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HOME IS THE NICEST WORD THERE IS.

-Laura Ingalls Wilder

e've been reading a lot of Laura Ingalls Wilder at our house lately. My daughter, who is in kindergarten, is completely enamored with the stories of the classic *Little House on the Prairie* series. While reading aloud the tales of Laura and her family I have to admit I daydream about what Crested Butte must have been like when the first settlers came to mine the area in the late 1800's.

I'm honored that inside this issue of the Peak, local historian Dr. Duane Vandenbusche tells the story of the early days of this mountain town.

This place has certainly grown, but one thing has persevered, and it's that those who get to call this place home are the lucky ones.

On these pages, writer Seth Mensing will introduce you to the Davis family, who took a leap of faith to create their perfect home away from home after falling in love with Crested Butte.

Also inside this issue you'll get to see inside an amazing remodel in town. Writer Olivia Lueckemeyer takes you through One Teo, through the eyes of the builder, designer and homeowner.

Writer Alissa Johnson learned a thing or two about today's green building techniques and philosophies from two long-time local builders, Robb Fessenden and Don Smith.

In this issue of the Peak, we're pleased to introduce you to local artists, chefs, designers, event planners and volunteers – each one honored to call this place home.

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AN ESSENTIAL ESCAPE



WORDS by SETH MENSING

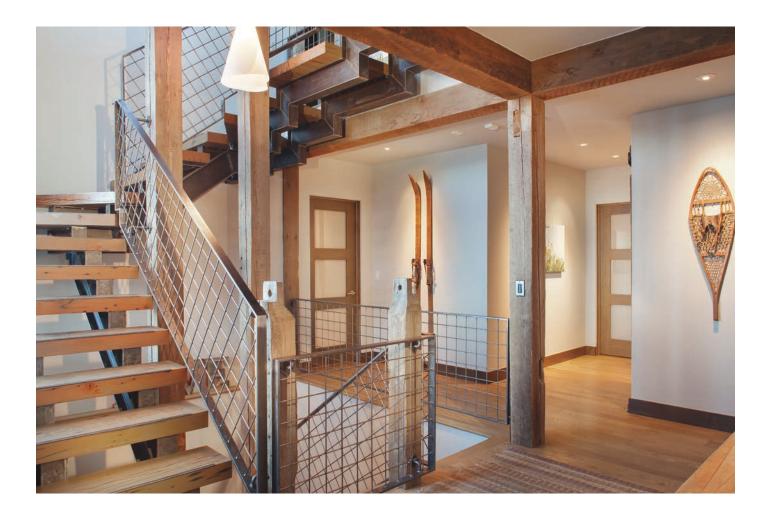
PHOTOS by JAMES RAY SPAHN

W

hen the Davis family left their Tulsa home in 2011 to find a refuge from the heat, it

was shaping up to be the hottest July on record in eastern Oklahoma and one of the driest years since 1888. It was hot in Crested Butte, too, but all things being relative it was a heat wave into the 80s Alee Davis could handle. And just like that, a summer home in the mountains began to feel essential. "We came to Crested Butte 20 years ago with our family and we had a nice time. Then we came back. And we'd seen a lot of beautiful places vacationing over the years. But when we were here we wanted to be here for a month," she says. "We fell in love with it. The last three days we were in Crested Butte I found a realtor, a builder and an architect and we started planning and building right away."

Over the next 18 months, the family would slowly see their dream realized and at the same time realize they had a bigger dream to stay in the mountains for more months than they would be away. It was a place they hoped to retire to. As an interior designer by training, Davis knew exactly what she wanted. She wanted intimate spaces, not gaping ones, and she wanted lots and lots of windows.



What she didn't know was just how everything would look. For that she enlisted the help of architect Jennifer Hartman, of Sunlit Architecture, and builder Scott Hargrove, of Hargrove Construction.

The home is the result of a close collaboration between Hartman, Hargrove and Davis, who took on the task of interior design by herself. That team atmosphere, Hartman says, is what made the project so much fun, and that cooperation can be seen in the final product. For Davis, who is a passionate painter, it was important to have walls of window to let the natural beauty of the outdoors inside, as close to her canvas as possible. Walls to hang paintings are few and far between. "We wanted spaces in the house where she could paint, so there are little nooks around the house where she can put her easel," Hartman says.

Hargrove points out the home's construction, which was led by carpenters Justin Derby and Jason Kidd, went relatively quickly, taking about a year and half from start to finish, with ideas coming from every angle along the way. "Everybody came up with different ideas and we could just say 'wouldn't it be cool if ...' and see what happened," Hargrove says. One thing that happened during the design process was an idea Hartman had for a spiraled, floating staircase fashioned from steel and wood that stands as a key architectural element in the home's interior. "Sometimes you just need to see the space and be in the space to get that inspiration," Hartman says. At the top, the stairs end at a comfortable sitting area in an observatory that looks out over the valley.

All together it's a perfect pairing of classic and contemporary; "modern-rustic," Davis calls it. Found objects, like a penny or a four-leaf clover, have always been thought to bring good fortune to a person or a place. The Davis house is dotted with objects found here and there, then repurposed for a life of leisure in the mountains. Old wooden pulleys that might have hung from the loft of a barn now hang from a bedroom ceiling, appearing to support a set of bunk beds. A decorative wastepaper basket is hung from a fixture and used as a light shade. Even timbers and beams are fashioned from reclaimed wood to take advantage of the unique hew and patina each piece brings to a project. Inside, the lines are clean and contemporary, but in the most unexpected places pieces from the past are used where something more modern or manufactured would have simply sufficed.

...WE COULD JUST SAY 'WOULDN'T IT BE COOL IF...' AND SEE WHAT HAPPENED





The home's interior lighting makes all of these elements come to life and plays an important role in every room. During the daylight hours, windows that seem to fill every wall in every room do most of the brightening. But when the sun goes down, the accent lighting, designed by Eric Naughton of Electrical Logic Architectural Lighting Design, and other fixtures take over. The incredible old reclaimed beams in the truss work glow and a central, see-through fireplace between the living room and dining room is capped with a stone column accented on each side with wedges of soft light shining up. Above a dining table is a stunning light crafted from a paper-thin piece of translucent and beautifully grained wood that's heaped on its end in wide, meandering folds.

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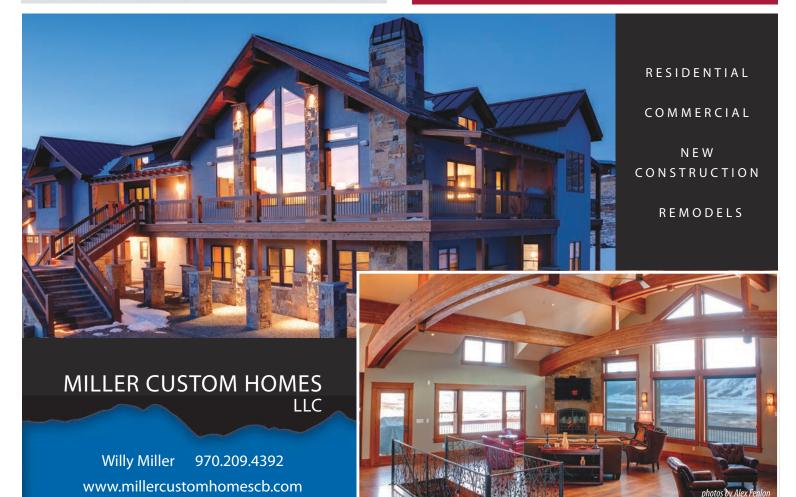
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WORDS by OLIVIA LUECKEMEYER PHOTOS by JAMES RAY SPAHN





estled in a tranquil corner of Crested Butte, where the asphalt turns to dirt and the landscape begins to climb, the infrequent passerby can find One Teocalli, a house-turnedhome that nods to the contemporary while upholding an ode to the past. Its owners placed faith in tried-and-true quali-

ties: the "esthetic-du-jour" was cast aside, and in its place emerged a home that is cozy yet durable, clean yet welcoming, classic yet unique. The design at One Teocalli is the result of a creative camaraderie between the homeowners, Seattle natives Bruce and Gretchen Jacobsen, and designers Randy and Erin Garcia of Garcia Custom Homes. Through a truly collaborative effort, they breathed new life into a home that had grown dilapidated, a relic of the past that was in a frantic state of disrepair.

"It was unfortunately a recipient of the seventies," Gretchen Jacobsen explains. "Of course it was cool in some ways—I even felt like maybe we should just go with it, put in a shag carpet and throw up some Farah Fawcett posters."

