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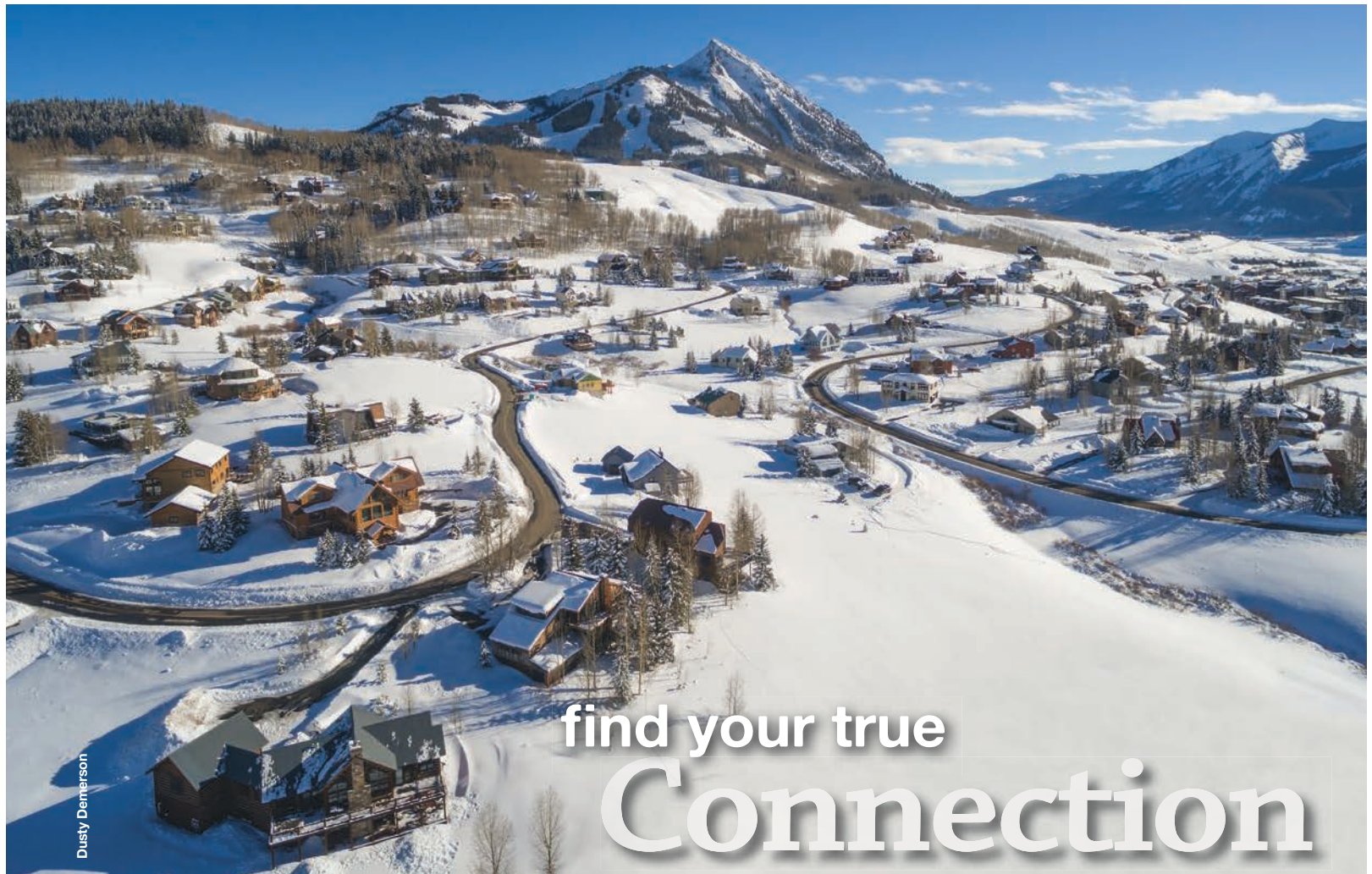
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Pictured: 624 Hidden River Road, Crested Butte. \$2,395,000

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

8

A DREAM REALIZED

16

LIFESTYLE REIMAGINED

24

FORM FROM FUNCTION

33

A SPACE TO CREATE

40

NEW LIFE, NEW LOVE

58

BUILDING A BETTER BOARD

63

FULL CIRCLE JOURNEY

70

EATING WITH THE SEASONS

EDITOR'S NOTE

This past year, I've been reflecting quite a bit on how I live and how my family lives. As my daughters get older (my youngest is about to start kindergarten!), I have been trying to imagine how our house will live as they turn into teenagers down the road. Did my husband and I build our house to work for us as we all grow up?

I tell people all the time that I'd love to build a house again. I loved the process, from design to helping stain boards for our exterior. It was work, but we found a lot of joy in it. We built our house before we started our family, and I would make different decisions the next time around—choices that would reflect the way our family lives now.

This idea of livability is woven into the stories in this year's issue of the Peak, in home tours that aren't just about great design, but also the homeowners' lifestyles.

