



THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE: This Telluride house follows the contours of the land, resulting in subtle changes in elevation. Varying roof lines and ceiling treatments create separation between rooms in the open floor plan. In the two-story entry (above), the eye is drawn up to the strong lines of steel railings and dark wood ceiling beams.



Green Serene

A HOME BUILDER AND ARCHITECT TEAM
UP TO CREATE A RANCH-INSPIRED
CONTEMPORARY HOUSE WITH A TWIST

STORY BY **NANCY RICHMAN MILLIGAN**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **GIBEON PHOTOGRAPHY**

Jon Dahl may have 30 years of experience framing complicated custom houses, but you won't find many right angles or squared spaces in the home he recently built for his family in Telluride. "With Jack [architect Jack Snow of RKD Architects], everything is skewed and twisted, walls flared and angled," says Jon. "That's what makes the house interesting and fun."

The 5,200-square-foot house is a subtle sculpture of two wedge-shaped forms connected by a two-story bridge that floats above ground. "This structure is all about dynamic spaces and a place for social gathering," says Snow, who designed the house around the big, open kitchen that Jon's wife, Terryl, specified. "I like open spaces, but nothing too massive," she says. "We wanted something streamlined and simple."

A continuous flow of space begins at the two-story entry and moves through the main living area. "There is a lot of variation in the ceiling and rooflines that defines the spaces," Snow says. "Something changes all the time." Because he worked with the natural shape of the land, the house has many levels separated by just a few steps.

Built along the contours of an aspen-covered hillside, the house is perfectly aligned with spectacular views of Telluride's iconic Mt. Wilson. Snow designed a geometric series of windows, rather than great expanses-of glass, to frame the scenery with picture-perfect precision. Whether oriented to far mountain peaks or close-up aspen groves, every room has a view.

Jon built the house to be low maintenance and energy efficient—"very clean and green," he says. Terryl selected the finishes, colors and furnishings with her discerning eye for contemporary design. The sleek materials are compatible with the linear architecture—bamboo and concrete flooring, a tile-and-steel fireplace, smooth wood beams, clean metal railings. The furniture has similar contemporary lines, and the colors are neutral and serene, with limited pops of color for emphasis. "We tried to pull in a European/Asian feel rather than a rustic mountain look," says Jon. "This is a very soothing house."

Although more refined than rugged, the architecture still speaks the ranching vernacular of the region, with a modern twist. "The exterior materials—stone walls, barnwood-type siding and metal roofing—are consistent with the ranch look, but the subtly distorted geometry gives the house a contemporary feeling," says Snow. "My goal was to show that nothing else could have been built here. That's what makes a custom home."

ARCHITECTURE RKD ARCHITECTS **INTERIOR DESIGN** TERRYL DAHL INTERIOR DESIGN
CONSTRUCTION DOUBLE DIAMOND BUILDERS





Family Room Clerestory windows allow plenty of southern light to filter inside the family room, brightening the space. A vivid orange leather sofa complements the golden aspen leaves seen outside, connecting the indoors and outdoors, while a glass exterior door offers a more literal connection. A striped rug pulls all the colors of the room together and softens the sleek concrete floors.



Master Bath

The large master bath (below) is big and bright, with nature-inspired hues. A random pattern of 4-inch Ann Sacks glass tiles in the shower imbues the room with fresh green color, while bamboo cabinetry keeps things light and airy. The pewter-hued concrete floors have comfortable radiant heating, ideal for chilly winter mornings, while chocolate-colored concrete countertops add visual warmth. A perfectly positioned window bathes the vanities in natural light and is aligned with the glass shower door. Plumbing fixtures by Kohler, Hansgrohe and Jason.



COLOR CONCEPTS With a home as stylized as this one, color can make or break the clean, contemporary look. “I was tempted to do more color on the walls but held back,” says homeowner Terry Dahl. “With a house this big and open, space needs to flow from room to room and so do the colors.”

Contrast Terry livened up neutral materials and soaring spaces with high contrast: ebony-stained kitchen cabinets and wood ceiling beams play off light bamboo floors and natural spruce ceilings (opposite); a dark gray steel shaft and concrete tiles contrast with pale tile on the fireplace. Terry bridged this light/dark energized backdrop with fresh green walls that flow from the kitchen through the dining and living rooms. In other areas of the house, light tan walls blend seamlessly with the natural bamboo flooring.

Discipline A carefully edited selection of bright colors adds just enough pop—an orange leather sofa in the family room, multi-colored striped rugs, and green tiles in the master bath. Pattern is kept to a minimum, and textures are smooth and sleek. ●



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