PEAK

A HOME MAGAZINE FOR THE EAST RIVER VALLEY

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CABIN BY THE CREEK a lifelong dream takes shape



THE HOUSE THAT MARY BUILT creating a legacy



MAJOR TRANSFORMATIONS tips on renovating



ARTIST PROFILE photographer Raynor Czerwinski



A FEW FAVORITE THINGS design trends for mountain homes



KATE'S PLACE an unanticipated journey

CONNECTIONS

Nothing turns a stranger into a friend faster than when a connection to Crested Butte is made. You can be halfway around the world, start a carefree conversation that turns to Crested Butte, and instantly you've got a common connection to a place that's special.

I was in a coffee shop in San Francisco this past year and started talking to the owner while I waited for my order. After a few minutes of chatting, where I lived came up in conversation. And, no kidding, this guy had lived in Crested Butte in the '90s, was a graduate of Western State, and helped start the Backcountry Gourmet. After figuring out our mutual friends, he said something that has stuck with me. Every morning when he wakes up, he looks at a huge framed photo of the mountains of Crested Butte. It's the first thing he looks at every day because it's the place he most wants to return to.

There's a pull to the place. You may leave Crested Butte, but Crested Butte doesn't leave you.

This issue of The Peak highlights some gorgeous homes in the valley, and it also explores the stories behind them. Take, for instance, Mary Gordon's house. She was one special lady who poured her heart and soul into her historic remodel on Sopris. Now her sons carry on her spirit in that house, as told by writer Dawne Belloise. We get to see inside a beautiful property out at Hidden River Ranch, where the homeowners' dream to return to this Colorado town became a reality. Writer Seth Mensing takes us on this tour.

I had the pleasure of talking with some pros in the remodeling world, from builders to interior designers to real estate professionals. There was a theme throughout all those conversations: People buy, build or remodel here because they want their families to make memories in this special place.

We are truly lucky to call this place home.

Enjoy this year's issue of The Peak.

Inolle

-MELISSA FENLON, PUBLISHER

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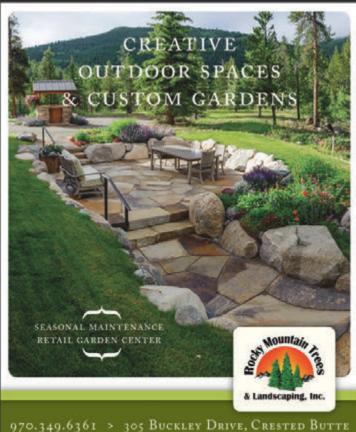
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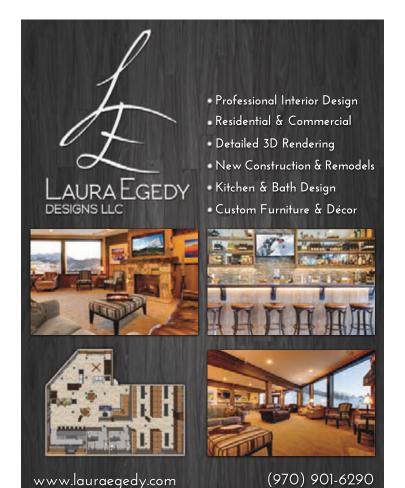
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A CABIN BY THE CREEK

A LIFELONG DREAM TO RETURN TO COLORADO TAKES SHAPE

story by seth mensing | photos by bob brazell



The a home on the East River, the owners didn't stop at using reclaimed wood. They reclaimed a style and brought a simple elegance back from a bygone era.

With every modern amenity and luxury beneath a simple roofline and surrounded by time-tested materials, it's a place where you can appreciate top-level craftsmanship that doesn't go over the top. Every detail is as perfect as it is unpretentious, and that's just the way the owners wanted it.

Where some vacation homes can feel like a museum or a cavernous lodge at Yellowstone, it's easy to imagine pitchers of lemonade on the porch and screen doors snapping at the heels of kids running through the Chirekos' house.

After following a career to the East Coast, it was time to reclaim the life they longed for. "We lived in Colorado before we moved to New York and it was always our intention to move back, it just took a little longer than we thought," the owner says. But after 20 years of having Crested Butte in the back of their minds, the time is coming for a change.

After living near the city, the first thing they went looking for in a new property was space. "We looked at a lot of different places. When we saw Hidden River we loved it immediately. It's so special to be along the river," the owner says. "We love that it's easy to get into town and has wonderful space."

They like to fish and their dogs like the water, so a place on the East River was just right. It offered plenty of room to stretch out and even an opportunity to see the cattle grazing in the neighboring fields. "My best day is seeing the horses and the cattle nearby. One of the most wonderful things about Gunnison County is the ranching community that's here," she says. "And it's calving season, which is the best part."

The owners knew what they wanted, they just weren't sure how it should look. Along with Pete Weber, an architect and principal with Crested Butte and Boulderbased Coburn Development, they came up with a plan to build a house composed of three "pods," using various exterior façades that give it the look of a homestead that grew with the family inside.

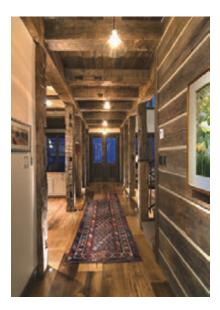
"Pete came up with the idea of having three pods," the owner says. "That way you get the sense of being in a smaller space. It looks as though it grew up over time around the center part of the house. It's a very comfortable and functional design."

To pull it off, the owners called on Johnny Biggers, owner of Crested Butte Builders, who has been building in the valley since the summer of 1983. After retiring from the ski patrol in 1999, Biggers got into building full time and has since taken his place among the area's most elite custom homebuilders.

The owners had heard of Biggers through a friend and when they interviewed him for the job, they knew immediately the fit was right. And around him was an incredible assemblage of the valley's best craftspeople.

"They made it a really fun project," the owner says of Biggers. "He's such a talented, personable, guy and everyone on his team is the same."

During the peak of the valley's real estate boom prior to 2008, Biggers had a crew of 20 people working for him.









Now only eight of the best remain. Biggers says they are a dedicated group that takes pride in seeing a job done well.

The crew had dozens of reclaimed beams, hand-hewn and still complete with their original mortises and even hardware that bears a rusty patina that can only be earned with age. Many of the beams, Biggers says, are hickory and oak that came from the Midwest, where they supported family homes and farmhouses for a century or more before being repurposed.

The beams form the grid the rest of the house is built around and bring a depth and texture to the house that couldn't be gained easily any other way. Each is a work of art, carved with a broad axe and born for utility. But after being brushed and varnished decades later, they are worthy of the floor-mounted lights directed to many of the beams throughout the house.

Just as impressive are the reclaimed chestnut floors and the hand-wrought

iron railings, the custom kitchen table and the cabinetry. Even some of the furniture is custom built by Biggers' crew from drawings the owner made. Everything about the house is done with an eye toward luxury and quality.

"We were so impressed with the craftsmanship and the people we worked with on this project. If anything stands out to us, it's the quality of workmanship in the house," the owner says. "We constantly admire how beautifully built it is."

With more than 5,000 square feet of living space, the house has room for every occasion, but not so much that people get lost to one another. "We wanted a cabin, something with smaller spaces and nothing that appeared to be too big from the inside as well as out."

Inside, the spaces are cozy and inviting, with comfortable furnishings and warm lighting that the owner chose and arranged. And, as all great homes are, this one on the East River is still a work in progress, getting finishing touches all the time. It's the sign of someone who's never tired of the project, even after it is mostly done.

"Easy doesn't begin to describe how great it was to work with [Johnny]. Under Johnny's leadership, the whole team was so creative and such a pleasure to work with. This was our first experience building a house and with Johnny's guidance it was a great one. We never once heard 'no' or 'it can't be done.' It was always 'We'll make it work.""

