



PHOTO BY TORY TAGLIO PHOTOGRAPHY

Above: This stunning Warm Springs home is the result of a collaboration between a local designer, architect, and builder.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY WARM SPRINGS CONTEMPORARY

Photography by Tory Taglio and Ben Figueiredo

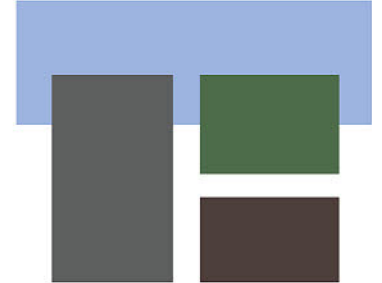


This contemporary home in Warm Springs is a showpiece with a twist. Nestled into a hillside, its family-friendly layout and extensive use of low-maintenance materials makes it perfect for a large family on the go, bustling with activities yet somehow managing a calm serenity. Nearly every room has expansive views of the surrounding mountains and hillsides.



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Above: A beautiful deck designed by Scape Design Studio wraps around the entire second floor of the house.



With vaulted wood-beamed ceilings, walls of fieldstone, metal, and glass, and smooth, dark grey concrete floors that play off the natural landscape, the home exudes an easy grace. Uncomplicated. Somehow achieving elegance with simplicity.

Built by Lee Gilman, the home's design was a collaboration between the homeowner, architect Gretchen Wagner of Scape Design Studio, and designer Marina Broschovsky of Red Door Design House.

According to Marina, "The homeowner had a great sense of style and a clear vision of how she wanted the home to look and feel. Much of the home's architectural detail carried from the outside in so it was important for us to work together closely to create continuity throughout. Being an open floor plan home, with several



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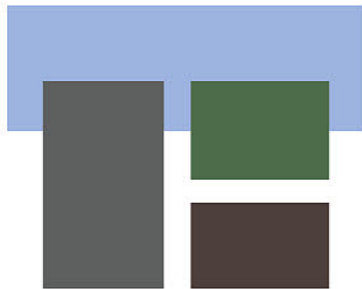
Above (left): From left to right; designer Marina Broschofsky, contractor John Lee, and architect Gretchen Wagner.
Above (right): A steel fireplace anchors this great room which holds simple, elegant, contemporary furnishings. Fun graphic accents are found throughout in pillows, artwork, and accessories as well as the vintage coffee table and pendant.



key rooms connected, an important goal was to create a nice flow throughout these multi-purpose spaces. By combining all of our visions with Lee Gilman's exceptional craftsmanship, we achieved a gorgeous result."

The heart of the home is the second-floor living room, which has soaring ceilings, a fireplace, massive sliding glass doors leading to a wraparound terrace with extensive outdoor living space and another fireplace, and areas for both entertaining and lounging. The centerpiece of the living room is a custom-built refrigerated "wine wall," disguising a powder room while showcasing the family's oenophilia and corresponding appreciation for functional design.

The nearby kitchen, separated from the living room by a staircase decorated with neon artwork, includes a large island with swing-out stools and a beer fridge, walk-in pantry, and stainless steel appliances. The family gathers community-style, in a circle around the island, where conversations can easily occur over homework, breakfast, or lunch.



The master suite, one of six bedrooms, also opens out to the terrace on the main (second) floor. Accompanied by a master bath and his and hers walk-in closets, the suite provides a calm oasis from the hustle and bustle on the other side of the grand entry way, which is anchored by a handcrafted banquet table and a showpiece chandelier that the owners commissioned. With a view of Baldy, the outdoor grill and seating area just outside this space almost certainly get heavy use.

On the lower level, concrete flooring covers a large living space with four bedrooms, bathroom, play area, and large built-in cubbies off the garage and second entrance. A ping pong table, games, family photos, and an entertainment center leave no question about the area's purpose: this is where the fun happens.

Outside, the large property includes a skating rink for hockey playing and



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Above (clockwise from left): Hexagonal concrete tiles lead you into the dining room, which is a combination of building materials including concrete, stone, steel, and wood. The custom chandelier is accompanied by vintage chairs, playful pillows, and accessories; a collection of vintage pieces are found throughout the house including a car door and neon arrow sign.



figure skating, an expansive lawn, a spa-like oasis with outdoor living, and uninterrupted views of the Warm Springs side of Baldy.

Walking through the house, it's easy to see this home is supposed to be lived in, not simply looked at. "One of the goals within our design was to provide options that were durable for the everyday use of this active young family," explains Marina. "We selected materials, finishes, and furnishings that are beautiful yet low-maintenance."

Evidence of this beautiful, low-maintenance aesthetic is confirmed by the ample use of the subtle Japanese wood-finishing process known as yakisugi-ita, also referred to as shou-sugi-



Above: The entry staircase to the house creates a warm entrance.

ban. Translated as “the burning of Japanese cypress (sugi),” shou-sugi-ban literally involves burning the exterior of the wood to create a dramatic silver-black finish. The process renders wood nearly maintenance-free and makes it resistant to fire, rot, and pests. The finish created by this method also has an expected life span of more than 80 to 100 years, thanks to a protective layer created by carbon released during the burning process.

If you’ve ever experienced the joy of repainting your home after it has seen a decade of heavy use by children and friends, you can immediately see the benefit of covering every wooden surface with a char that exudes high design but actually means less cost and lower maintenance over the life of the home(owner). Plus, the sleek finish stands in stark contrast to the plethora of log and lodge-style homes in the area.

Although each space in the home is designed to have a specific function, its creators have successfully maintained a visual integrity throughout. Many of the rooms lead to outdoor patios, which are sure to get frequent use during the summer months. As Marina explains, “It has been rewarding to see that each part of this home is utilized and is practical for the family.”

There are many unique aspects to the house, from the custom outdoor garden steps to the artistic light fixture over the dining room table. It could be perceived as risky to build a home from a mixture of cold materials, such as stone, steel, wood, concrete, and tile. But the number of interesting details throughout combining these materials, as well as areas featuring unexpected items such as a vintage neon sign, an old car door, and the custom-built wine wall, add a personal touch and provide the home with a sense of warmth.



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Above : Outdoor living surrounded by composed and natural beauty.

The architecture is clean and contemporary with natural materials, but the kids are clearly paramount in this family and this house. Architect, Gretchen Wagner sums it up best: "By requiring it to function for both parties and playdates, and trolling Ebay and Firstdibs regularly for vintage finds, the homeowner interjected her own funky flair to make this a unique home."

It's easy to imagine parents smiling as their kids arrive home from school or ski practice, coats and gloves piled high into cubbies, and the sound of laughter echoing off the concrete floors and wooden walls. This is what mountain living is all about? Enjoying life and family in simple comfort, surrounded by nature and all its beauty? Whether you look down at your children gathered around the kitchen island or up at the uninterrupted view of the mountains filling every window, the scene you have created should make you happy. Clearly, this home delivers on all counts.

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