

# HIGHER EDUCATION

IN PARK CITY'S OLD TOWN, FRESH DESIGN TEACHES MOUNTAIN LIVING SOME NEW TRICKS

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Park City Old Town historic district building covenants restrict the number and size of windows in new homes. Architect Jonathan DeGray uses his allocations wisely by placing the largest windows in rooms where owners are likely to spend the most time, like here in the living room.







Nowhere is old more juxtaposed with new than in the home's kitchen. Modern pendant lights, the exposed steel library ladder and stainless steel appliances contrast with traditional Shaker cabinetry, honed stone countertops and dark hardwood flooring.

**R**ough-hewn beams, oversized furniture and animal skins don't fit your idea of modern mountain living? You're not alone. "The typical second-home buyers in Park City," says Prudential Utah real estate agent and developer

Tom Peek, "are younger, hipper, and are as interested in dining and nightlife as they are in the proximity of the mountains. And they are looking for a style that's more urban than the classic lodge-inspired home." One of Peek's latest projects, a four-story incarnation of taxidermy-free mountain chic located in the heart of Park City's Old Town neighborhood, reflects these changing tastes.

From the outside, the 3,100-square-foot home looks similar to much of the new construction in the area—tall and narrow, with siding, paint and fixtures reminiscent of Park City's mining past. Peek partnered with architect Jonathan DeGray to design the home, and his brother and general contractor Dick Peek to oversee construction, both of whom he's worked with many times before. For the interiors, Peek knew from the beginning that he wanted to step outside the box, so he called on Sheri Russell, designer and principal with Park City's In Studio Interior Design. "I wanted to do something different, but because we wanted to appeal to a wide range of tastes, I definitely didn't want it to look weird," Peek says. "Sheri did a great job of making the home look unique and special while maintaining a sense of the area's historic flavor."

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ABOVE RIGHT: The kitchen's custom-fitted library ladder goes a long way in setting the great room's modern industrial tone, but it's also completely functional. Tracks on two walls allow convenient access to above-cabinet shelving.

RIGHT: This unique sink basin—the Undertone Trough Sink by Kohler—allows for both work and casual dining counter space at the kitchen island while lending a custom feel.