Like many remodeling projects, the extent of the workload far surpassed any initial approximations. They expected it to be a cosmetic remodel, but it didn't take long for Randy to discover that the house would require a ground-up transformation. Post-gutting, the original footprint would be all that remained of One Teo; a new drainage system, framing, electrical, plumbing, heating, windows and roofing were promptly added to the to-do list.





In addition, exposed outdoor wiring and a foundation that was leaking water into the basement posed critical problems that had to be corrected for the house to become structurally sound.

"We had to take off all of the existing junk people had patched in different places to get a really good waterproofing," Randy said. "We dug all the way around the house and put in a new French drain so water would properly drain off of the property."

An advocate for sustainable living, Randy is known for increasing efficiency and creating "tight" structures. Together with Bruce, he worked to reduce the home's environmental impact. Solar panels were installed on the roof of the garage, and an enormous brick fireplace that ran from the downstairs through the center of the house was replaced with a wood-burning version that met all of the local EPA standards.

"It was very inefficient and really became an eyesore, so we ended up taking it all the way down," Randy says. "It turned out to give the owners more space upstairs because we were able to narrow the fireplace down as it went through the rooms."

The crew also combined rooms, replaced the traditional carpeted staircases with an open-riser wooden model, and added egress windows throughout the home to give it a more open floor plan.

Though the structural changes were mandatory, many of the edits were also concurrent with the family's desire to build a home that facilitated outside living. The façade was transformed to allow for spacious patios on the front and back of the house, as well as a balcony off of the master bedroom.

"We had to give up a little bit of square footage here and there to gain the covered deck," Randy says, "but we created a nice little porch area that I think they love in the summertime because they can be out of the sun but still be able to check out all of Crested Butte."

For a house in town, the views from One Teo are spectacular. The entire design of the house, Gretchen says, was driven by the view from the kitchen, which perfectly frames Paradise Divide.

"On the first walkthrough, Randy asked Bruce what he liked most," Gretchen recounts. "Bruce walked right through the house, took Randy out on the deck, sat down, pointed to the Divide and said 'That.""

To take optimal advantage of the views, Randy installed a full wall of accordion-style patio doors in both the master bedroom and the kitchen, allowing the residents to view the mountains unencumbered. Whether it's the placement of a window or the presence of locally hewed timber, each of the home's seven bedrooms thoughtfully captures the beauty of the valley.

If Gretchen felt as if she were going trendy with the direction of the remodel, it's impossible to tell from the design. Rather than opting for the rustic style that epitomizes most of the houses built in Crested Butte, the Jacobsens and the Garcias sculpted a vision that married modernity with antiquity.

"We wanted something historical that was warm and had a claim to the past, yet also had nice clean lines," Gretchen says. "I wasn't going for the faux-lodge look."

Reclaimed wood makes up the siding, floors, stairs and beams of the home, which is decorated with antique furniture and refurbished items. A nod to the cyclical existence of things is palpable, as each structural component and item within has a story to tell.

Gretchen found an artistic confidante in Erin, who was able to get to know the Jacobsens on an intimate level, something they both claim was essential to the success of their creative partnership. To gain a greater understanding of how the Jacobsens lived, Erin visited their home in Seattle and discovered that both Bruce and Gretchen are intellectuals who appreciate the simple pleasures in life, such as biking, reading and travel. Once it became clear that many of their interests aligned, Gretchen and Erin became fast friends.

"When you're able to enmesh yourself in somebody's life for a year, it's a nice adventure to get to know them and help them express themselves," Erin says. "We really understand each other, and having Gretchen trust me was a huge deal."

A tension between the old and the new was a design element both women agreed on straightaway. Hours were spent visiting tiny towns in Colorado and Washington rummaging through antique shops to find items that would complement their collective vision. An old warehouse cart-turned-coffee table graces the living room, while in the kitchen is the contemporary addition of a floor-to-ceiling chalkboard wall.

"Repurposed items were something that both Gretchen and I both really enjoyed looking for or having made," Erin says. "It takes a lot of time but it's worth it, and Gretchen was really involved so it was really fun planning the whole space."

Gretchen's knack for discovering historical items didn't stop with furniture. Walking through the home at One Teo is reminiscent of taking a stroll through the decades, as each piece of artwork gives a snapshot of years passed.





Eyes are instantly drawn toward the careful juxtaposition of modern artwork and historical photographs, giving the interior an oxymoronic ambiance of a comfy museum.

"Gretchen was really driven by wanting to get a sense of history," Erin explains. "Rather than just buying a piece of art and putting it on the wall, she wanted it to mean something to the family. I think she did a really good job of that."

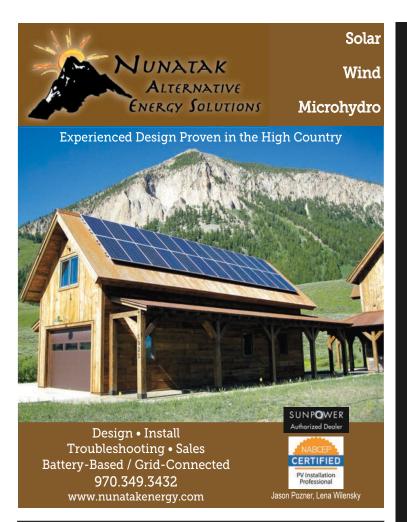
To achieve this balance between the old and the new, Gretchen dug through old family photographs, which can be found hanging throughout the home.

"I tried to find photos that had stories," Gretchen says. "There is a picture of my grandfather, who is in the hall of fame for football, on the Polo Grounds in New York. That picture is probably 100 years old at this point."

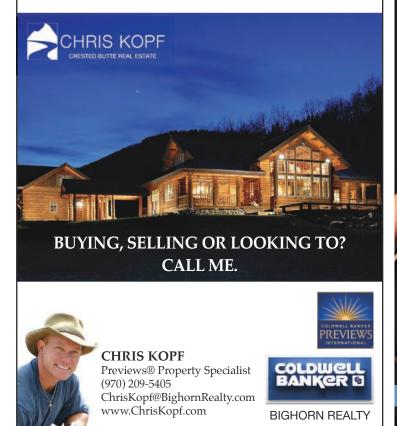
"Also in the hallway is a photo of my mother at some pajama party in the late 1940s or the early 1950s," Gretchen said. "It's such a funky little period picture."

As with the photographs, the Jacobsens planned for the house to become a family heirloom. Both Randy and Erin sought to honor this wish by creating a space that would stand the test of time.

continued on page 30



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GREEN

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It is the middle of March. Snow is abundant, the ski area is in full swing, and Robb Fessenden's greenhouse is full of kale, spinach, and tomatoes—some are just beginning to ripen. His family has been eating the greens all winter, and the tomatoes are "volunteers," or seeds in the soil and compost that sprouted and grew on their own. At nearly 9,000 feet above sea level, tomatoes are an unexpected sight nearly any time of year, yet here they are at the end of winter.

The greenhouse is part of Fessenden's newly constructed home in Riverbend, which he built to accommodate his family of four and a garage and workspace for his business, End of the Road Construction. Half of the home is built with natural materials like straw bale and the other half is built with conventional framing and high levels of insulation and air tightness.

After living in the house for nine months, Fessenden says he has used no energy to heat the garage or greenhouse, which are housed in the southern wing and traditionally built, but highly insulated with synthetic insulation. He uses two types of solar panels to offset energy use elsewhere and estimates his home uses 10 percent to 20 percent of the energy consumed by a standard house. He hopes that over the course of a year the home's use of electricity will be about equal to the electricity produced by his photovoltaic solar panels (by contrast, hyrdronic solar panels help heat the home and domestic water supply).

Fessenden's home is one building, yet in many ways it represents the spectrum of possibilities when it comes to "green" construction. There is the use of modern, conventional materials to create extremely energy-efficient homes, and then there are natural materials such as straw and clay that often have less embodied energy (the energy required to produce and ship them) and help create healthier homes. And while green and sustainable building isn't necessarily a trend around Crested Butte, Fessenden's home is not an anomaly.

In town, SmithWorks Natural Homes has been building two single-family homes that also emphasize the use of natural materials and energy efficiency. Owned by Don Smith, the company is building a clay straw home on Sopris Avenue and a conventionally framed home on Teocalli with an emphasis on efficiency. Smith is also preparing to build a Passive Solar Certified Home this summer using cutting-edge air sealing building materials, which means it will be designed to require little or no energy for heating or cooling. It would be one of the first Passive homes in the region.

words by alissa johnson | photos by lydia stern

The two builders offer first-hand perspectives on what it means to build green, and to do so in a high-elevation, mountain climate where buildings must withstand cold, harsh winters. It all comes down to how you define "green:" energy-efficient, natural and non-toxic, and/or using materials with low embodied energy.