Now the hard part will be finding more time to spend in their piece of paradise.

"What's not to love about Crested Butte? What everybody says about Crested Butte is so true. It's charming. The community is wonderful. You can settle right in," the owner, who now lives in the valley about half the year, says. "We were fortunate that we had friends here before we built the house. But it's a very welcoming community and we've made so many wonderful new friends. As mountain towns go, I'd say it's at the top of the list."





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THE HOUSE THAT MARY BUILT

story by Dawne Belloise house photos by Matt Berglund n a world that often feels like it's spinning out of control, a home is one's refuge, and a mother is like an island in the middle of the chaos. Such is the house that Mary Gordon made into a home and the world she created for her three sons, Jason and twins Seaton and Colin MacMillan.

The house on Sopris Avenue was originally built in the 1880s by a local Crested Butte banker when the town's identity in coal mining was developing. An 1890s portrait of the banker and his wife greets guests as they step over the back door threshold. Later, the house was the home of the town's postmaster, Martin Verzuh. When Mary Gordon purchased the dilapidated and ramshackle house in 2003, postmaster Verzuh's post office box key, numbered 0001, was still on his upstairs dresser.



Mary's son Colin remembers when the house was originally for sale. Most people who looked at the house, he said, thought it was hideous and no one wanted it. But his mother saw a diamond in the rough. Mary went to the library and found a picture of the house from the late 1800s, and discovered that the original front balcony had been removed by one of the owners and replaced by a gable roof.





In the 1940s and '50s, door-to-door Sears salesmen convinced homeowners across America to upgrade and modernize with aluminum siding, which supposedly never needed painting, and huge picture windows to welcome the outdoors. While large windows might have been a popular choice for most of the world, they were impractical for a dusty coal mining town at nearly 9,000 feet in altitude with 300 inches of annual snowfall, extended winters and sub-zero temps. Nevertheless, the house was given that mid-20th-century facelift. By the turn of the millennium the place had fallen into disrepair and needed extensive work.

Mary and her beau, local carpenter Steve Farley, along with Colin, went to work from the foundation up. When the house was lifted off the old stone foundation to make way for a new concrete one, they discovered old bricks from the coke ovens of the town's coal mining days.

Coke is a form of coal that burns much hotter and brighter and was widely used in domestic heating because it had fewer impurities and produced little or no smoke. To make coal coke, the mines would essentially bake the coal in large, domed brick ovens, which in Crested Butte lined the Bench area where the skate park and Big Mine Ice Rink are now. When the coke ovens in town were taken out of use, many of the bricks found their way into the houses of locals to fortify weak foundations or to insulate or distribute heat from their stoves. The MacMillan boys recycled the bricks into their lovely backyard garden.

Colin claims he reminded himself of the old-time miners after working on the house daily— except for his ankles and the lines of his respirator mask, he was covered in the fine black dust. As with most, if not all, Crested Butte homes, a couple of inches of coal dust permeated and layered everything, from the inner walls to the dirt under the house. The family team took out the original wood and coal burning stove, which was still in its place from a lifetime of use.

The brothers were especially intrigued

with the local history and its mines so they were delighted to find a cache of glass bottles from various eras. While the backhoe crew was digging out the alley to run a new gas line, they uncovered a hole with a slab of rock covering it. It turned out to be an old Prohibition stash of bottles, one still corked—and the equipment crew didn't hesitate to down its vintage liquid contents (apparently, they survived).

They also found bottles in the buried outhouse sites (no one drank from those, however). It wasn't that long ago that outhouses were still in use in Crested Butte-some of the notorious and historic two-storied ones can still be found in the back alleys, where the second story was accessed after the snows buried the lower door. When an outhouse was deemed full, the residents would toss their unwanted items and garbage into the hole before burying everything and moving the structure to a freshly dug hole. As a result, searching for old outhouse sites is a popular pastime for treasure hunters.



Conscious of preserving and reusing as much of the architectural remnants as possible, the family used all the old, solid lumber from the house for the interior trim. The downstairs ceilings boast original beadboard salvaged from the upstairs and pieced together in rustic and colorful palette of olive greens, blues, and ochres. Mary painstakingly reassembled the 1800s-era square lockboxes and doorknobs. The wood plank floors were sanded and warmly refinished wherever possible. Compatible wood was installed in places that the floors were too badly damaged. Those picture windows from the 1950s were replaced with more period-appropriate mullioned windows.

Best of all, the dining table is made from rough-cut wood that had to be removed, then sanded, finished, and buffed— and used by the family as the hearth of the home. Colin says one of the biggest gifts his mother gave them was an appreciation for the family table, where as kids they'd all hang out—adults, friends and family—telling stories, laughing, eating and sharing their lives.

When the bones of the house were finished, Mary started detailing and putting her special finishing touches into making it a real home that reflected the things she loved. In addition to her chosen mountain life, Mary loved blue waters and warm sands, splitting time between Crested Butte, her long-time home in Vero Beach, Florida, and Man-O-War in the Bahamas.



Some of the Crested Butte rooms subtly highlight tropical sun colors. Glass tile showers are embedded with beach shells as trim, and colorful pebbled bathroom floors tempt one to soak in the deep tubs as one would in the warm ocean.

One bedroom has an entire wall of southern-inspired, pink distressed shuttered closet doors and island shell-colored walls. Another sleeping quarter has a four-poster bed deliciously surrounded by mango tones.

Throughout the home are antique furniture and knick knacks, handpicked by Mary and collected over years. The house is not at all cluttered but pointedly arranged so that the individual pieces are highlighted. From the couch in the minty green living room downstairs, the eye follows a distinct transition to the coral walls of the dining room, which is open to the kitchen.

continued on page 30







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MAJOR RENOVATION EQUALS MAJOR TRANSFORMATION

TIPS FROM THE PROS

m

story melissa fenlon photos james ray spahn The transformation takes your breath away.

What started as a dark, dated mountain home has turned into a modern mountain marvel.

And somehow even the views seem better.

IT'S A WHOLE NEW HOUSE... As the supply of vacant land in town and around the mountain is decreasing, there are many homes on the market that, with some serious renovation, can become just as good as new.

Interior designer Kristine Pivarnik of kPd Studios has been working on countless remodels in the area.

"I don't feel like any house is that bad," she says. "I know the potential a house can have."

Admittedly, a renovation project can be both scary and overwhelming. But with a good team in place and a homeowner who is openminded and organized, it shouldn't be intimidating.

"First, find the location that you want. Don't be fearful. Gather a team that you trust, then entrust those people to do what they do," Pivarnik explains.

Pivarnik follows a process when undertaking a renovation project.

First and foremost is meeting with the client. "Find out how they want to live, what their budget is, how the house needs to function and the aesthetic criteria," she says. Next, schematic designs, including space plans, are created. Those designs are developed within the set criteria and work begins. Staying on track through project management is key, as is clear communication.

Contractor Ben Somrak echoes that sentiment and urges homeowners to stay open-minded. "Decide your start-time and have a flexible timeframe. That's very important. Things can arise that you don't expect. Be open-minded on the journey that you are about to embark on. At the end, you are going to have an amazing project. Everything has a risk and reward," explains Somrak.

Many projects go down to the studs, where the interior of the home is gutted. This way a new layout can be created to be functional for the new family. But pros agree it can be a challenge for everyone to see the potential at first.

Realtor Heather Woodward takes a contractor or designer along with her when she accompanies clients on viewings of older properties that need renovating, noting, "This helps flip the switch" for many clients who need guidance to see the vision of what a house can become.

The bones and overall structure of the house may meet their needs, but the finishes and configuration are issues that can be addressed.

"We can show them the potential in that property and how we can make it better," Woodward says.