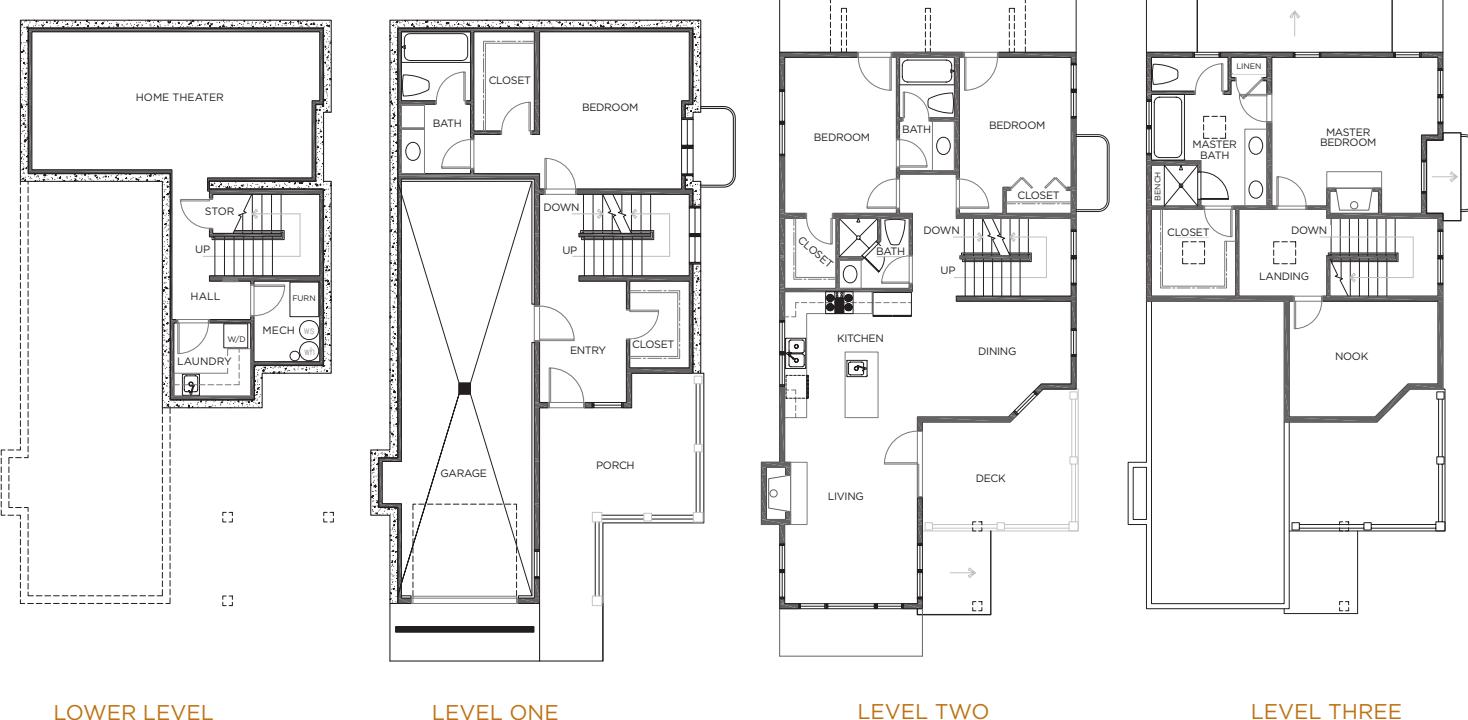


The home's urban style becomes more traditional in the upper level bedrooms, where classic white-painted window casing is highlighted against richly colored walls. Natural stone fireplace tiles, hardwood floors and an overstuffed chaise lounge create a soothing reading area in the master bedroom.

The first hint of the home's unique persona is outside. Rather than constructing the front deck completely of wood beams, the team used a custom-made steel mesh screen, a material redolent of Park City's silver mining past, to face the railing. The same materials are paired inside on the home's impressive six-flight floating stairwell, a design feature that promotes light penetration through the interior and design continuity from outdoors into the home.

The dwelling's distinctive style thrives in the kitchen, where modern industrial accoutrements like an exposed-steel library ladder, dark stone countertops and contemporary pendant lights contrast with a subway ceramic tile backsplash, white vaulted ceilings, Shaker cabinetry and wood floors. "People are becoming more and more interested in modern or urban aesthetics, but to give the style a little bit more of a period piece, I used classic elements like white cabinetry and hardwood floors," Russell says. "The overall design is a juxtaposition between modern

RIGHT: A modern four-poster bed dressed with textural bed linens gives the master bedroom a touch of luxury and formality. This room includes more windows than any of the other bedrooms, allowing the owners to wake up to panoramic views of Park City and the surrounding mountain peaks.





## SPACE-SAVING STRATEGIES

Today's prospective buyers want the same features found in large homes—home theaters, a bathroom for each bedroom, walk-in closets and ample storage—integrated into smaller residences like this 19-foot-wide abode. This is a challenge for architects. "I've designed a number of Old Town homes, all of which sit on typically small lots. It's made me good at squeezing every square inch out of a space," DeGray says. Some of the techniques both DeGray and interior designer Sheri Russell have used to make the most of small spaces include:

» **Placing the home theater, utilities and laundry room in a subterranean space.** Digging out a basement adds significantly to the price tag of any new home, but the extra space is typically worth the expense.

» **Building in shelves and storage units.** This lends a custom look while providing lots of storage space for seasonal gear.

» **Creating continuity with finishes.** The same dark stained hardwood floors flow throughout most of the home and the same neutral paint color enriches the great room, stairwell landings and hallways, providing visual continuity.

» **Creating a "transparent" stairwell design featuring a metal mesh railing and floating stairs.** Using a closed design makes a stairwell feel dark and cavernous.

» **Dropping the ceiling of the dining room, whereas those in the adjoining great room are vaulted.** This creates room for space on the floor above the dining room without forgoing any perceived or actual space in the great room area.