Natural and nontoxic healthy homes

Smith's construction site on Sopris feels different from a conventional job site. There's still the timber framing, extension cords across the floor, and the hint of sawdust in the air. But there's also an earthy smell. The walls have been densely packed with a mixture of loose straw lightly coated with clay. When they dry, the walls will be covered by earthen plasters which will serve as a natural finish.

"The way it works together is what's so special," Smith says. "The house gives so much back to you." The walls will "breathe," absorbing excess moisture when it's present—say, during a dinner party—and releasing it back into the house

when it's dry. And dirt particles, which are positively charged ions, are attracted to the walls and drawn out of the house, creating a cleaner environment.

The earthy smell will disappear when the finished, plastered walls dry, but the sense that something is different about the house will not. Smith says many of his clients have been in a SmithWorks home prior to contacting him. "Our clients feel the difference and that draws them in," he says.

Yet using conventional construction doesn't have to mean sacrificing the health of a home. At Smith's Teocalli construction site, his crew is using a Smart-House wrap on the exterior and dense-pack cellulose for some of the insulation (mostly shredded newspaper with a non-toxic binder). The result will be a home that is well insulated but also vapor-permeable. Just like you wouldn't want to store produce in a plastic bag or cooler where it can condense, Smith says it's healthier to live in a home that breathes.

"The SmartWrap breathes more like Gore-Tex," he explains. It lets the vapor out yet remains airtight.

High efficiency homes

In Fessenden's home, the difference in the feel between natural building and standard construction is also noticeable. Clay plaster on the walls in the "natural" half of the home give it a distinct feel—and in some areas acts as a thermal mass during winter, collecting the warmth of the sun during the day and releasing it into the house during the evening. And an HRV, or heat recovery ventilation system, exchanges interior air with outside air to maintain healthy air quality without losing heat to the outdoors.

"The plus of the natural building side of things is that it feels nice. It feels less toxic and probably is less toxic, and you're using materials that have less embodied energy to make," Fessenden says. Yet in his experience, he also finds that it takes more effort to get a natural building as tight as standard construc-

> tion—especially in this climate. He points to the two halves of his house as an example, where the standard construction has required no energy to heat.

> "It's not to say that you can't get pretty darn tight with a natural building...," Fessenden says, "but I think you can get it tighter with standard construction and in the long run maybe use less energy."

> Yet even that, Fessenden says, is a trade off since the materials themselves take more energy to make and may have to travel farther to reach a job site.

> Building green is actually a gray scale. It depends on how you define green, and whether you want to prioritize energy efficiency, the use of materials with low embodied energy, or natural materials.











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It's that emphasis that perhaps distinguishes Fessenden and Smith. In such a cold, harsh climate, Fessenden focuses on the long-term energy use of the houses he builds. Smith is determined to push the envelope in terms of the energy efficiency of natural homes by working toward his goal of making clay straw walls that are efficient enough to be in Passive Solar homes. But when it comes to building homes for clients, both men seem to agree that it depends on the client's priorities.

Do they want a natural building, or a more standard look? Is building efficiently just as important as what the house looks like? And what kind of budget are they working with?

Building green

Whatever a client's priorities, building green starts with design. "Design is everything," Smith says, noting that Passive Solar homes tend to be simpler and have cleaner, more modern looks. And while it's aesthetically pleasing, the simplicity serves a purpose, too. Fewer corners, fewer dormers and fewer valleys in the roof lines make for houses that are simpler to build, easier to insulate, and have less thermal conductivity (fewer places where heat can escape). The placement and orientation of the building is another key factor when trying to take advantage of the sun's energy for solar heat gain and solar power.

Building green will also be influenced by aesthetics and budget. "If what the house looks like is equally important as how green it is—and if we get into the definition of green as not using much energy—then we're talking about how much money you want to put where. Do you want to skip some of the superfancy finishes and put that money into insulation and a solar panel array?" Fessenden says.

Perhaps the most important thing is to remember that you can do good without breaking the bank. Building green doesn't have to mean building a more expensive house. The straw clay house that Smith is building is on a deed-restricted affordable housing lot. And as Fessenden says, individual choices can go a long way, like increasing insulation or putting in energy-efficient windows. Green doesn't need to be all or nothing.

Perhaps the takeaway is that the unexpected—like tomatoes in March or a Passive Solar home in a wintry, mountain climate—can be a welcome sight in the architectural landscape of Crested Butte. Yet a home can incorporate some energyefficient or natural products and still have an impact on energy use and the health of the home. It simply takes the intention and attention to detail.

To learn more about sustainable building practices, visit End of the Road construction at www.crestedbutteconstruction. com/ and SmithWorks Natural Homes at smithworksnaturalhomes.com/

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ALL HAIL THE MUDROOM

he mudroom: It may not be the first place you think of in a home, but it certainly is one of the most used, especially in Crested Butte. "We take our mudrooms pretty seriously around here," says local architect Karen Barney of Freestyle Architects.

And rightfully so. There's gear, jackets, ski boots, wet dogs and even more gear. The list goes on and on. So there needs to be an organized and well-thought-out drop zone—otherwise known as the mudroom.

The real basics

Local interior designer Kristine Pivarnik of kPd studios stresses the importance of figuring out your actual needs before designing your mudroom.

"When you build in Crested Butte, chances are you are buying into the lifestyle. And with that," Pivarnik says, "you need to acknowledge your lifestyle and how you are going to live that life. Build for that life and make the home work for you."

Making the mudroom work for you includes determining how many people it needs to serve. "From there, put some thoughtfulness in the size of the room and figure out what you are going to use it for," says Pivarnik.

Depending on the square footage available for a mudroom, options include a washer and dryer along with a sink to create a one-stop shop. Some designs also incorporate a washing station for dogs.



The right room in the right place

So, where do you put the mudroom? Will it be off the primary entrance to the home? Sometimes that's the garage, sometimes a back door, and in some instances the front door.

Time was, homes in Crested Butte had an air-lock entryway that also served as the mudroom. These days, the mudroom is more often incorporated into the inside of the home. However, that doesn't mean the mudroom is the first thing you or your visitors have to encounter.

"The mudroom can be off to the side so you don't have to walk directly through it," says Barney. She likes to put the mudroom off the direct path into the home.

Beyond the location, Pivarnik advises visualizing the process of moving through the space.

You take your jacket off first, then your boots, etc. Have the flow of the mudroom reflect that process. "The gradual subtraction of stuff needs to be in methodical order. I try to think that out," Pivarnik says.

Organizing your stuff: What, where, how

So after you determine the essentials and where the room will be, figure out how and where you're going to store things. When working with clients, Barney says her job is to determine how the homeowner likes to store people's belongings. Maybe you prefer everything out in the open and easy to grab. "It's a matter of taste. Some people like everything hidden away. Other people don't mind seeing their shoes on the floor.

"You don't want to think that hard about where to put your things," Barney explains. "Everything has a home."

Make sure to include space for your guests.

Storage options are key: They determine what type of mudroom design is implemented. Variety is paramount, notes Barney. She uses a combination of cubbies, baskets and hooks in her home's mudroom.

For your own mudroom, itemize these needs. How many lockers? How many hooks? How much shoe storage?

If you need to contain all the clutter, cabinetry with doors can hide everyone's jackets, hats and mittens. But if the homeowners don't mind things out in the open, open lockers with hooks and baskets on shelves will do the trick.

Because of all the snow in Crested Butte, it's important to let your wet gear dry. Barney likes to incorporate lockers that breathe into her mudrooms.

Pivarnik loves using hooks both in her home's mudroom and in her clients'. Make sure to place hooks at varying heights to accommodate every person's needs. She advises before placing the hooks, measure your ski pants and jackets and kids' bibs and coats—then hang the hooks accordingly. "You want the little guys and the big guys to be able to reach them," she says.

Beyond function, to style

If your home doesn't currently have a mudroom, it's not too late, says Barney. You can always convert a hallway with ample room into a storage haven.