A semi-retired couple from the Front Range designed their Larkspur house to reflect their new life in the mountains. Another couple had been

dreaming for years about finding a vacation home in Crested Butte when a summer visit nudged them over the edge, renovating a home to capture that feel of summer.

Joe and Shamai Buckel opted to create a whole new lifestyle in Crested Butte, returning here to build a winery and wine label. And finally, mother and daughter duo Erika and Bailey Hosier put a whole lot of love into renovating one of my favorite historic houses in town. "Cheech's House" on Whitcroft doesn't have two coal-burning stoves or a two-seater outhouse anymore (understandably replaced with more modern amenities), but it's still a gathering place for new generations of Crested Butters.

If there's one thing that unites people in Crested Butte, it's the intentionality in the way they live—we're all here because we want a certain lifestyle. We hope the stories and ideas in this issue of the Peak help you do just that: live with intention and love this place where we live.

—Melissa Fenlon

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A DREAM

realized



AN IN-TOWN RENOVATION

BY SETH MENSING • PHOTOS BY JAMES RAY SPAHN

For the owners of 106 Sopris, all it took was one summer visit to Crested Butte and they were hooked all over again. They'd come to ski with friends 30 years before and then they came to ski again. When they had a daughter and then a son, they brought them to ski and dreamed of buying half of a duplex. But the price was \$80,000 and just out of reach.

Year after year they came and went, falling deeper in love with Crested Butte and its Mayberry feel. Finally they came without the skis and saw why an old maxim had become a cliché: You really do come for the winters and stay for the summers.

Continued on page 10



Continued from page 9

With the children grown, the couple decided it was time to find a place with some gravitational pull, where their son and daughter would be drawn to visit when time allowed. They thought they found it in a house on a quiet corner of town just off Elk Ave., but when they made an offer it was rejected. The house was, they admit, quite ugly, so they didn't mind waiting a year before making a second offer, which the owner accepted.

After it was theirs, they waited again, this time living in the house several weeks a year for a year and half before they started the renovation. "They knew where the light came in throughout the day, they knew how they would live in it and where things should be," interior designer Kristine Pivarnik of KPD Studios says. In September 2016, they enlisted the help of Pivarnik, architect Andrew Hadley and Johnny Biggers of Crested Butte Builders to start the process of turning the house into the vacation home they wanted.

***With the children
grown, the couple
decided it was
time to find a
place with some
gravitational pull.***

“For someone who wants to hire a designer and get the most out of their money, they need to bring them in at the beginning of the project,” Pivarnik says, “because all of these considerations can be to make their house functional and special and to really get the proper use out of it.”

Compared to the other houses on Sopris, theirs was set back from the street, squeezing the backyard and stretching the front. “That was the one thing they were a little concerned about. They really love having a backyard area,” Pivarnik says. “So they made [the front yard] a really nice recreational living area and have embraced it as the backyard, even though it’s the front yard.”

Inside, a living room with a vaulted ceiling that opened to a loft wasted what was valuable space in a family home. The paint and finishes were dated and the floorplan allowed for just three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

By reorienting the front of the house, the team brought the front door closer to the interior stairs and divided the living room into a first and second floor to make room for a fourth bedroom upstairs. Downstairs the plan still provides plenty of space for a kitchen island big enough for pizza boxes and a 1,000-piece puzzle, a dining area and a large living room, where whitewashed planks and reclaimed beams give the ceiling a texture Pivarnik uses strategically throughout the house.

Continued on page 12





***“We definitely
use elements and
principles of design,
rhythm, shape, texture,
scale, proportion.”***

***-Kristine Pivarnik,
KPD Studios***

Continued from page 11

“We definitely use elements and principles of design, rhythm, shape, texture, scale, proportion. The owner initially wanted this handrail from Jeff Brethauer [of Blackstar Ironworks] and we were like ‘Yeah, Jeff makes great handrails,’” Pivarnik says, “but we needed to create a rhythm in the house so [the handrail is] not the only item.”

Knowing her clients love the Crested Butte summers as they do, Pivarnik and her assistant, Katie Heubert, used light shades of paint on the walls and ceiling and light finishes and upholstery to keep the interior feeling bright and open, while the naturally hued wood and hand-forged iron provide warmth. “They wanted it to feel inside in the winter like they feel here in the summer,” Heubert says. “They wanted it to be bright and open.”

Rounding out the downstairs is a bedroom, bathroom, powder room and pantry, each with some element that adds depth to the space, as in the quartzite countertops, the iron hood above the stove, or the beautifully hand-carved wooden panels in the front door.

Continued on page 14

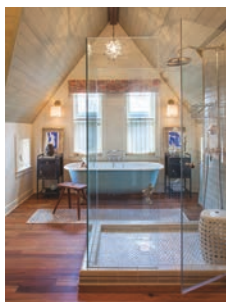
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Continued from page 12

“That’s one of the things we feel is really awesome about this place,” Heubert says. “It has a good mix, a good balance of textures.”