On the mountain there are homes from the 1980s and '90s that need major updating, and homes in town from the 2000s that need some freshening up. "You can update the property to your taste and your needs and put your personal touch on the property to make it yours," Woodward says.

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"I do enjoy building from the ground up. I have total control," says Somrak. "But I love to help people take something dated and sometimes awful and transform it into their dream home." Pivarnik worked on a Mt. Crested Butte remodel recently that took a house from '90s mountain home complete with river rock and Saltillo tile to a

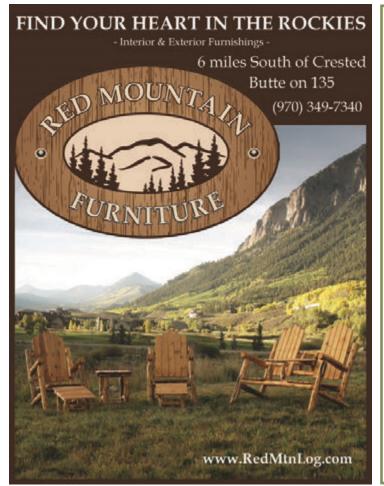
Somrak looks for good integrity in a home, to tell if it's well built with a dated interior. Those homes

make for perfect renovations.

recently that took a house from '90s mountain home complete with river rock and Saltillo tile to a sophisticated rustic modern house. "The homeowners wanted to have a place here to raise their kids and make memories," says Pivarnik. They found a home in a grove of trees on the mountain and fell in love with the location. But the home needed to be modernized in its look and feel and how it lived. Pivarnik had a challenge in front of her, but as you can see on page 20, the results were stunning.

Another project was updating a penthouse in Mountaineer Square, pictured here. It was only ten years old, but the homeowners wanted a newer mountain home look. The reds and browns made way for a modern monochromatic interior, complete with a hand-made aspen grove in the dining room. "The homeowner wanted it to feel fresh and clean, not heavy mountain," Pivarnik says.





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Pivarnik loves the challenge a major renovation offers. But at the end of the day, she says, "I really want the owners to enjoy their house and get longevity out of their home."

What does Somrak love the most about these projects? "You get to see the before look on their faces, and the after, that's the best. The wows. They understand how much it took to get it there. They know the before and the after. Remodeling takes a lot of creativity and a lot of problem solving."

The most rewarding part for Woodward is to see the properties she's sold being passed from generation to generation.

"It's emotional real estate here," Woodward explains. "The reasons to buy in Crested Butte are deeper. Who wouldn't want a good investment? But it's emotional. They love Crested Butte and they want to be here because they love it." She concludes, "When they leave Crested Butte to go back home, this is what they dream about."

A WHOLE NEW HOUSE...

Tips from contractor Ben Somrak

- \ Walk the property with a contractor and build a good relationship with that contractor.
- \ After purchasing the property, put your plan in place. Decide how much money you want to spend.
- \ Set your timeline, but be open-minded about it.
- \ Keep up good communication with your builder and your designer. And be prepared to make a lot of decisions. Organization is key.

Tips from interior designer Kristine Pivarnik:

- \ Be honest. Get to the core of your reasonings. Set three to four primary objectives for your home. Articulate your budgetary, functional and aesthetic desires. Combined, these will serve as a guide when making decisions along the way.
- \ Respect the process. All professionals should have one and, if followed, your results will be phenomenal.
- \ Environment affects emotion. Be true to yourself and express what types of surroundings make you feel the way you want to feel in your home. You do not need to interpret "mountain" style the way anyone else does.
- \ Keep it clean. Let's be frank, everything has a lifespan but to add longevity, keep interior finish materials simple. Add furnishings, textiles, lighting fixtures and accessories that favor current trends.
- \ Add texture. When using a monochromatic or neutral color palette, be sure to introduce a variety of textures. Light will reflect the differing surfaces and make the elements of the space captivating.
- \ Be authentic. Fill your home with items of personal interest to you, ones that you have collected along the way or represent yourself. Mix old and new treasures.



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To those walking down Elk Avenue today, the town of Crested Butte would not look radically different from how it looked 100 years ago. Obviously, a century ago the road would have been unpaved, and there would have been fewer people strolling the sidewalks, which were then wooden boardwalks. There would likely be coal dust hanging in the summer air but the look and feel of the town would be quite similar. Like today, the economy of the community in the late 1800s and early 1900s sprung from the earth. While mining was the main industry, there were people even 120 years ago in our history who recognized the unique beauty surrounding Crested Butte and the potential of its allure for tourism. In his book, *Crested Butte: From Coal Camp to Ski Town*, Duane Smith notes that author Helen Hunt Jackson featured the valley in an issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*. Even in 1883 she "questioned the compatibility of a field of purple asters with the site of men digging, coking and selling coal across the stream, men who were blind to the beauty at their feet."

During that decades-long mining heyday, one of the places to stay when visiting Crested Butte was right on Elk Avenue in the old City Hotel (later the Western Hotel), located next to the Masonic Hall in the 300 block of Elk.

The building is a reflection of the original Crested Butte and the values that emanate from a coal mining history, as opposed to a town like Aspen that grew from gold and silver mining. It's not flashy, but it is stalwart and still pretty cool. Built in the 1890s, it was originally set up as a millinery shop selling woman's hats popular in the day. The wooden frame structure was typical of the late 19th-century buildings constructed in town. Its architecture is comprised of simple rectangular forms with a steeply pitched gable roof that is hidden by the false front representative of the period. It's decorated with the projecting cornice and decorative dentils, and the trim work now is brightly painted.



According to Molly Minneman, preservation coordinator for the town of Crested Butte, "One of the unique features of this building is the covered outdoor staircase on the east side that leads to the little hotel rooms on the second floor. It is the only remaining feature like it in town."

Today there are inviting benches on the sidewalk in front of the building, where people can take a moment in the high-altitude sun and look up Gibson's Ridge at the southern end of town. The narrow glass windows show off the wares of the current occupant, Dragonfly Anglers. Flies and reels, jackets and books advertise the goods inside the old hotel.



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The green, pink and white wooden trim looks like it could be the original. Behind the narrow wooden entrance door is a shop that would not have been entirely out of place a hundred years ago. Mounted trout, deer and elk adorn the walls above where restaurant patrons and miners ate before heading to work in the coal mines. Look up to the second floor, through the upstairs windows, and let your imagination flow to where visitors and boarders lived and socialized a century ago.

In the early 1900s the building was purchased by a family named Murphy, who turned it into the hotel. A room in the City Hotel went for \$2.50 a night. According to George Sibley's *A Crested Butte Primer*, the hotel was more like a boarding house for miners during the peak mining days of the 1920s. Some of the rooms upstairs were even converted to apartments.

Sibley records, "In 1927, Frank Yelenick, a Yugoslavian immigrant and a coal miner, and his wife, Mary Tezak Yelenick, bought the building from Mrs. Anna Murphy."

The Yelenicks had been married in 1925. Mary was a schoolteacher but she quit to settle down with Frank and raise a family. She would return to the classroom after her children were grown and teach in the local public schools until 1969. Eventually the town named the park behind the current Crested Butte Center for the Arts in her honor.

When the Yelenicks purchased the property, they changed the name to the Western Hotel. According to the *Primer*, Mary operated a restaurant in the front part of the building where Dragonfly Anglers is now located. While running the hotel, Frank continued to work in the coal mines. In 1936 as the mining economy became more and more unstable, the Yelenicks closed the restaurant. The boarders were mainly young men who had come to town to try their luck in the mines and who were more transient than the families established in the Crested Butte of that period. They more easily left town when the work was unsteady.

"In 1947, with the miner's life beginning to take a toll on his health, Frank Yelenick left the mines and opened up the Crested Butte Liquor Store in a part of the old restaurant," Sibley wrote. That liquor store closed in 1985.