Barney and Pivarnik both agree, just because it's a mudroom doesn't mean you have to skimp on style. The space can be functional and at the same time blend in with the rest of your home. The mudroom doesn't have to feel like a sterile locker room. You can incorporate the same finishes as in the rest of the house so the mudroom is still representative of the rest of the house's style. Pivarnik uses the same cabinetry as the rest of the house, the same tile as in her bathrooms, and the same granite countertop as in her kitchen.

Another great way to keep the style, Pivarnik says, is to hang art on the walls, a sure way to add personality to the space.

Lighting can be a great function and style enhancer. If there are no windows in your mudroom, make sure to provide ample light. "You don't want to be searching for your gloves in the dark," Barney says.

Bottom line, the mudroom is the unsung hero of the home. It's a place to store your things and, most important, stay organized.

5 TIPS FROM THE PROS

- 1. Don't leave your mudroom to be an afterthought. Plan, plan, plan.
- 2. Always incorporate a bench into a mudroom. Seating is important.
- 3. It's important to remember to use a tile flooring in the mudroom with high slip-resistance. Leaving wet boots on a wood floor is asking for trouble.
- 4. Add a light and a mirror in your mudroom. It's the little touches that matter.
- 5. Give each family member his or her own locker and cubbie. It's a great way to help your kids stay organized.





an essential escape from page 12

A piece of driftwood cleverly wound by the electrician with colored wire and three oversized bare bulbs makes an impressive hanging light. That light was fashioned from an idea Davis had with parts she'd assembled. "But that's the thing with craftsmen in Crested Butte. You might sketch something up or just give them an idea and they know just what you want and they do a great job. They do it like an artist," she says of the driftwood fixture. "All I said was, "This is what I'm thinking' and he did it. He had to really kind of work his magic. But he worked hard on it and it was perfection."

Other fixtures are less distinct, but each fits its place perfectly, providing a visual element where one is needed or just providing light where one isn't. "There are some key places where the lighting really shows off the architecture, like the trusses and some artwork," Davis says. "It's beautiful at night when the lights are dimmed. It just looks theatrical, almost like candlelight."

Throughout the home, the look of antique trimmings stands out against a contemporary backdrop. Above the kitchen counters there are no cabinets, just simple, freehanging wooden shelves. A bathroom sink has just one spigot projecting from the wall above it, giving the user a simple stream of warm water. But perhaps one of the most contemporary features of the design is the home's size. At just 3,800 square feet, including the garage and mechanical space, Hartman says the house is following a trend toward smaller, more intimate spaces. And after raising three kids in a larger home in Tulsa, Davis was looking to downsize. "I wanted something with more of a cabin feel," she says. "I really wanted it to be cozy and easy to take care of. It's time in our lives that we should have something a little more manageable." So the use of large windows makes the size irrelevant, since the indoor space ends at a plane of glass and expansive vistas in every direction.

And the vistas are expansive. Sitting on the valley floor, Buckhorn Ranch doesn't offer people much in the way of topography when choosing a lot to build on. But the Davis house is seated in one of the only true hills in the subdivision, giving the home a commanding view without injecting its profile into the landscape. "It really feels like the house is nestled into the hill, instead of perched on top," Hartman says.

Hartman says the house is oriented on the lot to fill each wall of windows with a mountain range and also protect against searing winds that whip along the valley floor near the base of Crested Butte Mountain. On one wall, the East River Valley stretches out to the Brush Creek drainage. Another wall brings the full breadth of Whetstone Mountain into view and another puts Crested Butte Mountain at the foot of the bed and Paradise Divide beyond it. These are the views that keep locals in awe and visitors spinning.



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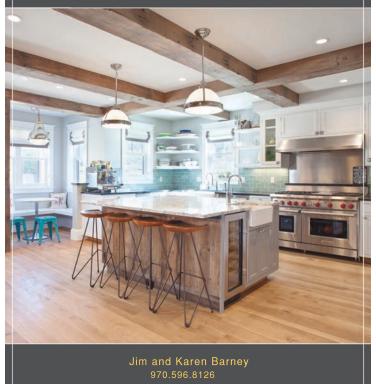




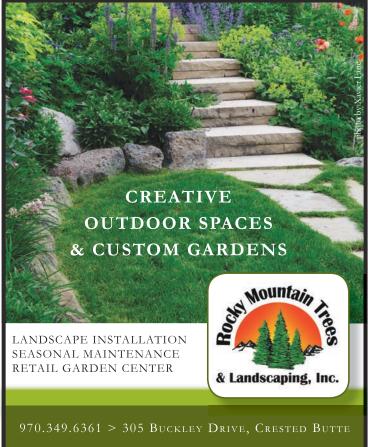




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W W W. R O C K Y M O U N T A I N T R E E S . C O M

MAKING A HOUSE A HOME from page 18

"Gretchen was into having something that would last a long time aesthetically," Erin says. "She wanted a design that would be relevant 20 or 30 years from now, not one of those things you couldn't wait to tear out because you couldn't believe you put it there in the first place."

At first glance, the house at One Teo's interior seems tightly packed. Besides the living room and kitchen, compact living spaces comprise the top three levels, but it isn't until one discovers the basement that the whole house materializes. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms and an expansive entertainment room make up the basement, which almost feels like its own separate entity.

The house turned out to be much larger than expected, so the Jacobsens sought to return on their investment by offering it as a vacation rental. One Teocalli, which can sleep up to 16 people, has been a high-demand temporary residence for tourists ever since.

Although their time spent in Crested Butte is usually brief, each year the Jacobsens look forward to returning to the quiet mountain lifestyle afforded to them by their home at One Teo. Sitting on the porch and taking in the majestic views, Gretchen says, brings back memories of the labor of love that was the building of the home, and the many friendships that ensued.

"None of this would have come through if it weren't for Randy and Erin," Gretchen says. "I love this house because it's better designed than any other house I've lived in. When I walk in it feels warm and welcoming, which is exactly what I wanted."

an essential escape from page 28

And as the views invite you outside, expansive patios and meandering stone walkways make it possible to go, melding the inside and outside spaces. Landscape architect Margaret Loperfido of Sprout Studios says she situated the 760 square feet of patio space in such a way that it would be protected, "creating outdoor rooms to take advantage of views and sun exposure during different times of day," she says. Her plan for the property spreads several species of trees, more than a dozen kinds of shrubs and ornamental grasses and 1,200 square feet of flowers across almost an acre of native grass and wildflowers.

"I was out on the [empty] lot one day and I was praying about it, wondering if we should do this. It's a really big step, you know," Davis says of building a vacation home. "And sure enough these deer walked by right in front of me and these geese flew over the pond. Everything was just perfect. Then I turned around and saw this gigantic rainbow and thought, 'Okay, I'll take that as a sign.' I just really wanted this to be in the best interests of everyone and not on a whim. And it is, we love it so much. It's a beautiful family gathering place, because everyone always wants to be here."



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REFRESHER

How to incorporate the newest styles into your home without being too trendy



By Heidi Sherratt Bogart, Interior Visions

There is a new wave of innovative ideas in interior design every year, and design trends, colors and styles can come and go quickly. These new trends pose a difficult design challenge because as much as you want to incorporate the latest style, you need to be cautious. Trends in design generally do not stand the test of time, but some will stick around for quite a while and are a breath of fresh air from the overdone old ideas.

Do not feel pressured to follow the latest trends when designing your home, but consider using them in small ways. What works best is to choose trendy design ideas that are easily changed. Paint colors, lighting fixtures, cabinet knobs and pulls, small furniture pieces and decorative items like pillows, throws, lamp shades, rugs and towels are all great ways to integrate the fun new trends without having to remodel your house every year.

In a perfect world we could completely redo our houses every two to five years to incorporate all the brilliant new styles, but for most of us that is not a reality. It is important to design a home that you will love and works well with your lifestyle.

When choosing the more significant items like flooring, cabinets and countertops, look to traditional and simple styles. These are difficult and costly to change easily. Then you can add in trendy colors and styles after you are confident they work for you and your home.

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE TOP INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS FOR THIS YEAR.

Color

Marsala is the official Pantone Color of the Year for 2015—it's a naturally robust and earthy red wine color. Accents of this color will bring an element of sophistication to your home. This wine-hued color follows a shift in design from youthful and bright to a more natural subdued tone.

However, the overall trend in color is natural, soft and warm. Pantone Color Institute's executive director Leatrice Eiseman describes the trend for the year. "This season, cooler and softer color choices with subtle warm tones follow a minimalistic en plein air theme, taking a cue from nature."