An open stairway leads past an impressive reclaimed wooden beam that weighs around two tons and provides a focal point and structural support to the front of the house, to a hallway that connects the three bedrooms and bathrooms on the second floor.

The remodeled house has a bedroom and accompanying bathroom for everyone, including a fun bunk room for the grandkids, complete with bunkbeds, kid-friendly fixtures and a walk-in shower finished with fossil-studded tiles.

And the home’s placement on the lot, which was originally seen as a bit of a drawback, opens the view from the second floor since it provides some separa-

tion from the neighbors, offering an unobstructed view of Red Lady.

For the owners, the light and color palette lend a beach house feel to the house, as well as a mountain retreat. The open plan and reorganized sleeping quarters perfectly accommodate a growing extended family. But it’s the attention to detail and the elements that you won’t find in any other home in town that really set the project apart.

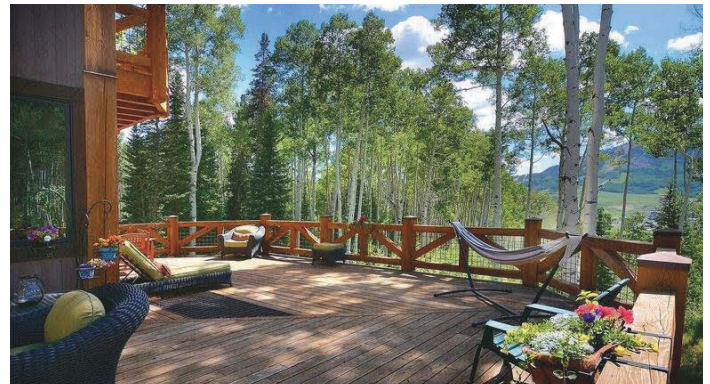
Describing a scene in which one of Crested Butte Builders’ craftsman spent a few moments agonizing over one small detail until it was made perfect, Pivarnik says, “This is what our homeowners don’t see. These guys care and are so attentive. They’re not just slapping up paint. They feel proud of what they produce and doing it any other way is not an option. They’re almost like artists.” •



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LIFESTYLE

REIMAGINED





Two doctors change it up with retirement, relocation and a total shift in living space

BY BETH BUEHLER • PHOTOS BY JAMES RAY SPAHN


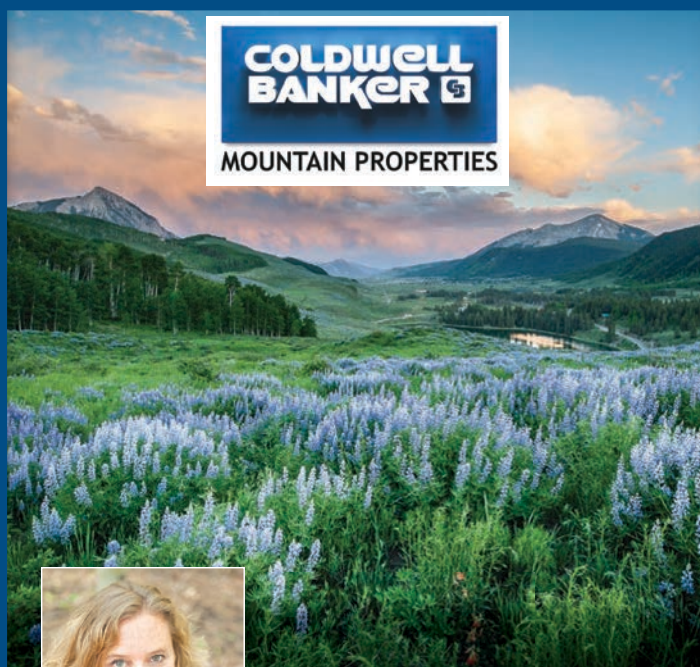

Not only did Laird Cagan and Mary Poole change their daily lives when they retired from their medical careers; they traded the busy Front Range of Colorado for laid-back Crested Butte and a spacious Victorian residence for a slimmed-down modern home.

While wrapping up full-time practices as internists in Longmont, they decided to simplify, declutter and pursue building a residence that plays off Poole's interest in the arts-and-crafts style and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and C. Rennie Mackintosh, yet fits the mountain look and lifestyle. The couple worked closely with local firms—Freestyle Architects, Miller Custom Homes and Interior Visions—to make their vision for a comfortable 1,800-square-foot Larkspur home with a 500-square-foot, two-car garage a reality.

Poole says the top priority was a spacious and attractive living, dining and kitchen area that seamlessly links to a music room. Just steps away from the master suite, the music room has a gracefully curved wall and nooks that cradle favorite works of art and books and serves as a backdrop for Mary's baby grand piano, viola and cello.

During the Crested Butte Music Festival, the couple plans to host home concerts that capitalize on the unique space and beautiful views. The soaring 25-foot ceilings with metal trusses crafted by Crested Butte's Blackstar Ironworks and dark wood beams also help create what promises to be an ultra-memorable and sound-friendly space to enjoy the talents of visiting musicians.

