



The Park City area's silver-mining past played a significant role in the home's design, both inside and out. Large timbers, steel cables and corrugated steel siding lend an industrial days-gone-by feeling while being completely functional elements of the building's construction.

# modern VIBE

BY MELISSA FIELDS PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOT ZIMMERMAN

A TALENTED  
TEAM GIVES  
MOUNTAIN  
STYLE AN  
EDGE IN  
PARK CITY'S  
OLD TOWN



A collection of pillows complements colors in the circa-1930s commissioned skier portrait by G. Kenton Nelson on the main wall. A glass-paned railing between the kitchen and the living room minimizes the split-level division between the two rooms.



A glass pocket wall disappears to create a 12-foot opening between the living room and patio, doubling the size of the area for spring, summer and fall entertaining.

RIGHT: An antique dining table gets a modern update with the addition of stainless steel chairs from CG Howells in Salt Lake City. The kitchen's stainless steel appliances and lightly stained wood cabinetry continue the juxtaposition of old and new.

BELOW: A rolling library ladder, made and fitted locally by Park City Ironman, lends a loft feel to the culinary-grade kitchen and provides a practical way to access ceiling storage. A lowered work area creates a subtle, yet essential, separation between the kitchen island's food preparation and dining areas.



A subtle shift is occurring in Park City. In Utah's best-known ski town, compressed on all sides by the mountains, distinct neighborhoods are beginning to emerge, each with its own unique personality and sense of style. Spots like upper Deer Valley and The Canyons' Colony development host behemoth homes replete with dark woods, rich stone and over-sized furnishings. The Prospector area's primary residences boast no-nonsense, Victorian-esque and Cape Cod styling. And in Old Town, where restored miners' homes coexist with boutiques, galleries and award-winning restaurants, a more modern, urban-minded style is surfacing, influenced by the premise that less is more. In the spirit of this new Soho-meets-the-mountains aesthetic, architect Steve Bruemmer and interior designers Sheri Russell and Lia Aguirre designed a trio of adjoining homes in a style merging the area's rough and tumble mining past with a renewed appreciation for color, texture, modern lines and small-space living.

Exposed wood beams, steel cabling and a large section of corrugated steel siding create an industrial first impression on the exterior, soft-



ened slightly by earth-toned—as well as Earth-friendly—concrete walls and white trim. From the front, the home hardly looks like part of a triplex; the only suggestion of three homes adjoined are the two separate underground garage entrances. The buildings' original owners, a group of four couples calling themselves Legacy Development, originally developed the project for investment purposes. But as the dwellings came together, one of the couples decided they couldn't let the opportunity to live in Park City, at least part-time, pass them by and decided to keep the center unit for themselves.

The owners' artistic, urban-influenced sense of style becomes evident the moment you enter their home. "This house is all about who the owners are. We took their vision and infused it with an eclectic design that's an extension of their personalities," Russell says. The foyer, with its sealed concrete subterranean walls, could have felt like a bomb shelter. Instead, decorated with a collection of mirrors in varying sizes and frames, this welcoming space establishes the home's unique and eclectic tone. Along the entry's wall, a row of antique wooden theater seats serves as an interestingly rustic catchall for guests' coats and purses.

The homeowners' main residence is in Las Vegas, but they spend as much time as possible in Park City, making an office an essential part of the home.



As the center building of this innovatively designed triplex, this home features roomy patios and spectacular mountain views. Architect Steve Bruemmer created each of the three dwellings so they didn't impose on the living areas and vistas of the other two.



Bright paint, unique bed linens and a low-profile chair carry the home's modern and eclectic ski getaway theme into the guest bedroom. A mirror on the closet's sliding barn door helps create the illusion of spaciousness in the relatively small room.



A kitchen/wet bar and a screening room sit farther back on the first level. To augment seating provided by a small sectional sofa, the designers added two large bean bag-type chairs covered with an all-weather fabric for durability and inevitable spills. Sliding barn doors, hung on library ladder tracks, reinforce the room's industrial chic feel and efficiently hide stereo equipment and the home's utility room. Large shelf openings near the ceiling provide additional storage.

A flight of stairs moves visitors up one level to the home's main floor. Here, the stairs, doorframes and flooring are all constructed of a light-stained hard wood, enhancing the interior's spacious feel and providing an organic contrast to its sealed concrete walls.