As the world gets busier and we are all so "connected" by technology, the draw to nature and the need to disconnect has become stronger. There is a move toward the cooler and softer side of the color spectrum. Understated, ethereal pale pastels and nature-like neutrals are reminiscent of simpler times and help restore a sense of wellbeing. These minimalistic, soft warm tones help create a soothing escape from life's everyday chaos.



Sophisticated Luxury

Sophistication is hot in the interior design world for this next year. Staying traditional but using new materials and fresh colors with a <u>blend</u>

of the old and the new is a smart way to think about design.

Creating comfortable and romantic spaces by layering plush textures, unusual fabric, natural wall coverings, and ethnic touches create a mature elegance. The key is to use natural color schemes with stunning accents.

Using hints of exotic and ethnic motifs adds patterns and texture and shows off an artistic detail.

Antiques mixed with contemporary design bring the old and the new together in a gorgeous classic retro blend.

Natural materials—stone, wood, glass, leather, metal and woven decorative items—dominate interior design trends. Reclaimed wood mixed with stone and metal are popular, especially rustic wood. Luxurious white marble with hints of color in the subtle natural veining is the most luxurious stone and defines this classy interior trend.

Mixed Metals

Warm metals including copper, rose gold and cool silver are popular right now. You do not have to match metal finishes in every room; in fact, layering metals with the silvery, gold and black metals is stylish.

These subtle metallic details are adding to the luxurious sophisticated movement. Think of these metal elements in your plumbing fixtures, cabinet hardware and bathroom accessories as jewelry for your home.

Fusion of Styles

Your home should be a

reflection of your personality what you truly feel comfortable living in and not what you see in a catalog. It is important to create living spaces that are original and unique to you and your family by integrating styles. Your home is a direct channel of your unique individuality and character, and it is okay to be risky and add some bold elements that feel good to you.

Heidi Sherratt Bogart has been the owner of Interior Visions in Crested Butte since 1994. She holds a degree in journalism and interior decorating and enjoys her work as an interior designer in the Gunnison Valley.

the **GATEWAY** to the **ELK MOUNTAINS**

by Duane Vandenbusche



Crested Butte coke ovens photo by George R. Beam



Elk Avenue, 1882 photo courtesy of Denver Public Library Western Collection

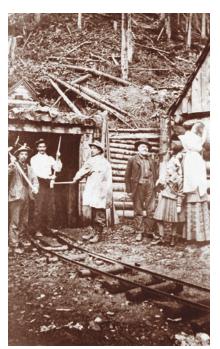
rested Butte, nearly 9,000 feet in the clouds and in the shadows of the beautiful Elk Mountains, was laid out in the summer of 1878. Although the town would later be defined by nine great coal mines – Pershing, Peanut, Jokerville, Big Mine, Floresta, Buckley, Anthracite, Pueblo and Robinson, Crested Butte in the late 1870s and early 1880s was the hub of a wheel whose spokes ran in every direction to great silver camps. Irwin, Gothic and Tin Cup each had over 2,000 people and Elkton, Schofield, Pittsburg and Crystal had up to 1,000.

As early as 1880, Crested Butte had three sawmills, one 25ton smelter and the Pioneer Wagon Road which ran into town from Irwin. The early settlers of Crested Butte were "Cousin Jacks and Cousin Jennies" from England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland. They were Protestant and spoke the English language and had names like Ross, Gardiner, McNeill, Smith and Robinson and were the best hardrock miners in the world. The Slavic, Austrian and Italian immigrants would come later. Another reason for Crested Butte's status as the "Gateway to the Elks" was the top silver mining camp in the world nearby Aspen along the Roaring Fork River. That great mining camp would not get a railroad until late 1887; before that year all ore shipped out and all supplies brought in went through Crested Butte. Two routes were used; one was a jack trail, which ran over 12,705 foot high Pearl Pass and began in 1881. The 17 miles from Crested Butte to the top of the pass was very difficult but the vertical drop into Aspen was 4,915 feet over 18 miles and was almost impossible. However, long jack trains of 500 burros made the trip between the two mining camps for two years. The most traveled route between Crested Butte and Aspen was over the 11,800 foot high East Maroon Pass. From a jack trail, the route evolved into a stageline carrying passengers and mail. Horses and bobsleds were used in the winter. At Copper Lake, just west of the pass, a dinner station, stables and a small boarding house were constructed. Avalanches were a great danger along the route. In November of 1886 the Crystal River Current newspaper reported, "A slide swept the stage off the road; two horses were killed and the driver barely survived." When Aspen got a railroad in 1887, the East Maroon Pass road closed.

Crested Butte was a town of nearly 1,500 in the early 1880s and appeared to have it all - rich silver mines surrounding it, the Denver and Rio Grande narrow gauge railroad which arrived in November 1881, and a railhead for rich Aspen ore. In addition, a telephone line had been built from Gunnison in the fall of 1882. Then, suddenly, everything changed. The price of silver plummeted and the silver mines of Irwin, Gothic and Taylor Park proved to have only low grade ore. Then Aspen got a railroad and investors stopped coming. The good times seemed to be all gone. But Crested Butte had two aces in the hole - coal and the tremendous terrain and snow of the Elk Mountains. Both proved to be the destiny of the beautiful mountain town. Through the 137 years of its existence Crested Butte was, is today and will always be "the gateway to the Elk Mountains."

Duane Vandenbusche is a retired history professor at Western State Colorado University. He is one of the most sought after Crested Butte storytellers, sharing the local lore with the community. He is the author of several books on the history of the Gunnison Valley.

Usona Tunnel 1905. photos courtesy of Duane Vandenbusche



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Becky Chappell

story by Dawne Belloise

photos by Lydia Stern engths of stubby chalk pastels lie nuzzled end-to-end, looking like a brilliant rainbow of hyphens. Filigreed metal edges of widemouthed vases have bristled paintbrushes in spiked flower arrangements that fill up shelves and table edges. Multi-colored canvases, rich in texture, and thick paper with curling corners lie in sundry stages of completion, and in a sunlit corner of the studio, there's a little dog named Dave, finally worn out from chasing himself in circles, napping under the dominating view of Whetstone Mountain.

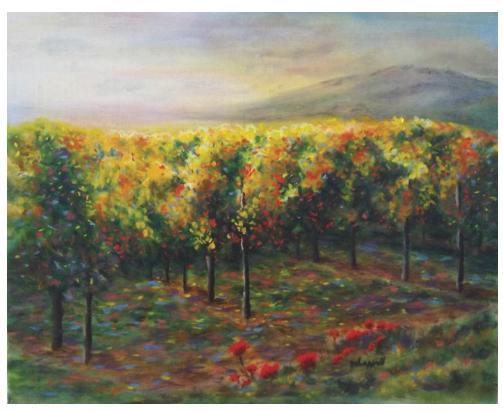
This is the world where Becky Chappell creates her art, inspired by the life and color that surrounds her. She finds inspiration in everything she sees. Her chosen mediums these days are pastels and watercolors and her style ranges from impressionist to abstract. When creating her abstract paintings, Becky says she often doesn't have an idea of where her composition will go.

"When I start, I'll use everything from bubble wrap to gauze to tulle to make a texture and then the painting becomes what it becomes. I just collect things I think I can use in a painting, things I collect off the ground, little bits of metal, screens, findings," she says. She then incorporates their patterns as stencils. "The colors just come to me. What I'm feeling is what I want in a painting." She sometimes uses pieces of her grandchildren's drawings or her own work, tearing them into scraps and integrating them as collage material. It seems to Becky that she's been an artist ever since she was a young girl. "I always took art. I was always drawing." She says her art was usually noted by teachers and other students but she was really shy about it all. She only dabbled in it until her early 20's when she picked up painting in earnest.

"I had fantasies about being an artist and a painter but I had to work," Becky says of the reality of everyday life as a young mom with two children, Mike and Rachel. "I had limited supplies so I did what I could when I wanted to, and between working and social life, I didn't think it was possible to do art full-time."

Becky discovered that taking oil painting classes at Emily Griffith Opportunity School was an inexpensive way to develop her technique and get more involved. "When I was 23, I answered a newspaper ad calling for artists to audition for a scrimshaw business. I wound up doing scrimshaw for 15 years. It was a real popular thing back in the mid 1970s," Becky says. She was talented enough in the craft to work for multiple businesses in Boulder, Denver and Missouri.

"It was then that I really started thinking of myself as more of an artist," Becky says. "I just wanted to learn and learn and learn. I began playing around with more art mediums.Watercolor and ink were my main media and it was a natural progression from scrimshaw,



which is etching and then filling in the carving with India ink. With the ivory ban, scrimshaw phased out and I went on to other things," she says.