Continued on page 18

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Continued from page 17

Two rooms on the lower level serve dual purposes as their personal escapes and guest rooms for their three daughters who live in the Denver and Boulder area and other visiting friends and family. One serves as Poole's place to practice yoga and read, while the other is Cagan's study and a TV room.

The couple also wanted a home with a horizontal orientation that fit the lay of the land versus one that requires a smaller foundation and goes vertical, which tends to be less expensive to build. "This is an orange-wedge-shaped lot, and the house fits beautifully into the slope," says Cagan.

Also, being attentive to placement on the lot resulted in maximum privacy and the master bedroom looking straight at Crested Butte Mountain, with Cagan's office capturing Whetstone, and the living room framing vistas of Axtel and Paradise Divide.





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A lifetime of art collecting is immediately apparent in each room, representing only one-third of the works the couple previously owned. Miller found a way to create a storage space in their home that allows for swapping out pieces with other favorites to keep the look fresh and inviting. A native of Scotland, Poole points out clay pieces by a Scottish artist hanging in the lower-level bathroom, along with an eye-catching plate by her sister perched in a nook behind the baby grand piano upstairs.

A large canvas of a morning glory glows in the sunlight that filters through the master bedroom mid-morning on a winter day, and the hand-painted seats of four stools that line the breakfast bar in the kitchen add splashes of color. Even the distinct and streamlined lighting by Hubbardton Forge through much of the home adds an artistic touch.

Poole's trail-running excursions inspired an earthy color palette. Kitchen cabinetry is a gentle shade of lichen green and the knotty alder pine doors are dark brown, both with copper hardware that is repeated on the barstool legs and an arts-and-crafts style fireplace surround purchased at Mountain Fireplace Specialists in Gunnison. The copper merges seamlessly with contemporary stainless steel appliances, with visual assistance from a multi-colored tile backsplash and cream quartz countertops.

Touring structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright gave Mary the idea to extend the gas fireplace's marble hearth in the living room to form a small organic-shaped bench for a cozy place to sit and relax.