The storefront today, with its fishing flies, outdoor gear and maps, is directed to the area's tourism. While the town's economy still depends on the earth—120 years since the building was built in a growing coal mining town—the clean air and streams are now the valley's tourism fuel. While you can't rent a room in the old Western Hotel anymore, you can rent some fishing gear and a guide and head out to the nearby streams and rivers to try your luck—not in the mines, but in the pristine natural bounty surrounding Crested Butte.



Molly Eldridge

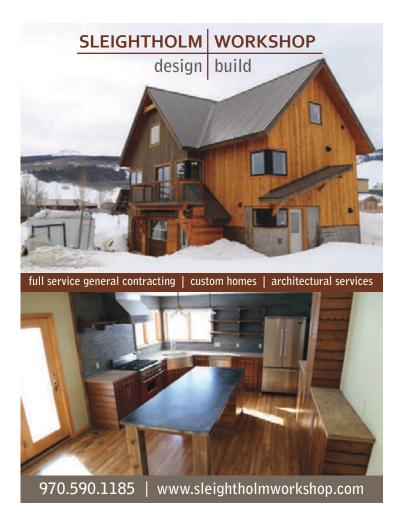
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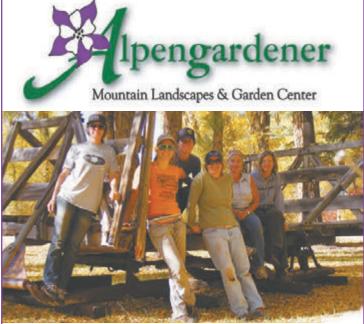
continued from page 18

The remodel took a year and a half and the family finally moved in during the autumn of 2004. Two years later, Mary was diagnosed with a rare uterine cancer that kept her in chemo treatments, on trial medications and in and out of hospitals and doctors' offices. But through it all, she also played tennis, went boating, and hiked. For the most part, her effervescent personality and unsinkable spirit kept her afloat until she decided it was time to go. Mary passed away the day after Christmas in 2009. When the boys cleaned out the house after she died, they found a box of undated poetry she had writtensonnets, artfully put together and meticulously pasted into a thick book, as though she had always planned to publish it. From the time she was a child, Mary was an artist and worked with clay in her pottery studio in Crested Butte, called the Naked Potter. In her final days, she created in water colors and pastels, donating her art to Living Journeys, which now sells her prints to benefit those and their families living with cancer.

Mary is ever present in this house she made a home. She shines throughout the colors splashed onto the walls. Everything is perfectly placed to please the eye and comfort the soul. From the sunshine that falls through a window to the lime green laundry room that makes doing the laundry less of a chore, it's as if Mary continues to remind us to smile, to enjoy the bounty this wonderland of mountains and wild summer flowers.

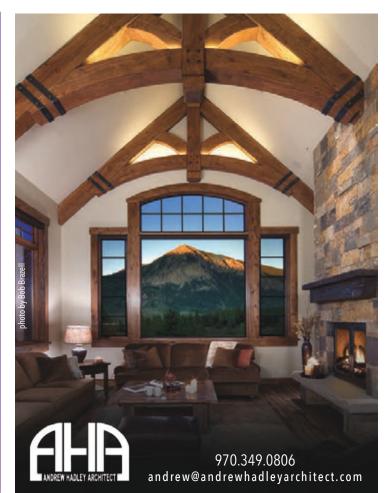
The sons named the home The Gordon Luxury Vacation Home, in honor of their mother. It's available to guests year-round in the hope that other families will create good times and memories. The sons agree that's certainly what Mary intended for this house— to be a place for her sons to remain close, and in that sense, it is her legacy. Seaton smiles and speaks for his brothers when he says, "If anyone ever wanted to know who she was, all they need to do is walk through this home."





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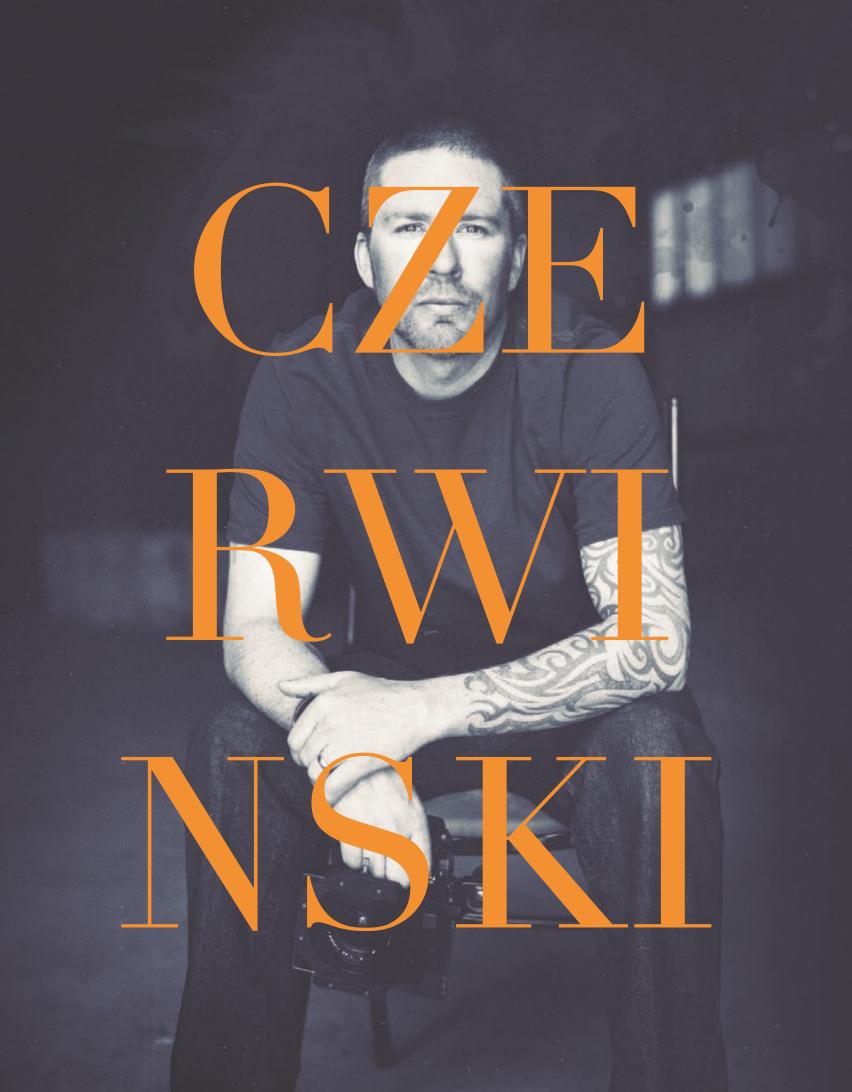
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ARTIST PROFILE: RAYNOR CZERWINSKI FINDING THE PERFECT IMPERFECTION

STORY BY SETH MENSING | PORTRAITS BY ALEX FENLON | PHOTOS BY RAYNOR CZERWINSKI

FILM ISN'T JUST A PART OF RAYNOR CZERWINSKI'S PHOTOGRAPHY. IT'S CENTRAL TO HIS ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE.

In a time when the world can be seen instantly and all at once on the phone in your pocket, photography waits. It waits for the right place and the right time. The right light. The right composition. The right artist who can understand and capture a scene's various elements.

And now a camera can offer instantaneous feedback for a photographer through an LCD screen, displaying the need for another shot, or not. But for Raynor, the feedback's not what it's about at all. It's about understanding a place for the reasons we photograph it. And it's about understanding a photograph for the reasons we look at it and hang it on the wall.