Still doing her art sporadically but mostly at home, Becky moved to Silverthorne and began teaching scratchboard, which is a clay surface coated with India ink on thick paper; the negative areas are scratched out using a needle to create the art. Becky taught a class at the local elementary school and gave private lessons in both watercolor and scratchboard.

The more she painted, the more Becky realized how much being an artist was her true calling. "I got my first big set of pastels and I was in love," says the single mom who then moved to Golden in 1993, working at the Silver Heels restaurant to support her family and her art. Becky started making the restaurant's posters and painted murals on their windows, which led to her painting more and taking part in local art shows. She enrolled at the Art Institute of Denver and graduated much later in her life with a degree in graphic design. "I realized it wasn't my field but I loved going to school. I learned so much—it was stimulating and a great experience. The degree in graphic design was mostly a fall-back but I never used it," she laughs. "I don't regret it, but it's not my thing. It's very competitive and very young people are in that field. I'm much more of a painter," Becky explains.



In 1993 she met her hubby, Kevin Chappell, while on a hike up Longs Peak. "He's a total opposite," she smiles. Becky says he's an engineer with a deep appreciation of art. "He's the one I can go to with any painting and ask for input and totally trust his opinion, and it's always helpful."

They moved to Louisville, a small town east of Boulder, where art became Becky's main focus. "I got involved with the Louisville Art Associationa lot of classes, meetings, and shows," she says. "I taught watercolor and had a mural painting business called Living Works. We did everything from kids' rooms to faux finishes, borders, landscapes and abstract designs for clients. "People wanted their kids' rooms painted with outdoor scenes with animals, ocean scenes with dolphins, ponies in the grass," Becky says. She was excited to be working fully as an artist in the heart of a vibrant little town, but she and Kevin decided to sell their Louisville house in 2008 and move to Broomfield, where Becky immediately realized, "It was not my kind of place. We had been coming up to Crested Butte for many years and we always loved the outdoors."

After the unexpected loss of her son, Mike, she and Kevin came up to Crested Butte to get away. Upon returning to the Front Range they decided to just move to Crested Butte.

They moved up in December 2011 to their Riverbend home. "I felt peaceful and like I was home. Not that it hasn't had its challenges. I knew nobody here, at first, but because of the community it was easy to connect." Becky feels it's a strong community. "I love that you can walk down the street and see faces you know. Maybe you're having a bad day and someone smiles at you and it makes your day, makes you feel a part of things. Anywhere else, you're lost in the shuffle."

continued on page 40



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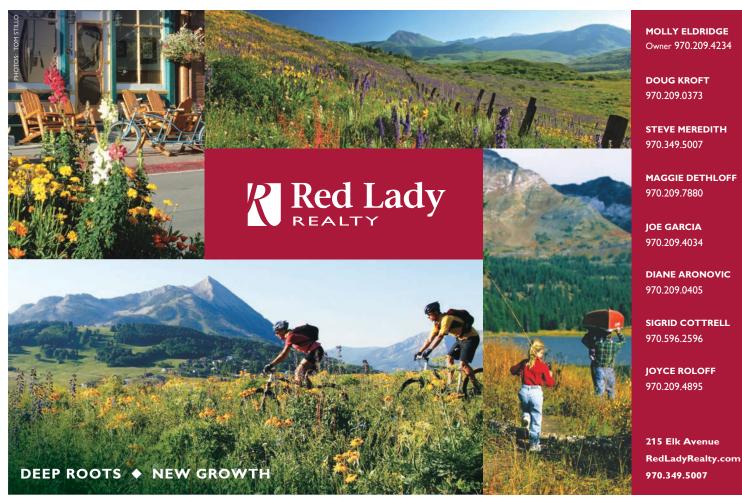




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Becky started doing her art almost non-stop after moving to the area. "I almost have to make myself stop for breaks," she laughs. "But that's what I'm here for. My life is art. My passion is art." She recently had a show at the Piper Gallery in the Crested Butte Center for the Arts and now admits she wouldn't mind being in a gallery and is looking for space.

Becky is teaching four different classes through the Crested Butte Center for the Arts this year. A "Canvas and Cabernet" class. In September, Becky will teach a basic pastel class in making creative landscapes from photographs. She'll have a second show at the Piper Gallery in September as well.

"I feel like I'm riding this wave of art. Landing in Crested Butte at the right time, it's exactly where I'm supposed to be. I feel the arts are on a huge upswing here with the Creative District," Becky says of the proposed state-designated district the town is being considered for. "It's going to get more attention for us as an art district. We'll have more classwork space with the new arts center being built and that will help a lot of artists who don't have voice or haven't found their place within the art community. There'll be more places to teach and hopefully more interest cultivated in other types of art. I would think there will be more places to show. I'm really excited about it."

Becky's paintings have seen brisk sales lately but she points out, "Money's never been my motivator but it's great... It helps me buy more art supplies," she laughs.

For more information about the Crested Butte Center for the Arts' classes, schedules and showings at the Piper Gallery online visit crested buttearts.org. For Becky Chappell art and information online visit beckychappell fineart.net.



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DAVID WOODING

words. Olivia Lueckemeyer. photos. Trent Bona. hef David Wooding loves a challenge, that's evident from his resume. Classically trained at the Johnson County Community College's culinary program in Overland Park, Kansas, Wooding got his start in Crested Butte at the former Maxwell's, where he held the title of executive chef for five years. Prior to moving to Colorado, Wooding cut his teeth working at a variety of restaurants around Kansas City, Missouri Immersing himself in the food industry, Wooding says, was the key to unlocking the wealth of knowledge he never felt privy to in culinary school.

"Most of my culinary education was done in restaurants," Wooding said. "I worked at all of these places where I could soak up as much as I could without having to sit through a droll lecture."

Though his formal education began with restaurant work as a teenager, it was Wooding's childhood that laid the foundation for his passion for cooking. Dinner was strict bonding time for the Woodings; phones went to voicemail, televisions were turned off and the family gathered to eat homemade meals prepared by his mother.

"Growing up there were always the weirdest things in our cabinets, like dried squid, so I was always opening things up and tasting them," Wooding said. "That's kind of where I got started."

When Wooding was 13, he recalls having the urge to prepare a dish using fresh vegetables from the family garden. After retrieving his ingredients, he grabbed the mandolin, determined to have paper-thin tomatoes. Suddenly, he noticed the tip of his pinky finger was missing.

"I lopped the top of my pinky off," Wooding said. "My dad's an attorney, so he was no help. He ended up bandaging the end of my pinky on upside down, so it never grew back. To this day I'm pretty wary of using mandolins."

Fortunately, this incident didn't quell Wooding's affection for cooking. After having worked for Peter and Molly Maxwell at two different restaurants in Kansas City, Wooding auditioned for the head chef position at a restaurant they planned to open in Colorado. In the spring of 2008, along with Peter, Molly and a crew of seven others, Wooding moved to Crested Butte, where he would work as the head chef of Maxwell's Steakhouse.

In 2013, Wooding opted to take a break from his post at Maxwell's, and instead decided to look for something a bit less demanding. He contacted Kyleena Falzone, who promptly put him to work at the Lobar Sushi Restaurant. It wasn't long before the chef-minded Wooding returned to his former routine.

"I wanted to be an hourly employee and not have huge responsibility," Wooding explained. "That didn't last very long. I ended up rewriting Lobar's hot side menu. We introduced pork belly, a filet, potstickers and other interesting things."

When the Lobar closed in 2013, Wooding went home to Wichita, K.S., before returning to Crested Butte to take over not only the Secret Stash, but also the Red Room, which had taken the place of the Lobar. Overwhelmed with having to run two kitchens at once, and feeling creatively stifled by the Stash's invariable menu, Wooding felt it was the opportune time to pursue Bonez, a project he had been contemplating with friend and colleague Ben Diem for several years.

"Ben has always had this recycled Day of the Dead, bones of the earth type of restaurant in his mind," Wooding explained. "He's always loved Mexican food, but I'm just now starting to become a bit more passionate about it."

As fate would have it, Falzone had recently signed a lease on the old Powerhouse building, but was unsure of what she planned to do with the space. Once Diem and Wooding pitched the idea, Falzone agreed without hesitation. The trio immediately began work on turning the vast building into an inviting space that would offer diners a multi-sensory experience. While the ambiance of Bonez bears Falzone's eccentric stamp, Wooding says Diem, who is an architect by trade, designed the majority of the interior. Refurbished wood was used to construct the community tables and booths, old books found at thrift stores fill the shelves and a massive chandelier made entirely of glass bottles was the product of one of Diem's original designs.