Continued on page 21

**“We made
sure to let
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respond to
the terrain.”**

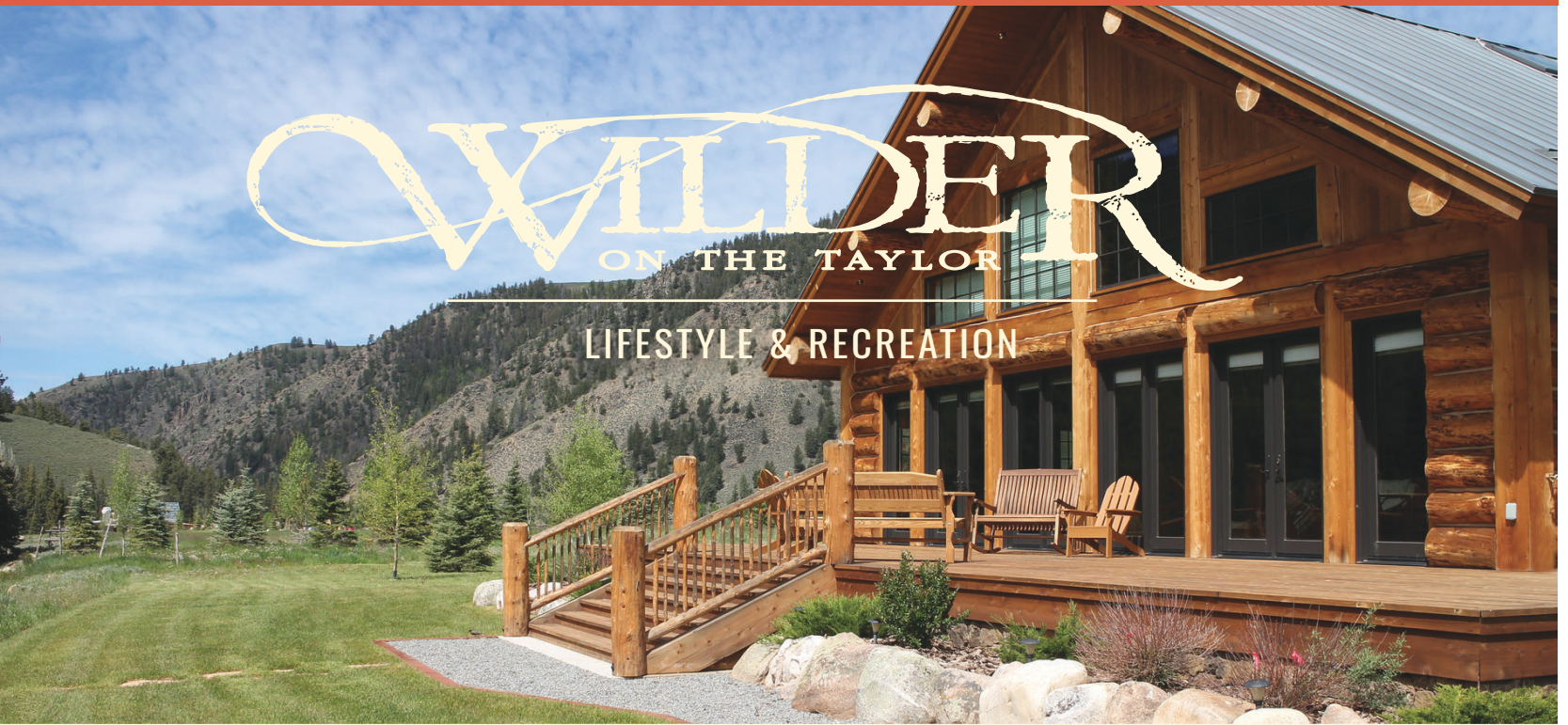
**–Karen Barney,
Freestyle Architects**

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Continued from page 19

Finding a slab of extra marble from a previous project, selecting knotty alder wood doors that are less expensive but still sturdy and distinct with interesting knots in the wood, and purchasing Modular Closet built-ins for the master bedroom closets versus more expensive brands helped the couple stay on budget and true to their mission, Poole emphasizes.

“Mary and Laird showed amazing restraint in the size of their home. It’s just what they need and nothing more. That’s part of the charm of the residence,” observes Karen Barney, a principal and owner of Freestyle Architects with her husband, Jim.

General contractor Willy Miller, owner of Miller Custom Homes, found all sorts of additional nooks to create extra storage space, and the two-car garage has space above and bookshelves along one side that have proved valuable when sizing down from a larger home.

“It was really hard to downsize—that was the toughest part for me,” Cagan notes.

The exterior is angular and mountain-modern with shiplap wood siding, corrugated metal, dark trim and stone accents complemented by a driveway and two patios crafted from pavers. Creating a different look outdoors for each of the structure’s main elements—the great room, master suite and Laird’s office—was intentional and creates dimensions, Jim Barney explains.

Also key to the overall look is how the home “hugs the landscape” and the integration of gardens and vegetation, Karen adds. “We made sure to let the building respond to the terrain.”

Another local firm, Rocky Mountain Trees & Landscaping, built rock gardens to frame the back and front patios and installed trees and plants, and the couple’s art collection spills outdoors in the form of metal sculptures. “I love gardening but realize it will be very different here. I am interested in flowers, shrubs and aesthetics, not vegetables. On the Front Range I had an English country garden with rock pools,” Poole notes.

Continued on page 23



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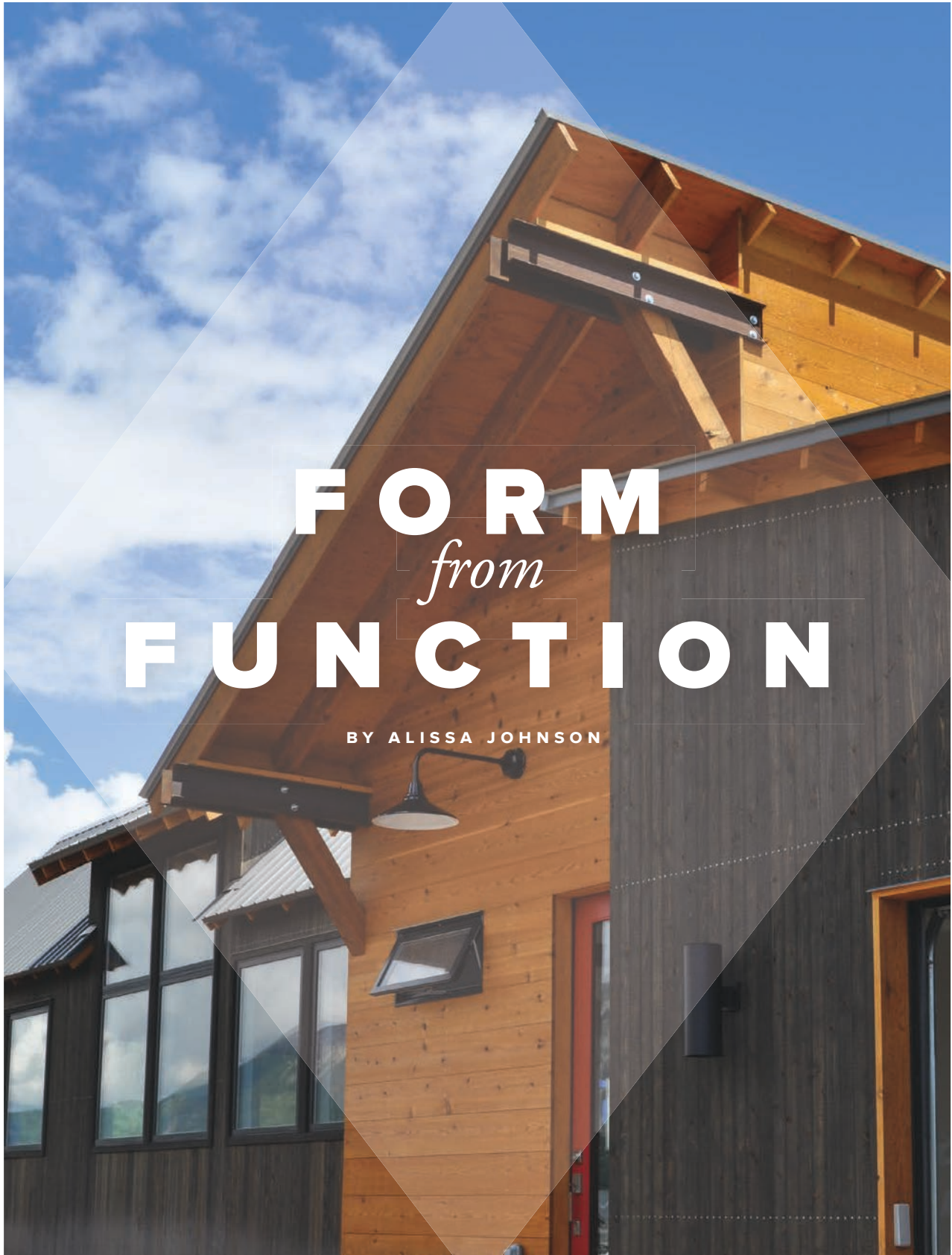
The couple first purchased a lot in Meridian more than a decade ago but decided they wanted quicker access to town—especially by foot or bicycle—and more light filtering through the home. The thought of having a second residence in Crested Butte or both working here full-time morphed into moving to the mountains upon retirement. But neither has totally left their medical interests and expertise behind and are instead filling the internist void in town by working part-time at Moore Orthopedics in Mt. Crested Butte.