That understanding started with Indiana Jones and the *National Geographic* magazines that were lined up on shelves in the basement of Czerwinski's parent's home outside Tacoma, Washington. As a boy, Raynor wanted adventure and wanted to see the world in unseen ways, to explore and document places he could otherwise get to only in his imagination. "We were always at the ocean or in the mountains or out in the wild," he says of his childhood. "It was really cool."

Raynor discovered the work of Galen Rowell, the famed climber-turned-photographer, and Minor White, a contemporary of Ansel Adams, whose photographs were known for having a unique quality of light in a mundane scene, like one famous shot of frost on a windowpane. "Ansel Adams showed *what* things were very well. Minor White would show what *else* they were," Raynor says. "I liked him because he took photography a step further."

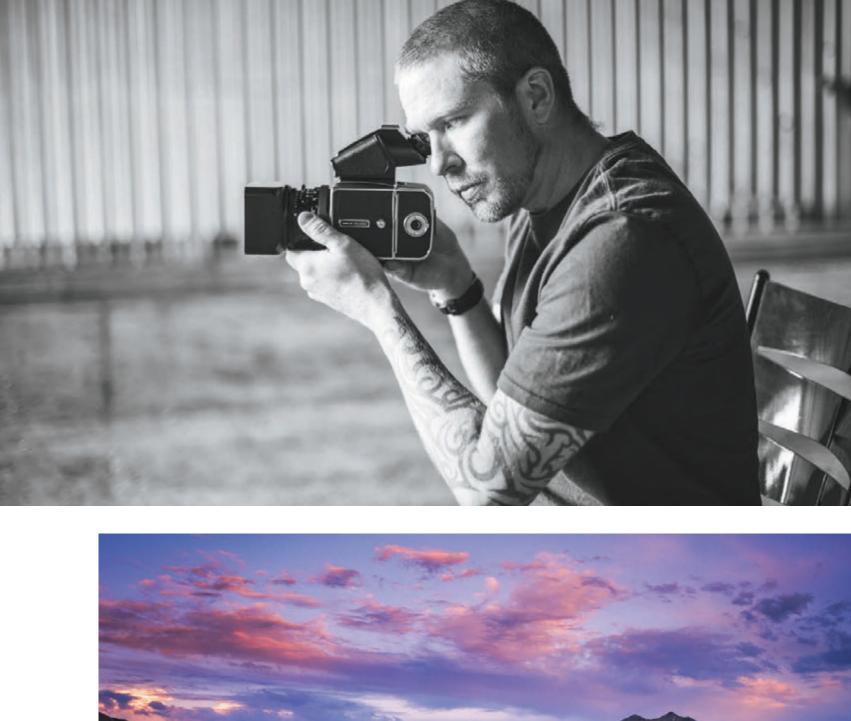
In the 1990s, with the grunge scene raging all around him, Raynor struck out with a band, recording three albums and playing more than 150 shows up and down the West Coast, from Seattle to L.A. As a guitarist, he was drawn to the sound of his instrument filtered through an old tube amplifier, and he played his songs on analog equipment. When his band recorded,



they did so with two-inch tape on a reel-to-reel machine. "Generally, there's a warmth, there's a life to analog that I really enjoy," Raynor says.

When he wasn't playing, Raynor was taking pictures of his band and his friend's bands while they played, reigniting an old interest in photography. And as with many parallels between Raynor's music and his photography, his affinity for the old way of doing things translated to film in cameras at the onset of the digital age. It's not that Raynor has never used a digital camera. He did and did it well for more years than he's now been using film. But slowly, over a decade of serious photography, film won him over.

Film, like the camera itself, is an integral part of Raynor's art. Though landscapes are a specialty, Raynor's empathy and eye for composition are also evident in his portraiture and street photography involving people and animals. Film leaves him room for variation, where a digital photograph



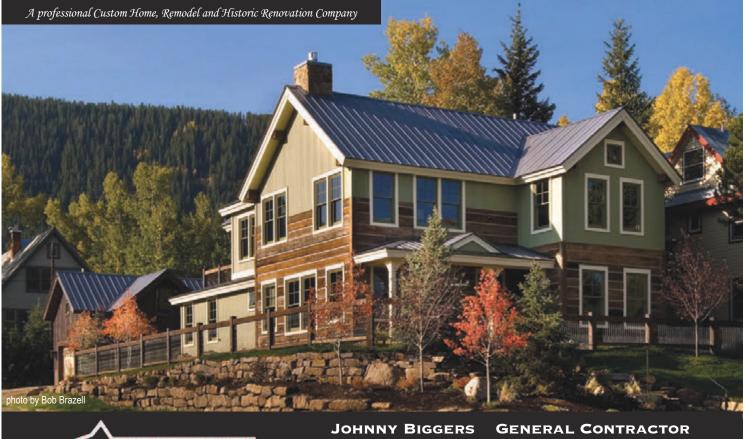




can seem sterile and unchanging. The Japanese have for centuries understood the value of "wabisabi," or "perfect imperfection," and Raynor has similarly been able to embrace the inconsistencies that film can create.

"I'm trying to be an imperfectionist, really, in my photography, in my art, to leave room for mistakes or anomalies. That's where the real beauty comes from," Raynor says. "Of course, strive for greatness in your craft. But perfection—it's not for me."





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PO Box 4403 | Mt. Crested Butte, CO 81225 970.349.4769 | www.mcbpac.org His equipment can seem old and heavy. But each is a masterful work of craftsmanship, sometimes without even the need for a battery, only a forefinger and a thumb to turn the watch-like gears and advance the film to the next frame. "I feel like the more sophisticated the tool becomes, the less involvement it requires of the user," he says. "I'm not sure if that's such a good thing. [Film] forces me to be a better technician, because my tools are very rudimentary."

Even with a camera that uses film, the lens can feel like a barrier, and Raynor says it's taken him a long time to travel for the sake of photography and still experience the place that makes truly intimate photographs possible. "When you photograph a lot, you can go and miss that connection, that interaction with a subject," he says. "It's taken me a long time to know when to put the camera down."

Although he admits to missing his share of shots and making a bad exposure here and there, the film keeps Raynor grounded in his art. The time it takes to click the shutter forces him to slow down and make better shots. "For my photographic journey, film works for me. I have to be more present in the moment and that pushes me to be a better photographer, because the consequences of not having everything the way you want it could be a missed opportunity that you won't get again."

When he travels to shoot, Raynor can spend a week or more at a single location to wait for the right light. In that time, he gets to know a place and its moods, finding angles for his photographs that can be almost too subtle to recognize as being deliberate. But those lines draw us in, attract us like a certain kind of symmetry. "Some of my pictures will take me years to get," Raynor says. "Just going to the same location multiple times, waiting for the right light." Once the shutter clicks and the film is sent away to be developed, it can be two weeks or more before he sees the pictures he'd taken.

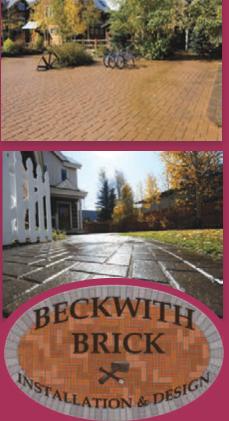
"It slows me down," Raynor says. "This is such a rapid-fire time. Film forces us to be a little more patient. I've been doing this seriously for 15 years and I'm just starting to grasp photography as an art. It's just more and more enlightening all the time. It's being in the moment and being present, almost meditative," he says. "And then, when it all comes together, there's a real feeling of gratitude."

You can see more of Raynor's work or learn about his photography tours at the Ingham Fine Art Gallery at 403 3rd Street in Crested Butte, or on his website, lucidlandscape.com.





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TRENDING

We asked some of Crested Butte's interior designers what their favorite trends in mountain homes are. These ideas have us feeling inspired!