The living room comes alive with modern color, emanating from the mixed collection of patterned throw pillows on a white sofa and the blood red slip-covered Harry Bertoia chairs, to the larger-than-life commissioned original 1930s skier painting by R. Kenton Nelson hanging on one vast concrete wall. All of the furnishings maintain

The home site's steep grade rises almost 30 feet from the front of the building to the back. Architect Steve Bruemmer used the abrupt slope to create privacy and visual interest on all of the building's outdoor living spaces.

## PLAYING BIG IN SMALL SPACES

Architect **Steve Bruemmer** knows how to make a big impact in small spaces. Before he developed a design for this Park City Old Town triplex, he worked on the Sky Lodge—a 22-unit, LEED-certified, five-star luxury hotel wedged between two restaurants on the corner of Park City's Swede Alley and Heber Avenue. Even with this experience, however, the triplex project's site presented Bruemmer with some unique challenges. "Because of some encroachment and obvious light and visual challenges created by a neighboring hotel, the parcel had stood vacant for a number of years before the developers purchased it. I think, before we came along, no one could figure out just how to develop it," he says.

Bruemmer looked to Old Town Park City's

signature mining-era, mid-block, wooden stairway-accessed homes, as well as their vertical orientation, for inspiration. He spaced the project 10 feet in from the property lines, enhancing natural light penetration and "breathing room." Exterior elements, including corrugated metal, exposed wooden beams and steel cables, accentuate the homes' slender, vertical orientation.

To create a home rather than condo feel, the architect positioned public areas toward the bottom of each unit and private spaces at the top. The living room and kitchen areas are on split-level floors, separated by a transparent railing giving the illusion and function of a great room.



Steve Bruemmer



Built-in shelving along the east wall of the master suite creates a cozy backdrop for the room's gas fireplace while allowing plenty of storage for shoes, sweaters and other compact and foldable clothing. Unusual items like the contemporary cow hide arm chairs from Design Within Reach and antler-based lamps from West Elm continue the home's retro-modern vibe.



a low profile, allowing clear sight lines to a large outdoor patio that serves as an extension of the living room in warm weather, with the sliding back of glass pocket doors.

Though a split level separates the kitchen and dining room from the living room area, a transparent glass railing minimizes the division and allows both light and conversation to travel freely between the spaces. In the kitchen, a removable library ladder allows every inch, from floor to ceiling, to be used for storage and displaying collectible dining ware. An island provides casual seating and a subtle boundary between the kitchen and dining room, where the owner's antique barn dining table enjoys an urban update with the addition of metallic desk chairs. "A lot of people are afraid to mix antiques with more modern furnishings. You can usually mix pieces of two different styles pretty easily by using accessories to pull them together," Aguirre says. "In this home, color is the element that unifies the owners' existing antiques and the newer, more modern pieces we brought in."

Accessed by two additional flights of stairs, the home's luxurious master suite and private patio are located on the top, fourth floor. Here, the designers made the most of the room's space by covering an entire wall with built-in shelving, complete with a gas fireplace in the center that breaks up the plane of wood. Floor-to-ceiling windows give the owners a first-light view of the mountains from their bed in the morning while providing access to yet another patio, complete with heated flooring and a gas fireplace.

Artistic, colorful, serene and smart sums up this team's latest interpretation of mountain chic—a style deftly melding Park City's silver mining past with the urban sensibilities and minimalist desires of those living there today. ■

Bright colors and unique yet comfortable patio furniture lend an artistic sense of privacy to the main floor patio. A modern fountain helps drown out ambient noise from neighboring units.



Expand your home's space and functionality with built-in storage solutions including cubby holes and baskets.



Use mirrored accents to add warmth and bright, reflected light to concrete or stone-laden rooms. Sunburst mirror in silver from Pier 1 Imports, 6535 Landmark Drive, Park City



Bertoia chair (starts at \$900) by Knoll, Inc., from Richins Office Design, 479 S. 700 East, SLC

## Get the look



Neila Cube (\$550) in rouge from Design Within Reach (DWR), dwr.com

Construtto table lamp (\$239) from Lofgren's, 3960 S. Highland Drive, SLC



Floral cotton pillow (\$24) from Pier 1 Imports



In small spaces, choose white for a backdrop, adding jolts of color and character with pillows, art and accessories.