A Trenton, New Jersey native, Laird has been traveling to Crested Butte since 1993 and immediately fell in love with the community and its double-black diamond skiing. He graduated from the New York University School of Medicine and practiced internal medicine in Los Angeles for 12 years before relocating to Longmont in 1992.

Poole was raised in the Scottish Borders, earned her medical degree from the University of Edinburgh Medical School and practiced medicine in Boulder and Longmont for 35 years. “I was young when I graduated, wanted to see the world and ended up in Colorado and stayed,” she says. “I didn’t see it as a permanent thing, but the States were good for me.”

Downhill skiing and biking are among Cagan’s favorite pastimes here, while Poole enjoys the Nordic skiing and running trails. She started lacing up a pair of running shoes at the age of 50 and will compete in the London Marathon this year. The local arts community also has a regular spot on their calendars, especially the literary salons organized by Crested Butte Center for the Arts and Old Rock Library’s Socrates Café.

Mary says, “This is paradise; I love living in Crested Butte. I wouldn’t trade it for anywhere else.” •



FORM *from* FUNCTION

BY ALISSA JOHNSON



The Null House. COURTESY PHOTO

Ursula and Matthew Null have become accustomed to people stopping on the street to check out their house, just across from Red Mountain Park in Crested Butte South. Passersby can't get enough of the colors and angles, the modern feel, and even the size (just 1,300 square feet plus a garage). They love it, and the Nulls love it too.

"Everything is just spot-on," Ursula says. For the family of three—the Nulls' son, Winfield, is a toddler—the two-bedroom, two-bath home is where they intend to grow up and grow old. And they can't say enough about their builder, Matt Sleightholm of Sleightholm Workshop. He moved mountains, they insist, to fit their budget and their timeline, both of which were tight, and in the process built far more than a house.

"He's nothing short of an artist," Ursula says of Sleightholm's approach to construction. "He's not building another house to spec. He's building a piece of art that he cares about and a home for people to grow up in."

She and Matthew point to the bamboo counters in the kitchen, the wood and steel that surround the inset fireplace, the space he created for Ursula's grandmother's piano, and the windows so artfully placed to allow views of the mountains and let in the light—detail after detail that they attribute to Sleightholm's creative eye.

It's an aesthetic that seems to be popping up from Gunnison to Mt. Crested Butte, wherever the design guidelines allow such modern forms. And very often, it turns out that Sleightholm and his design partner, Wes Bellamy of Studio CB LLC, are behind it. Their work is earning a reputation for bringing something new to the valley, and yet they insist they're simply responding to the land and their clients' needs.

Continued on page 26

**"Form and function,
expression of structure—
we both enjoy that.
Natural materials, that's
our palate."**

-Wes Bellamy, Studio CB LLC



A SIMILAR AESTHETIC

Continued from page 25

The pair met when Sleightholm built Bellamy's home in 2012. Sleightholm had been building in the valley since 2006 and the two men immediately recognized a shared approach to design and began collaborating. While many would call their designs modern or progressive, they don't necessarily like to categorize their work.

Sleightholm completed a five-year degree in architecture at Virginia Tech, and Bellamy is a LEED-accredited designer. They see modernism as a specific design movement that occurred during the 1950s and '60s. They've certainly studied it and been influenced by the work of modernist pioneers like Mies van der Rohe, but they're not setting out to recreate that period. Their designs are a direct response to the landscape and their clients' needs.