 $4 \setminus$





Laura Egedy, Laura Egedy Designs

1 \ ELEGANT TOUCH

The nailhead trim and the simple strip of fabric give a beautiful detail to this contemporary sofa. The design is repeated on the leather coffee table, which is both an elegant and trendy way to complete the look of a room.

$2 \ \ \ UNEXPECTED \ \ COLOR$

This vibrant revival rug from Oriental Weavers brings interest with an unexpected pop of color to an otherwise monochromatic bedroom. The shabby chic look is still very popular, especially in casual mountain living.

3 \ MIXING IT UP

The Troy Lighting Embarcedaro fixture, available from Mountain Colors, is a fresh twist on mixed textures and metals. Laura loves the combination of ribbed glass, antique manila rope and hand-forged wrought iron. Using a modern design with rustic finishes is a favorite design trend.

4 \ ...ALL THAT GLITTERS

Give your space a one of a kind look by adding a fixture like this Adirondack light from Troy, also available at Mountain Colors. The hand-forged iron in a graphite and silver leaf finish makes this fixture a statement piece. Gold has made a comeback and this light gives a modern finish with the rustic twigs and mountain home edge.



Heidi Sherratt Bogart, Interior Visions

1 \ KEEP IT SIMPLE

So many clients are looking to simplify and take on the "less is more" mantra. Homeowners are craving simplicity in their lives and the focus has shifted from quantity to quality.

$2 \setminus OPEN IT UP$

Open shelving in the kitchen continues to be on trend and rightfully so. Displaying kitchenware is a growing trend among all kitchen types, not just contemporary kitchens.

$3 \ \ \ CREATE \ STYLE WITH TILE$

Tile is becoming art in the home. Tile is where style and creativity come into play, have fun with it! Tile selections for this year are abundant and super cool: recycled glass tile, subway tile, stone tile, tile with lights, pebble tile, and glass tile mosaics with semi-pre-



fiti tiles are becoming popular.

ESSENTIAL

offices, and dens.

cious stone are just a few of the numerous options. As for patterns, Moroccan designs, herringbone and geometric patterns, even graf-

4 \ NEUTRAL RULES...BUT TOUCHES OF COLOR ARE

Gray, "greige," beige and bone color schemes continue to domi-

nate to create neutral palettes that are fresh and compelling. Various

shades of warm gray are most popular for neutrals in living spaces,

with deco accent hues of caramels, blues, topaz, olive, raisin, whiskey and cinnamons used in more private areas, such as bedrooms,



1 \ BEDROOM SUITES THAT STAND ALONE

Create a personal space in bedrooms – a home in its own. Adding a fireplace for warmth, architectural details with beams, wood on ceiling, the walls in faux all create an incredible room. Even adding a beverage bar. It's a place for personal time.

$2 \ ENTRY ROOM APPEAL$

Entries can be beautiful, but mudrooms are used. Making the mudroom not only functional but appealing. Add wood to the walls, for a great look and durability, built-in cabinets for storage, furniture pieces that are functional, and great lighting. The mudroom can be the new entry, so make it something inviting and a place you want to enter.

3 \ POCKET DOORS NO MORE!

The hanging door trend is everywhere. Rustic or contemporary, you can't go wrong with hanging doors on rolling hinges. Use reclaimed wood to build a door with metal strapping and don't be afraid to use an old tool found on the property as the hardware.

4 \ BRING DIMENSION AND BEAUTY TO INTERIOR WALLS

Wall treatments are back! Adding stacked moss rock; these walls were given an element of design, color and texture to the room. Creating a warm and inviting

atmosphere, while bringing a little of the outside in – true mountain appeal. This can be accomplished by using textiles such as stone, stone veneer, wood, faux texture, American clay or wallpaper.

Sara Potoker, Ansley Interiors

STAYING TRUE



She fought it for a long time. She first planned on becoming a veterinarian. That was when she was six. Next it was to become an architect. That was in high school. Then she planned on a career in art conservation. That was in college. She took a long detour with a tech start-up company. It wasn't until she moved to Crested Butte and married her husband that the urge she had always put away in the back of her head emerged. Kate Ladoulis became a chef, and a damn good one at that.

The husband and wife team behind django's on the mountain and the Bacchanale in the heart of Crested Butte has created a mini-dynasty in the town's restaurant scene.

When she was 38, Kate and her husband, Chris, left Crested Butte for New York, where Kate would go to the French Culinary Institute. "I resisted the family business for a long time," says Kate, whose dad ran a restaurant for most of his adult life. "But Chris really encouraged me to go to culinary school."





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Although she had been resisting the restaurant business, Kate was constantly inventing new concepts for restaurants, or creating the perfect one in her head.

In New York, she and Chris had several years to curate the ideas behind django's. "We had the time to ask ourselves what was important," she explains. "The flatware, the glassware, everything mattered to us. We spent a lot of time thinking about it. It was a night and day experience."

What they created has become a mainstay in the Crested Butte culinary scene. Kate crafted a Mediterranean-inspired small plates menu with an out-of-this-world wine list.

They have hit their stride with django's, but it took a lot of dedication and long hours to make it to that point. The first year, when they were new restaurant owners and new parents, there were nights when it was just Chris working the front of the house and Kate in the kitchen. "We grew our reputation over time," she says. "People knew what they were going to get. We haven't waivered on what we do."

Kate continues, "I think what happens many times in this business is people fall prey to being all things for all people. We made a commitment to our idea, we knew what we wanted it to be, and we've stayed true to that."



Their concept behind django's was to create a social experience in which people have access to stepping out of their comfort zone and trying new things. "This is how Chris and I like to eat and sample different things," Kate says.

Serendipity stepped in a few years ago when Jeff Black, the president of Celebrity Chef Tour Benefiting the James Beard Foundation was sitting at the bar at django's on the Fourth of July, sampling Kate's menu. Kate recalled, "He said, 'You should really cook at the James Beard House,' and I said, 'Yes, I should.' He said, 'No, I'm serious.""

Black finds chefs from around the country to nominate to cook a fundraising dinner for the James Beard Foundation. She didn't hear from Black's office for six months. And then, once the call was made to book Kate's dinner, there was no doubt in her mind she would do it. "It's such a great honor."



Her dinner was a success. "It's extremely humbling... It's validation, it does matter," Kate says. "What I'm doing may not be changing the world, but I'm getting some validation from some of the best in my field."

Kate has continued to cook with the James Beard Foundation Celebrity Chef Tours, still a great honor.

These experiences are ones she will never forget. "It's all life is—a series of experiences, of hopefully memorable experiences. And they say experiences are made over a shared meal."

SEE PAGE 47 FOR SOME OF KATE'S THOUGHTS ON MUSIC, CULINARY IDOLS, AND THE SUPPORT OF OTHERS.