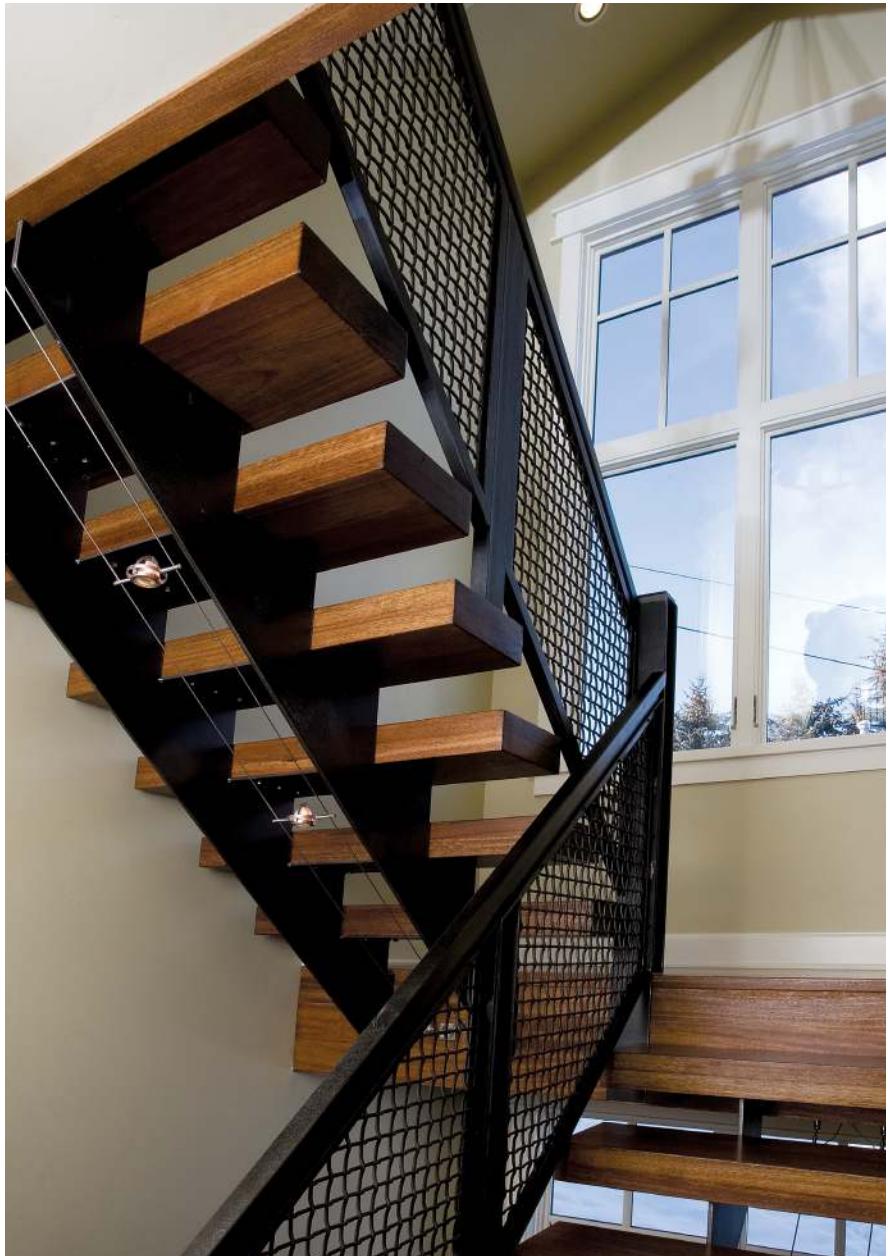
Park City architect Jonathan DeGray specializes in Old Town construction and is a master at maximizing space in homes while maintaining the area's mining-era flavor.

industrial and older elements blended in a rustic manner." Russell softened the effect of the kitchen's hard lines in the great room's living area by using a soft upholstered sofa and chairs, a long-fiber area rug, traditional floor lamps, paisley-patterned throw pillows and locally inspired art.

The home's modern-meets-traditional character continues through Russell's signature practice of merging clean, simple furnishings with traditional touches and out-of-the-ordinary industrial pieces. An antique metal storage unit, for example, sits between two twin beds acting as a nightstand in the kids' room. "I love flea markets," says Russell, who frequently breathes new life into found pieces. She refinishes or alters the treasures in some way to re-purpose them for a use often very different from what they were originally intended.

In the upstairs master and guest bedrooms, however, serenity and warmth take over where the modern industrial theme leaves off in the home's lower levels. Earth-tone walls, luxurious bed coverings and muted lighting set the stage for a comfortable reprieve from the lower level's edgy design and Park City's raucous Main Street.

While Utah's prized ski town's "paw and claw" style defines mountain living for many residents, this home proves there's an intriguing alternative for the more modern at heart. ■



ABOVE: Floating stairwell treads, custom-fabricated mesh railing, recessed lighting and tall, narrow windows make the home's stairwell much more than simply a way to get from floor to floor.

LEFT: Russell let her creative juices flow a bit in the kids' room, where she gathered a number of unlikely objects, like the vintage metal storage unit nightstand, to create a whimsical, one-of-a-kind look.