"The work that we make is very site-specific," Sleightholm explains. "It has to have place before we give it a form."

Before designing, they consider the site's topography, southern exposure, wind and views. They also consider their clients' reasons for purchasing a particular lot and what they hope to get out of their home. They ask clients to create idea folders of exteriors, bathrooms, homes in landscapes or other aspects of houses that they like (something Null had been collecting for quite some time—one more reason she loved working with Sleightholm).

"We want to nail it for the clients more than anything," Bellamy explains. "To give them that piece that they're invested in [so] they have a strong part of that house that is theirs."

"And then for us," Sleightholm continues, "it's about simplicity. We have a group of details and forms that we lean towards, but what guides it a lot is how we can avoid ending up with snow in front of the front door. We like to design spaces that are filled with natural light. And from there it's a reflection of what the homeowners bring to us in terms of their programmatic needs."

Continued on page 28

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A Mt. Crested Butte home designed by Sleightholm and Bellamy. COURTESY PHOTO

WORKING WITH THE NON-NEGOTIABLES

Continued from page 26

For the Nulls, whose house is on “the flats” of Crested Butte South, the design ended up being deceptively simple. Sleightholm calls it the Plus House, for while it might not appear so from the street, its footprint is a plus sign: bedrooms in the top and bottom of the shape, and living space and garage on the sides. It allowed the Nulls to stay within their budget and also have the open floor plan and indoor-outdoor living they wanted.

Building a 2,000-square-foot home on a hillside lot in Crested Butte South demanded a different type of structure (pictured on page 24). There, Kevin Koval and his wife wanted to maximize space while sticking to first-floor living (their non-negotiable) and taking advantage of the home’s incredible views and south-facing solar gain.

“We had lived in a three-story townhome before and were just over the stairs,” Koval says. “Building on a slope and trying to do it with as few stairs as possible was architecturally challenging, but [Sleightholm and Bellamy] figured it out and it turned out really well.”

Even as Sleightholm and Bellamy prioritize their clients’ must-haves, they have a few non-negotiables of their own. Though most of their clients prefer energy-efficient and sustainably-built homes, Sleightholm and Bellamy bring that sensibility to every job.

“Wes and I are both cold-climate building science geeks,” Sleightholm says. “We’re concerned about the energy consumptiveness of the whole process—not just the building as a machine and how much energy it consumes, but the waste we make when we’re building it. Our goal is to dovetail the craft of putting a home together ... with the craft of cold-building science.”

Building sustainably is so common sense for the two men that they don’t even advertise it—they just can’t imagine doing things any other way. The end result for both the Nulls and the Kovals is that turning on the heat is a rarity.

“[The house] is insulated so well that it stays very warm all during the night, and then the opposite is true during the summer. It’s insulated so well it doesn’t get so hot,” Koval says.