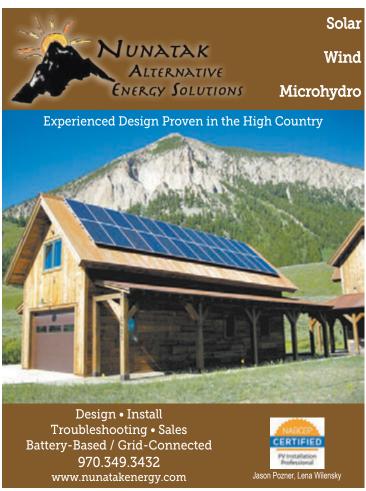


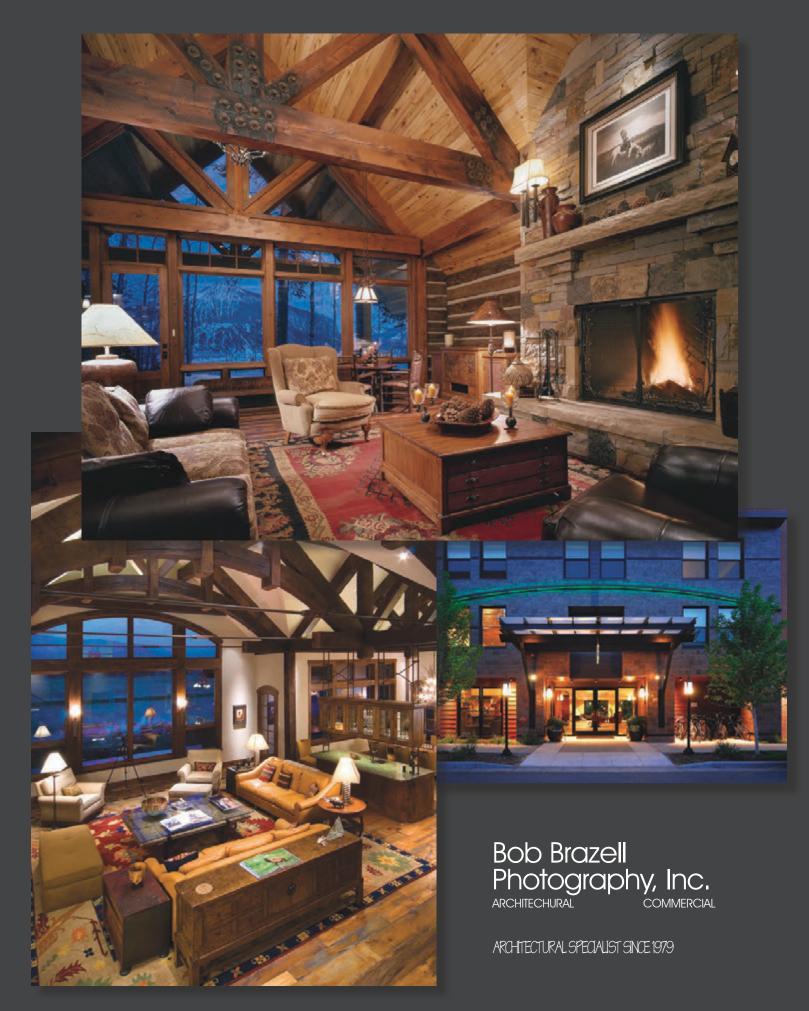
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MUSIC IN HER KITCHEN

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THE CRESTED BUTTE CULINARY COMMUNITY

One of her dishwashers didn't show and Chef Jason Vernon from Soupçon hand-delivered one of his own to help. Kate says, "The hours are hard, it's physically demanding and there are not really that many rewards, but being able to support each other is powerful for us. We ain't got much more than that."



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THE DIRT ON FLOWER POTS SOME TIPS FROM A PRO ON PLANTING YOUR CONTAINERS

BY MELISSA FENLON

There's nothing like a big pot of flowers to greet you on your front porch during the summer. The colors, the textures, the hummingbirds... they all scream summer. We got some tips from a local pro on how to plant your containers. Krista Hildebrandt, owner of Alpengardener, isn't afraid to get creative with her containers. Here's the inside scoop from her.

Think outside of the box for your container.

Krista loves to recycle when it comes to her containers. Why not check with a local retail store to see if they have any extra big vases that might be damaged, but perfect for your front stoop. Or use an old whiskey barrel for a permanent spot on the deck. Just remember if the pot you choose does not have drainage, put the plant in a smaller container with a drain hole.

How much dirt?

You really only need 12 inches of soil for most containers, Krista shares. She likes to recycle plastic [something] on the bottom of her pots. Just smash the plastic down enough to make it level, then top with a drain-through fabric and cover with your 12 inches of potting soil.

Don't be afraid to mix annuals and perennials in your container.

Perennials like veronica and salvia are great for containers. After their summer blooms, you can plant them in your garden in the fall. Even transplant your pansies and violas into your garden beds from your pots.

Look for good roots, not blooms.

When it comes time to pick your four-packs or gallon buckets of flowers, Krista says shop for the roots. Always look for healthy root growth, the pretty blooms will follow.

Love your plants.

Containers require a lot of care. And Krista wants people to commit to caring for something living and growing. Let the plant talk to you. She says plants let us know if they are thirsty or not. How do the leaves look, happy or sad? Don't hesitate to check the soil with your finger to see how wet or dry it is. Typically, containers need to be watered every day. Dead head your annuals to promote more blooms. But remember, dead heading prevents a plant from going to seed, so it's good to let those perennial go to seed. And pick your fertilizer based on your wishes. If you want more blooms, pick a fertilizer formula just for that.

"Have fun with it," she says. "You really can't go wrong when it comes to picking out your flowers. I love to shop for colors a lot." It's a good tip when at the local nursery to create a small grouping of plants on the ground to get an idea of how the colors and textures will blend.



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ELECTRONICS Electronic Solutions 970.349.7700 501 Elk Avenue, Suite 1, Crested Butte www.electronicsolutions.info GL Computer Service 970.641.4051 123 W. Tomichi Avenue, Gunnison www.glcomputers.net

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Colorado Mortgage Professional Sarah Baskfield 970.596.4949 sarah@cbloanz.com

Crested Butte Bank 970.349.0170 116 6th Street, Crested Butte www.crestedbuttebank.com

Crested Butte Savings & Loan 970.349.7207 501 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte www.gunnisonsl.com

FLOORING & FLOOR COVERINGS

Artisan Rug Gallery 970.349.0116 311 Elk Avenue PO Box 1277, Crested Butte www.artisanruggallery.com artisanrugs@icloud.com

Elk Mountain Floor Coverings Red Horse Tile Company 970.349.7414/970.349.1362 719 Fourth St., Crested Butte

Mountain Surfaces 970.641.4712 115 South 14th St., Gunnison www.mountainsurfaces.com

Quick Draw Carpet Cleaning 970.641.4247 106 S. Taylor, Suite #1, Gunnison www.quickdrawcleaning.com

FURNITURE DESIGN & SALES

John's Upholstery 970.642.1180 517 Cedar Lane, Elizabeth, CO 80107 www.crestedbuttefurniture.com

Red Mountain Logworks 970.349.7340 21293 Hwy 135, Crested Butte www.redmtnlog.com

GARAGE DOORS

Blackjack Garage Door, LLC Certified Raynor Dealer 970.275.8929 244 Buckley Drive Unit 1, Riverland greg@blackjackgaragedoor.com

HARDWARE

True Value 970.349.5305 607 6th Street, Crested Butte www.truevalue.com

HOME SECURITY

H.V.M. Inc. Security Systems 970.349.7400 310 Belleview Avenue, Crested Butte admin@hvmsecurity.com www.hvmsecurity.com

HOT TUB & SPA SERVICES

Hot Water Productions 970.249.2566 2511 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose www.hotwaterproductions.com

INSURANCE

Mountain West Insurance Commercial Insurance/Work Comp/ Builders Risk Diane Markowitz 970.349.1144 318 Elk Avenue, Upstairs dianem@mtnwst.com

INTERIOR DESIGN

Interior Visions - Defining Mountain Style Interior Design Services, Cabinetry & More 970.349.5352/970.209.6332 313 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte www.interiorvisionscrestedbutte.com

Interni Design Studio

Carolina Fechino-Alling, ASID 970.596.4586 interni_design@yahoo.com

Laura Egedy Designs, LLC

970.901.6290 P.O. Box 2676, Crested Butte www.lauraegedy.com laura@lauraegedy.com

kPd Studios | Kristine Pivarnik Design NCIDQ Cert #24384 970.349.2453 www.kpdstudios.com