"Kyleena and I dug every single one of those bottles out of the dumpster," Wooding said. "We scrubbed them, hung them and lit them. Everything in this place is reused from somewhere else."

At the time of the restaurant's opening in June of 2014, Wooding was still employed with the Stash, so instead of trying to master the balancing act, he hired a chef and a front-of-house manager to run the space in his absence. When the doors to the historic Powerhouse building opened to introduce Bonez, its tables were filled with foodies eager to experience the long-awaited bill of fare. The "tacos and tequila" theme was well received and for a while, things seemed to be going smoothly. However, without the presence of the owners, Bonez began to slip into the precarious territory not unfamiliar to many young restaurants in Crested Butte. Diem, Wooding and Falzone soon realized that, in order for Bonez to be a success, the restaurant would need a facelift. Once Wooding took over the kitchen as head chef, the menu underwent a dramatic change.

"We went through quite a regime change, cleaned a little house and added some entrees," Wooding said. "I wrote a safe menu because I had never cooked Mexican food in my life, but I made it work."





Gone were the days of the two-item menu. Street tacos remained, but were complimented by south-of-the-border entrees, like a pork belly tamale, Baja fish tacos and a smothered burrito. Wooding wanted to appeal to both visitors and locals alike by ensuring that the menu was diverse, but still adhered to a common theme.

Starting this summer diners will experience a menu change, burritos and street tacos will be offered only during the day. At night, the restaurant will transform into a high-end dining experience, featuring a variety of entrees, as well as the addition of several items from a raw bar.

"I was safe when I wrote the last menu, but we are not as safe with the new one," Wooding said. "It's a little more refined and is mostly about taking the regional flavors and combining them with what I know, which is mostly French and Italian, and translating those techniques into this flavor profile."

"We want to get back down to bare bones basics, and to make you think while you eat," Wooding explained. "It's for someone who is craving that flavor profile, but will not be completely inhibited by Taco Bell."

With summer also comes the opportunity to showcase local ingredients, and Wooding plans to do so by partnering with several area farmers, such as Thistle Whistle Farms of Hotchkiss. In addition to offering regular locally-derived options, on Sundays Bonez will offer an "off-the-truck" special, which will feature items Wooding purchases from the local farmer's market.

"A lot of Mexican food comes from a can and we are trying to extinguish that mentality," Wooding said. "We want to do something where our customers can identify with where their food comes from."

One thing that has remained since Bonez opened is its extensive tequila selection, of which it offers 140 varieties. However, in realizing that many potential customers avoided Bonez due to its limited beverage menu, Wooding also introduced a hearty wine selection for those who prefer grapes to agave.







Wooding is confident that the new menu will appeal to his extensive customer base, which he has accumulated not only from his stints working at restaurants around town, but also from appearing as a featured chef for Tour de Forks, a fundraising series for the Center for the Arts which showcases the fares of gourmet chefs in private homes.

"I think a lot of my old customers from Maxwell's and the Red Room will be able to see my signature on it," Wooding said.

When asked what makes a good chef, Wooding refers to his crew, which he compares to cogs in a machine. A good chef is nothing without his staff, Wooding claims, and he strives to create a family dynamic that can sufficiently accomplish the many tasks required to run a successful restaurant.

"It's important to recognize that the people in your kitchen are human beings and to take care of them," Wooding said. "We try to help our employees as much as we can."

For Wooding, the most rewarding aspect of his career as a chef is witnessing customers enjoying their food. To walk by a table that is silent, other than the faint sound of forks scraping plates, gives Wooding the ultimate gratification. As each day passes, the wheels in his mind continue to turn as he imagines new ways to enchant his patrons.



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tanding with friends on the deck of an exquisite home with a cocktail in hand, sun on your face and magnificent views of the mountains: It's summertime in Crested Butte and there's no better place to be.

But how do you throw this perfect summer soiree? We asked some local pros about the ins and outs of planning a perfect summer party in the mountains, from the volunteers behind the wildly pop-

ular Tour de Forks fundraising series to party planners and caterers.

The Tour de Forks legacy

The Tour de Forks was the brainchild of Center for the Arts volunteer Jackie Kingsbury back in 2000, founded to capitalize on those perfect Crested Butte summer days and nights. Everyone wants an excuse to throw a summer party in paradise, right? So, Kingsbury reasoned, why not raise money for the Center for the Arts at the same time?

The concept is simple—throw a dinner party at a gorgeous home in the mountains, feature one of the town's amazing chefs and get volunteers to be the servers and party planners. The formula has been a recipe for success. The popular summer parties started out at 13 events and this summer they are up to 18, says Marj O'Reilly, this year's Tour de Forks chairperson. "I'm just amazed at the generosity of these homeowners," explains O'Reilly. "I call them and say, 'Can I bring 30 strangers over to dinner at your house?' And they say, 'Of course!""

The Tour de Forks parties range from a bucolic fly-fishing excursion and lunch to a wine-tasting sit-down dinner. O'Reilly says part of the success of the series has been the distinctiveness of each event. "People who come to Crested Butte are so interested in doing things, they are eager to get involved and try anything," she says.

It's all about the location

First and foremost, event planner Jamie Booth says, get your guests outside. "Highlight this mountain setting as your party backdrop," Booth says. "You can't replicate what a mountain sunset does for your party backdrop."

Scenery plays a huge role in some of Booth's favorite weddings. "This is Crested Butte," she says. "Highlight the location of where you are," and you can't go wrong.

Get your guests involved

O'Reilly says adding interactive elements to your own summer party is vitally important. Whether you assign guests tasks in the kitchen, set up a serve-yourself bar or lawn games, you are encouraging interaction with guests who may not all know each other.

Booth couldn't agree more. Before starting her own business, Bluebird Events, in 2013, she worked at the Center for the Arts, booking all the Alpenglow and live indoor concerts and assisting the Tour de Forks team. Then two years ago, she decided to start her own company, which specializes in weddings and social atmospherestyle parties.

Ways to keep your partygoers outside include having a myriad of yard games to play. This encourages interaction between guests and makes the day or night function more fun. Croquet and bocce ball are great choices and keep the kids entertained at the same time.

Caterer and event planner Ashley Odom from Feast and Merriment loves a relaxed Crested Butte party. She is really into the trend of indoor furniture being brought outdoors for a party. It creates cozy conversation areas, it keeps people outside and, most important, is unique.

Her ideal backyard party in Crested Butte would be an international picnic. "Picnic blankets, long, low tables and a lot of cushions," she explains. Odom says to top it off, add hanging lanterns from the trees or put up bistro lights.

It does cool off in the evenings at 9,000 feet so keep your guests warm with a fire pit or patio heaters. And have a basket of wraps and blankets just in case.

Keeping it fresh, local, and colorful: The menu

Odom suggests creating a menu with the freshest ingredients. This means taking your cues from what's available. "Start planning your menu by what's available at the farmers market," she says. "Create your menu on that so everything is as fresh as possible."

She also recommends serving something indigenous to Colorado, like elk or grass-fed local beef as your protein. "Grilling meats is easy enough to handle for a party at home," says Odom. She encourages people to use wild game and then add a special touch like a fresh peach salsa.

"Start it off fun," says Odom. "There is so much color that we have from the produce and veggies that are available. Have a good mix of summer flavors and colors in your menu."







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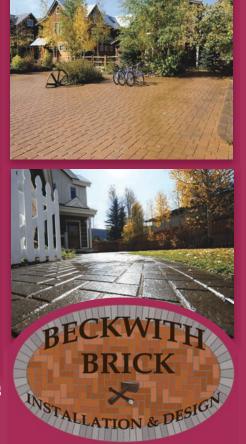


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Odom, O'Reilly and Booth all agree that family-style meals at summer parties are the way to go. Booth says, "What you get with family-style is you get a friendly, casual atmosphere. You also get to see these beautifully laid out dishes. You see them how they should be served."

She continues, "And it influences the party because you are forced to interact with the people around you."

The cocktail du jour

Odom highlights the local colors and flavors by starting the night off with a flourish: the signature cocktail. Taking her cue from the season's colors, she might offer watermelon and mint mojitos or strawberry and rhubarb margaritas.

Booth loves to set up an outdoor bar featuring a specialty drink. "Have it be something that is summery, something that you wouldn't necessarily make all the time. The key piece is that you are serving something that has a special twist."

