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Home of the Year

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KIMBERLY GAVIN

"All architecture is shelter, all great architecture is the design of space that contains, cuddles, exalts or stimulates the persons in that space."

—*Philip Johnson*

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A repurposed loft space in downtown Denver, our 2011 Home of the Year features crisp colors mingled with textured finishes and pops of playfulness.

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Clever design details and eco-friendly building systems work together beautifully in this contemporary family home.

ON THE COVER
Classic furnishings upholstered in modern fabric define the living space of our 2011 Home of the Year. PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIMBERLY GAVIN

Best of Both Worlds

Sitting like a sculpture in a natural landscape, this sleek, modern home is designed for privacy and in-town convenience

(left) The Italian-concept kitchen includes a moveable ladder to access high cabinets. An industrial-steel staircase leads up to the master bedroom and down to a game room and TV lounge. The house features in-floor heating and wide oak-plank flooring. *(this page)* Steel beams partner with limestone blocks to define the main entrance. Beyond the open doorway lies a zinc-clad fireplace with a white onyx panel lit from behind. Homeowner Craig Yarde brought in 140,000 pounds of Michigan limestone for the façade of the house.

By Nancy Richman Milligan
Photography by Kimberly Gavin

Spectacular mountain views, floor-to-ceiling windows, multiple levels, generous square footage, privacy and outdoor living space: these perks aren't unusual when it comes to Vail Valley mountain properties. So what makes this home special? Finding all those desirable qualities on a small lot in town just steps away from the buzz of a bus route, ski lifts and shopping.

"This isn't a second home tucked away—it's where we live year round in the heart of West Vail," says homeowner Craig Yarde, whose goal was to get the most privacy out of his lot, which is just shy of a half acre, faces a busy road and backs up to open space. He presented this challenge to architects Kyle Webb and Heather Barrie of K.H. Webb Architects in Vail.

"Privacy was the prime driver of the siting," says Webb, who conceptualized a C-shaped home with three wings surrounding a courtyard. "We designed around its relationship to the outside and the courtyard," he says. The living and dining areas and bedrooms open to the secluded courtyard and mountain views. The wing that fronts the road is reserved for Yarde's home office, guest suite and a storage garage.

The courtyard concept and major landscaping additions help enhance privacy; another challenge was the site itself, which rises steeply from the street. To accommodate the change in elevation, Webb and Barrie designed a series of gradual split levels with half staircases. "There are three stories in each

(above) Designed by Rys Olsen of Arclinea Colorado, the kitchen features horizontal grained teak cabinetry and stainless steel countertops. Two dining tables were commissioned from Arclinea to provide flexibility and easy access to the window banquette. Tabletop accessories from Worth Home, Vail. *(opposite)* Large glass doors lend a feeling of openness to the living room. Interior designer April Bevins custom designed the white leather sofa, which is paired with a Noguchi coffee table and Eames chair. A Calvin Klein cowhide rug from Worth Home grounds the arrangement; *Nocturne Grand* by Robert Kelly (from Travis Hansson Fine Art) hangs on the wall.

section as the house cascades down the hill," Webb says. "For the amount of grade change, you don't feel it or see it. The house comes together fluidly."

The angular nature of the architecture helps make this possible. "From the start, I wanted a very contemporary home. A major objective was to square everything off," Yarde explains. The architects complied by designing a variety of roof lines—a shed roof to provide vaulted ceilings in the kitchen and living room; more contemporary, flat roofs elsewhere. The beauty of the exterior lies in both the forms and the materials, which define the various elevations and sections.

For the interior, the homeowner enlisted the aid of kitchen designer Rys Olsen of Arclinea Colorado, who introduced a sleek Italian-concept kitchen crafted of teak wood and stainless steel. Interior designer April Bevins of Laureen Hopkins Interior Design selected tile, stone, lighting and furniture for the home, custom designing several pieces to add to the mix. "We were going for a bold, masculine look and clean, square lines to complement the angular lines of the architecture," she says.

Yarde, who owns a steel and aluminum import business, worked with the architects and builder Brian Gillette to incorporate metal into the design of the house, from the steel industrial support beams and

(above) A custom leather headboard adds dramatic masculine appeal in the master bedroom. Windows above the bed break up the 12-foot height of the room and bring in light. Pillows and throw from Worth Home; linens from Brass Bed of Denver. *(opposite)* Inspired by luxury hotels, the master bath features a Carrera marble slab floor, cross-cut marble tiles in the steam shower and Marmara marble countertops. The window in the shower offers views of Vail Mountain, Bald Mountain and the Gore Range.

staircases to the exterior's zinc panels. The sleek material is juxtaposed with limestone blocks and clear cedar siding on the exterior, punctuating the contemporary lines. Some of the materials transition to the clean-lined interior of the home as well.

The 6,500 square-foot, five-bedroom home flows through an open floor plan, with well-proportioned spaces that are connected to the outdoors. "Because this is a full-time residence, we have a different way of looking at things," Webb says. "Two giant sliding glass panels in the living room open to the courtyard and embrace the outdoors." Protected from the wind and open to the sun, the courtyard is enjoyed most of the year by Yarde and his two young sons.

"Whether you are in the courtyard or the house, it doesn't feel like there are neighbors around," Webb says. "It feels private—that was our ultimate goal and greatest success." □

DESIGN DETAILS

Architect
Kyle Webb and Heather Barrie
K.H. Webb Architects
khwebb.com

Designer
April Bevins
Laureen Hopkins
Interior Design
laureenhopkins.com

For more information about the products in this home, visit ColoradoHomesMag.com/BothWorlds

(above) A French balcony opens the family room to the outdoors while draperies, a Mongolian lamb throw and a cowhide rug soften the room. *(opposite, top)* "Landscaping played a part in achieving the privacy we wanted," says Yarde, who hired Rocky Mountain Custom Landscapes in Avon to design a plan that includes 25-foot spruce trees, Ponderosa pines, aspens and vertical junipers. A waterfall cascades into the 11-foot-deep swimming pool. *(opposite, bottom left)* The lowest part of the home faces the street and proceeds up the hill from there. Solar panels atop the flat roof help heat water for the pool and in-floor heating system. *(opposite, bottom right)* A variety of contrasting materials—limestone blocks, zinc panels and clear cedar siding—delineate the forms of the contemporary structure.