Thurston Kitchen and Bath 970.349.5023 544 Riverland Drive, Crested Butte www.thurstonkitchenandbath.com

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Alpengardener 970.349.0252 193 Gillaspey Avenue, Crested Butte South Corner of S. 11th and San Juan, Gunnison www.alpengardener.com

Never Summer Landscape 970.349.1327 / 970.275.8448 Serving Crested Butte & Beyond www.neversummerlandscape.com

Rocky Mountain Trees 970.349.6361 305 Buckley Drive, Riverland Industrial Park, Crested Butte www.rockymountaintrees.com

Spring Creek Landscape Company 970.209.4918 523 Riverland Dr., Unit C, Riverland springcreeklandscape@yahoo.com

LAND & HOME SALES

Benson Sotheby's International Realty 970.349.6653 / 800.249.6653 401 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte BensonSothebysRealty.com

Channing Boucher

Benson Sotheby's International Realty 970.596.3228 channing.boucher@sothebysrealty.com www.crested-butte-real-estate.com

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Heather Woodward Keller Williams Colorado Heritage 970.596.1394 211 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte www.TheHeatherWoodwardTeam.com

Maggie Dethloff Red Lady Realty, Inc. 970.209.7880 - cell maggie@redladyrealty.com www.CrestedButteNow.com

Molly Eldridge

Red Lady Realty, Inc 970.209.4234 - cell 215 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte www.MollyInCrestedButte.com molly@redladyrealty.com

Red Lady Realty Inc.

970.349.5007 215 Elk Avenue, Crested Butte www.redladyrealty.com

Sam Lumb Benson Sotheby's International Realty 970.275.2448 Sam.Lumb@SothebysRealty.com

LEGAL SERVICES

Law of the Rockies 970.641.1903 525 North Main Street, Gunnison www.lawoftherockies.com

METAL WORKS

Blackstar Ironworks 970.275.8460 321 Red Lady Avenue, Crested Butte jabrethauer@yahoo.com

PAINTING

Altitude Painting | Jay Prentiss 970.349.1119 PO Box 3601, Crested Butte altitudepainting@live.com www.altitudepainting.com

Mountain Colors Paint & Design

Kim Raines, Owner 970.349.9200 301 Belleview Avenue, Crested Butte mountaincolors@gmail.com www.mountaincolorsincb.com

PERFORMING ARTS

Mt. Crested Butte Performing Arts Center 970.349.4769 PO Box 4403, Mt. Crested Butte www.mcbpac.org

PLUMBING & HEATING

Timberline Mechanical Contracting, Inc. Plumbing & Heating Contractors Crested Butte 970.349.5679 Gunnison 970.641.1780 2 Andreas Circle, Crested Butte info@timberlinemech.com

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & CONCIERGE SERVICES

Mountain Home Management Full Service Property Management 970.209.2763 www.mountainhm.com

RESTAURANTS/GROCERY

The Last Steep 970.349.7007 208 Elk Avenue, Downtown Crested Butte www.thelaststeep.com

Mountain Earth Organic Grocer 970.349.5132 405 4th Street, Crested Butte

UTILITIES

Gunnison County Electric Association CB Office 970.349.5385 116 6th Street, Suite 202, Crested Butte www.gcea.coop

Gunnison County Electric Association

Gunnison Office 970.641.3520 37250 W. Highway 50, Gunnison www.gcea.coop

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Blind Faith Custom Window Fashions 970.349.2504 515 Riverland Dr., Suite 203, Crested Butte www.blindfaithcb.com info@blindfaithcb.com

WINERIES

Alfred Eames Cellars 970.527.3269 11931 4050 Road, Paonia alfredeamescellars.com

THIS PLACE WE CALL HOME



HOW DID YOU FIND CRESTED BUTTE?

I came to Harmel's Ranch Resort in May 1993 and spent the summer in Taylor Canyon. The first time I had the opportunity to enjoy Crested Butte was Halloween night 1993. I happened to walk into a local drinking establishment without a costume on and quickly realized my mistake. Within minutes, my friend gave me a bed sheet, cut four holes in it and I was back in action. At the time, I didn't understand the importance of owning a costume collection.

WHEN DID CRESTED BUTTE FIRST FEEL LIKE HOME?

From the first moment I arrived in town, Crested Butte felt like home. I remember my first winter in Crested Butte, my parents came to visit and I wanted to learn to snowboard. My dad and I were in the Colorado Boarder looking at snowboards to buy. He said he would "split" one with me, because he didn't want me to stay here. He thought I would change my mind about living in Crested Butte if I had to buy my own equipment. He was very hesitant and one of the other customers, who was a friend and co-worker of mine, told my father "Don't worry, she'll be okay, we will take care of her now." And my father asked, "Who's we?" The reply was, "Her Crested Butte family." I still own that snowboard.

Living in Crested Butte gives me a comfortable feeling that I don't get anywhere else. I barely remember living life before moving to Crested Butte.

WHY ARE YOU PROUD TO CALL THIS PLACE HOME? Every day I think about how lucky I am to live here. I realize

NAME: Tracy Hastings

OCCUPATION: Mother, wife, friend, daughter, sister, volunteer, wedding sales manager at Crested Butte Mountain Resort and co-owner of Treasury Liquors and The Store

YEARS IN CRESTED BUTTE:

21 fun-filled years

how fortunate I am to be able to raise my children in this community, to own a business and work here, to be able to ski, hike, ride, float, camp, etc. in my backyard.

Crested Butte is a vacationer's paradise and it's fun to live in a place that everyone thinks is special. It's a true community where people look out for each other.

Crested Butte is a place that makes me happy; it encourages me to be me. It's still shocking that I get to call this place home. I couldn't imagine living anywhere else...

WHAT SETS CRESTED BUTTE APART FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES?

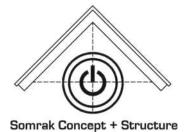
The natural beauty of Crested Butte is obvious to anyone who experiences it and I never get tired of watching the seasons change. There are plenty of beautiful mountain towns, but none as stunning as Crested Butte.

I love the spirit of this town. It's like none other.

The vibe that Crested Butte creates and attracts is quite exuberant. It's the diversity of the people and their characteristics that make Crested Butte stand out. The passion and the drive that locals have for their cause is genuine. It takes a tough person to live here and the people who choose Crested Butte are ambitious.

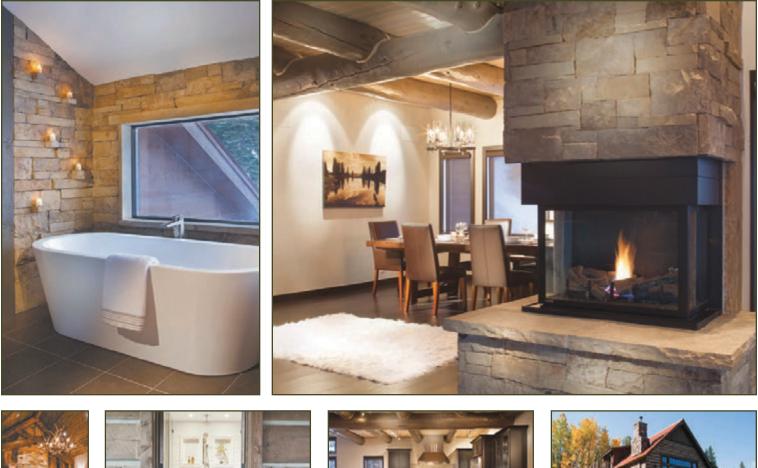
The people who live in this town know that life is for living and most of us know how to make every day count. I *love* a good celebration and Crested Butte doesn't let me down when it comes to utilizing my extensive costume collection.

To be able to live this lifestyle on a daily basis and to have this quality of life is immeasurable and for me, the rewards are ongoing.



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