At some of the Tour de Forks dinners, O'Reilly says, the owners of the Dogwood Cocktail Cabin and Montanya have added to the fanfare by concocting and serving a signature cocktail for the evening.

The divinity is in the details

Don't forget about the details like music. "Think about live music for a smaller event," Booth suggests. "I think it adds an element that is a little out of the ordinary when you have a live musician there. It creates a really special feeling from the event, so it's not just another dinner party."

Odom suggests asking friends who play music to bring instruments to a casual summer party. You can even set up an area in the yard or on the deck with a multitude of instruments for people to play. Odom says it adds another great activity for the kids.

Celebrate the local area by doing simple flower arrangements in mason jars. Some of O'Reilly's favorite Tour de Forks décor has been handpicked flowers from the garden, fashioned into table arrangements.

Prepare thee well-and enjoy

It's been proven time and again: The more preparation you do ahead of time, the more you get to enjoy your own party. Tour de Forks founder Jackie Kingsbury reiterates the importance of preparation. "Get your act together ahead of time. There is always something that is missing. So if you gather all of your equipment a week ahead of time you'll know what you need."

When Booth is planning for her own parties she preps as much food as she can ahead of time and keeps it in the fridge. "I try not to be cooking when people are there. If there's more to be done, assign jobs to people.

"Even for a small, personal party, think about how you are going to serve, what utensils you're going to use. Anything you do in advance saves any chaos that could happen," she says.

continued on page 53



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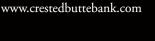
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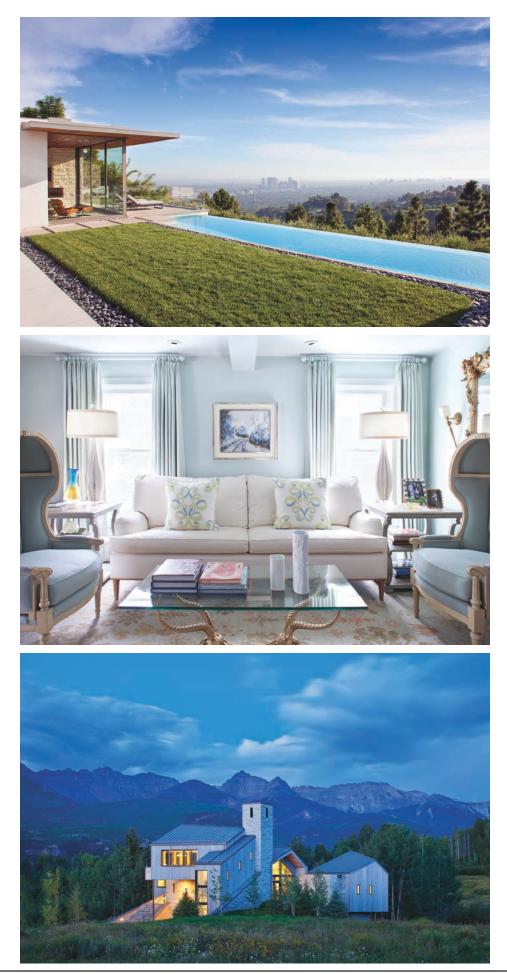
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ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR, LIFESTYLE & RESORT PHOTOGRAPHY

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Being prepared means a good time for everyone. "What you should be able to focus on is the conversation and sharing food with the people you love around you. You don't want to be worried about the little things. You want to be a part of it," advises Odom.

Booth concludes, "Our summers are so short, we want to celebrate them. Everyone wants to have a party in summertime and be outside as long as possible."

Tips for the perfect summer soiree

Get your act together ahead of time. Gather all of your equipment the week before your party. –Jackie Kingsbury

Add some Crested Butte history to the feel of your party, using rusted cans to chill wine, or hold flowers and plants. –Jamie Booth

Push yourself to prepare food that is unique and not something that everyone makes. -Marj O'Reilly

Keep these three components in mind when menu planning: the visual aspect, the local aspect and the seasonal aspect. –Ashley Odom

S'mores make the perfect dessert around the fire pit. Let guests roast their own marshmallows and have a table set up with all the S'mores ingredients. –Jamie Booth

SUMMER PARTY PLAYLISTS

Some of KBUT's favorite DJs created their perfect playlists for a summer party in Crested Butte.

A Summer Dinner Party Playlist by Lynda Jackson, host of *The Finer Things*, Saturdays on KBUT from 10 a.m.-noon

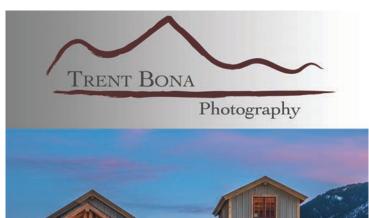
Blue Skies –Willie Nelson My Cherie Amour –Stevie Wonder Caravan –Duke Ellington Orchestra I've Got the World on a String –Frank Sinatra A Case of You –Joni Mitchell Love Being Here with You –Diana Krall Let it Be –The Beatles As Tears Go By –Marianne Faithful Jessica –The Allman Brothers

Lynda Jackson has been a KBUT DJ since the station started in 1986. Her first concert was The Beatles in Toronto and she most recently saw Bruce Springsteen in Denver. Needless to say, music is a huge part of her life.

A Backyard Barbecue Playlist by Tyler Lucas, Host of the *Playin' Thru Show*, Thursdays on KBUT from 10-noon.

DJ Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince - "Summertime" Kermit Ruffins - "Smokin' With Some BBQ" Jimmy Buffett - "Cheeseburger In Paradise" Grateful Dead - "Sugar Magnolia" JJ Grey and Mofro - "Ho Cake" Professor Longhair - "Red Beans" Louis Jordan - "Saturday Night Fish Fry" Sublime - "Summertime (Doin' Time)" Big Twist and The Mellow Fellows - "Too Much BBQ" Marcia Ball - "Peace Love and BBQ"

Tyler Lucas, Underwriting and Music Director for KBUT, Guitarist for Ruby Chief (formerly Mine Control). In the summertime he enjoys late afternoon bike rides, watching baseball, and eating rib-eyes cooked with charcoal.

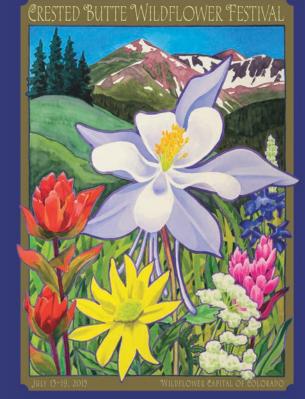


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How did you find Crested Butte?

After graduating from college, I packed up my Subaru and drove out to Colorado without much of a plan. I met up with a couple of friends in Boulder and we all piled in the Subaru and went for a ski town search. We went to the more popular resort towns first. We liked Telluride, but found it was hard to find housing, and we certainly weren't cool enough to hang out at the Baked in Telluride bakery, so we left. Charlie saw Crested Butte on the map and remembered that a friend had mentioned he should check it out. So we drove up this extraordinarily beautiful, wide open valley and landed at the Wooden Nickel. We sat at the bar and Rex served up a chicken fried steak-I had never heard of such a thing. Delicious, and he didn't seem to mind that we were young novices, new to town, and definitely on the dorky side. We found a place to live the next morning and I haven't looked back since.

When did Crested Butte first feel like home?

Crested Butte first felt like home when I drove up the valley after my first off-season away. I was completely awestruck and full of gratitude that I had somehow found this place. You can leave all you want, but Crested Butte always has a way of pulling you back. I decided a long time ago that I was here for good.

Why are you proud to call this place home?

I am proud to have been able to carve out a place here for me and my family. My dad used to ask me at the end of every ski season, "So, when are you coming back to the 'real' world?" I kept telling him, "Dad, this *is* the real world for me. As real as it gets." He stopped asking.

What sets Crested Butte apart from other communities?

It's hard to put my finger on exactly what makes Crested Butte different from other places. But I guess it's the people. Every last one of us. The work I've done here in this valley has enabled me to be a part of so many people's lives, when they are young, when they are teenagers, when they are parents, when they age. We are a small town that feels things big—big celebrations, big adventure, big tragedy, big conflict, and of course, big air.

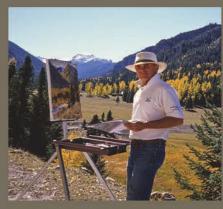
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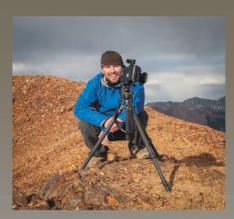
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