

# VACATION HOMES

CREATORS OF SECOND HOMES AND GETAWAYS



**OUTDOOR LUXURY**  
The home's outdoor living area features a covered seating and grilling area, with infrared heaters in the ceiling to temper cool mountain evenings.

## Mountain Star Residence

BERGLUND ARCHITECTS COMBINES OLD-WORLD CHARM WITH EDGY MODERN INFLUENCES TO CREATE STUNNING "NEW WEST" ARCHITECTURE

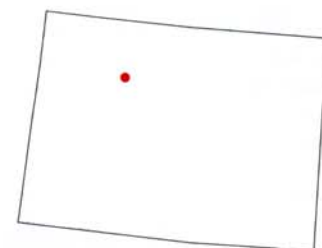
by Frederick Jerant

Nestled in Colorado's Vail Valley—one of America's premier spots for skiing and other wintertime activities—you'll find the spectacular 10,000-square-foot Mountain Star Residence. Originally built as the owners' primary home, it became a spacious *pied-à-terre* when the family relocated to Manhattan.

Designed by Berglund Architects, LLC, based in Edwards, Colorado, the home exemplifies the "New West" approach to architectural design. "The

owners wanted a home that looked as if it belonged in the mountains but without the log-cabin effect," says Hans Berglund, founding principal. "And they wanted it to be modern but without a lot of glassy boxes."

The firm achieved that seemingly elusive goal by melding natural materials, like stone and wood, with appropriate touches of metal and glass, and incorporating Old World designs with the local architecture. The exterior combines rough-hewn,



### Avon, CO

POPULATION: 6,700

ATTRACTIONS: Boating, canoeing, fishing, biking, hiking, parks, water parks, and skiing

European-style stone and lots of mortar, for a heavy, grounded feeling. Expanses of copper siding with a dark, rich patina reflect the sun's glow and play a warm counterpoint to the cool stone.



“NEW WEST” ARCHITECTURE

In addition to the Mountain Star Residence’s expansive views, the home features an array of materials, including copper-siding panels, Old World stone, and curved steel for the home’s entry canopy. These juxtapositions of organic and industrial materials, infused with Old World and local vernacular architecture, harmonize to create a casually elegant residence that showcases “New West” design tactics.

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HANS BERGLUND, FOUNDING PRINCIPAL



OUTSIDE-IN DESIGN

The home offers extensive views, reaching all the way to the Beaver Creek ski area, as seen from the living room. The large Weiland sliding-door system, framed with an exposed steel structure supporting the roof, creates wonderful indoor-outdoor living opportunities.

“The color also works well with the home’s palette and the local scenery,” Berglund says, adding that the patina picks up the surrounding earth and rock tones.

From a distance, the Mountain Star home seems quiet and understated. But upon arrival, guests encounter a panoply of exciting details. Up close, the exterior features window walls that allow guests to drink in breathtaking 270-degree views of the Rocky Mountains backdrop, as well as of the five-acre property itself. “In homes like this one,” Berglund says, “we use large areas of glass, huge sliding doors, and large covered outdoor areas to bring the outdoor experience to the home’s interior.”

The owners are serious art collectors, and evidence of their passion emerges as soon as you enter the home under a curved steel trellis and through the walnut and steel doors. A freestanding art wall displays paintings, drawings, lithographs,

and photos by Isca Greenfield-Sanders, Caio Fonseca, and other contemporary artists. One exits the gallery to the living room through a 28’ x 10’ sliding-door system framed by exposed steel columns and beams. “We needed steel to support the roof,” Berglund says, “and instead of hiding the steel in faux wood beams, we designed them to complement the rest of the house. They evoke the ‘urban industrial loft’ look, but their dark finish and detailed connections provide an interesting contrast to the more refined materials.”

That sense of contrast is found elsewhere in the living room. The asymmetrical fireplace is framed with slabs of buff-colored Colorado sandstone on the right and chunks of natural cleft-finish stones on the left. “We turned the fireplace into a sculptural form,” Berglund says, “with a dynamic shape that reduces the mass to make a more intimate human scale.”

A nearby stair tower wall is adorned at various levels by a collection of authentic Native American woven baskets; they can be admired close-up as one climbs the stairs. The stairs themselves are walnut slabs (sans risers) suspended on steel stringers. The arrangement gives the staircase a sense of transparency, making it practically a piece of sculpture itself.

**SLEEK & MODERN**  
This powder room in Mountain Star features an LED-backlit mirror that seems to float off the walls of Maya Romanoff mother-of-pearl wall tiles ([mayaromanoff.com](http://mayaromanoff.com)).



**REFINEMENT IN CONTRAST**  
Mountain Star's organic, industrial hybrid design is exemplified in this staircase, where the refined tapered-steel handrail creates contrast to the industrial exposed-steel stringers supporting the four-inch-thick walnut tread slabs.

Mountain Star's spacious kitchen is a study in contrasts, too. Stainless-steel appliances, as well as anodized aluminum cabinets and an island by Bulthaup, are offset by richly finished walnut on one wall and on the island's eating bar. The kitchen's additional walnut cabinets are edge-banded with one-sixteenth-inch aluminum strips, subtly tying together the materials used elsewhere.

The room's exposed ceiling beams of steel and wood work in counterpoint to the integral Venetian plaster walls. "They have a somewhat smooth texture," Berglund says, "but with minor variations that lend it a handcrafted, Old World look." A running-bond travertine floor further softens the room's look.

In addition, Mountain Star's outdoor living space includes a terrace that flows from the living room doors, as well as a covered area equipped with comfortable seating and the hardware needed to cook and dine alfresco.

The Mountain Star home also includes a feature that's rarely found in the mountains of Colorado—an in-ground swimming pool. "Pools are unusual around here," Berglund says, "because of our short summers and long winters. But the owners have kids who love to swim, so we designed the house to wrap around the pool to shelter the western winds." Such details as this have made Berglund Architects a standout designer in the custom-home industry, as the company caters to both client satisfaction and high-end residential aesthetics. ■