linda Hayes // Photography by David Marlow

Called upon by longtime clients to update a traditional A-frame-style Snowmass ski house their family had outgrown, Toronto-based interior designer Brian Gluckstein looked beyond the structure's log walls and dark, cramped interior to the 500 acres that surrounded it. "The whole point of this house was to be site-specific, to look at the space as it relates to its location," he explains. "Properties like this, with fabulous views and total privacy, are the perfect place for glass houses."

To help entice the family, whose grand-traditional home in Palm Beach, Fla., was quite a departure from the contemporary aesthetic he envisioned in the mountains, Gluckstein shared images depicting the new concept and thoroughly involved them in the design process. "We came to understand their lifestyle and comfort level, and

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...CONTINUED showed them that contemporary can be warm and inviting,” he says. “It was exciting for them to have a completely different design vernacular for the two houses.”

While the clients mostly intend to use the 12,000-square-foot home as an escape from the heat and humidity of Florida summers, their family also ventures to Snowmass in the winter to ski and gather for the holidays. Consequently, it needed to transition seamlessly between dramatically different seasons. Designwise, a thoughtful open-plan layout, encompassing five bedrooms and 4 ½ baths, features huge expanses of glass that encourage a visual connection to the outdoors year-round, with glass doors opening to patios and outdoor living areas, weather permitting.

When it came to the selection of interior materials and finishes, Gluckstein was deliberate in his choices. “We wanted it to be modern, but not all white plaster walls,” he says. “We wanted it to be warm and tactile, and to reference the traditional,

historical architecture of the former building, as well as an original guesthouse that remains on the site.”

To that end, he specified light oak cut into planks for the ceilings, which vary dramatically in height from room to room. Rough-honed natural stone was designated for walls and columns, and slab stone for double-sided fireplaces that allow light to shine through. Narrow black-steel window frames, a more industrial touch that adds a loftlike feel to the space, all but disappear against the landscape.

All of these design elements also serve to help organize the flow of the vast ground-floor living space, where seating and gathering areas were subliminally yet distinctly defined by the installation of largely custom-made furnishings. A main television area, a fireplace area and a windowed seating area, for instance, are broken up by strategically placed clusters of tailored sofas and chairs, and anchored by area rugs. The warm, neutral color palette of the chenille, linen, leather and suede upholstery, rugs and wallcoverings

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From left: Low-backed chairs at the kitchen island were a purposeful choice so as to not obstruct views; the family brought some of their Florida touches to their Colorado home.



INTERIORS COLORADO

home

From top: The upper-level master suite offers all the comforts, as well as unparalleled mountain views; the ribbed oak vanity has an organic feel.

...CONTINUED is accented by colorful pillows that can be switched up with the seasons. “In the summer, the red pillows are like a flower in the space,” Gluckstein says. “And in the winter, we can change them out with faux fur for warmth. It’s all very textural and translates beautifully.”

Apart from the multiple seating areas, but still part of the common-area program, the home’s kitchen and dining rooms are anchored by a high-gloss, red-lacquered island. “We wanted it to break out of the neutrals, contrast with the gray cabinetry and stand out against the dramatic views,” says Gluckstein. A custom bronze stove hood and bronze upper cabinets with back-painted glass fronts pair with wire-brushed oak lower cabinets. Seats at the island, as well as the counter-height breakfast table and adjoining dining table—all done at counter height—feature low-backed chairs so as not to obscure views. Ceiling cove lighting, along with floor lights that shine up at stone columns, are a subtle touch.

For private time, a series of guest suites are conveniently set on the ground level, while the significant master suite sits alone upstairs. Throughout the master, walls of glass allow for unobstructed vistas of mountain peaks and rolling hills from the bed, an elevated bathtub and a double-sided shower.

With only elk and deer for neighbors and hundreds of acres to roam, reveling in the quiet and solitude is second nature for the owners, as well as anyone passing through the doors of the home. “It’s all about embracing the place and the views, of being immersed in the surroundings,” says Gluckstein. “During two years of design and construction, we simply focused on that.” ■