Continued on page 30

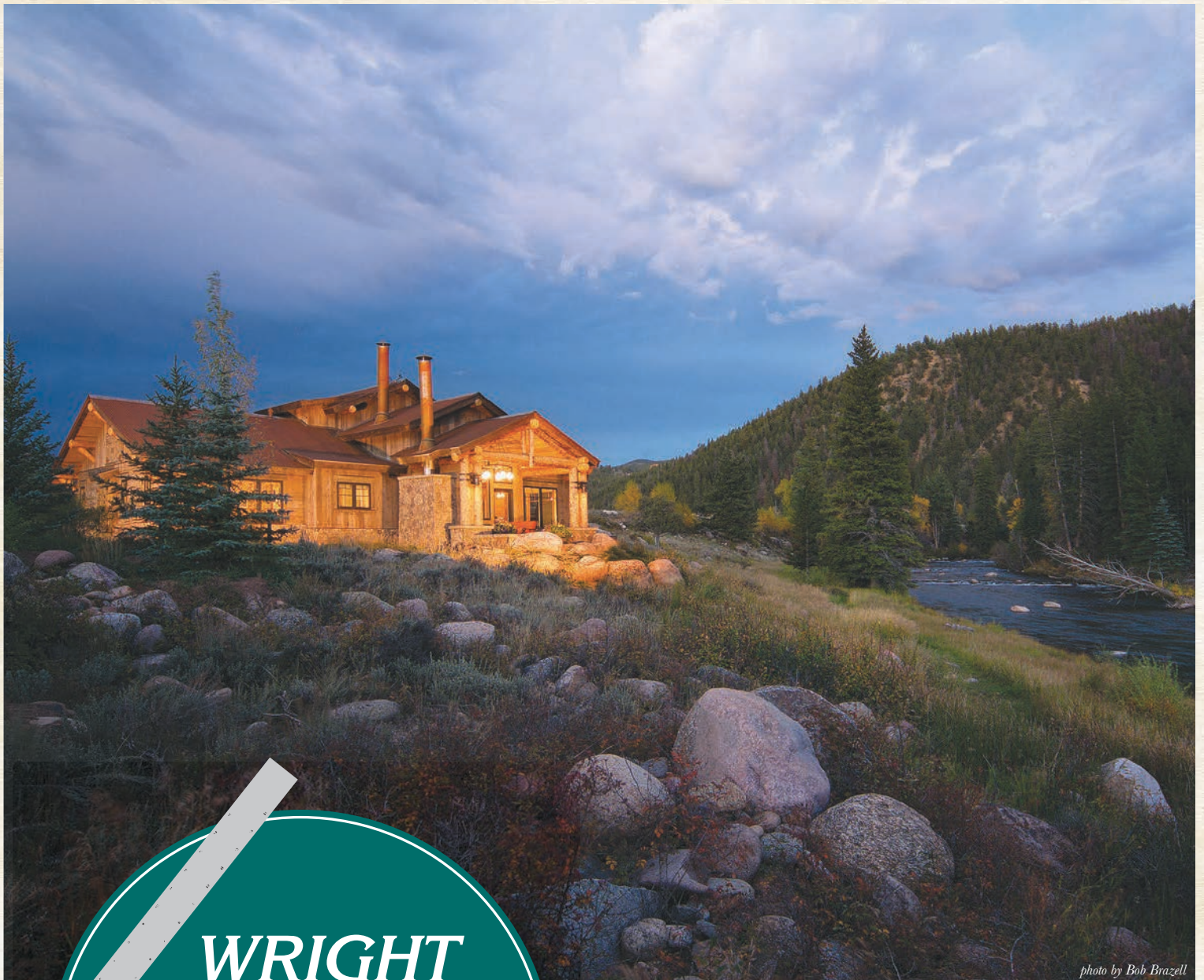


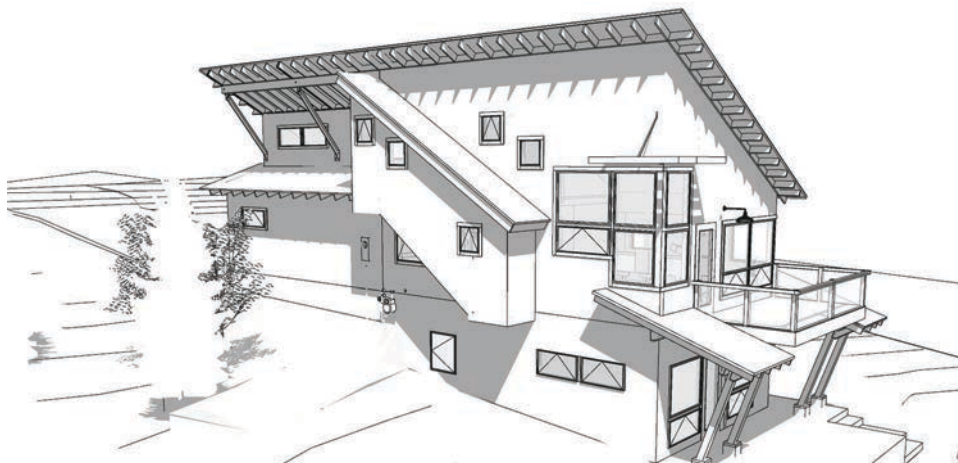
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DEDICATION TO THEIR CRAFT

Continued from page 28

Sleightholm and Bellamy are both pretty humble about what they design and build. Meet them in person and it's pretty clear they're not about to brag. Their clients, on the other hand, will gladly share the many virtues of their creations.

For Koval, who loves to cook, there's the functionality of the kitchen. Everything is exactly where he wants it to be and easily within reach. And the views from the couch, up and down valley, are pretty spectacular, too. For the Nulls, their house seems to offer everything they need even with the small size, including a mudroom and laundry. In other words, the houses aren't just beautiful—they live well, too.

As a duo, Sleightholm's and Bellamy's pride in their craft

seems to come across not in their words but in their continued commitment. When the Nulls added a shed to their property and Sleightholm wasn't available to build it (he had two ongoing projects), Bellamy designed the shed to match the house and the pair made sure the Nulls knew what materials to use. When the couple was concerned about caring for their countertops, Sleightholm showed up at their house with a hand-made butcher block.

"He has such a love of his houses," says Ursula's husband, Matthew. They know that with a toddler in the house, wear and tear happen. When Sleightholm stopped by to discuss the shed, "He noticed something on the counter and pulled out a screwdriver [to fix it]. He couldn't help himself." •

COURTESY IMAGE



photo James Ray Spahn

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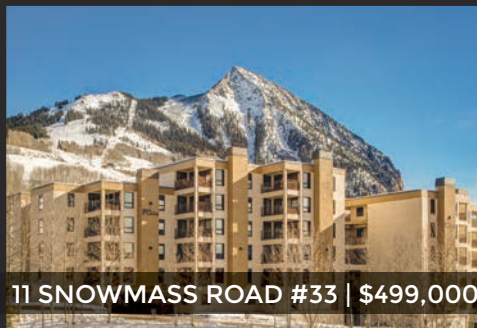
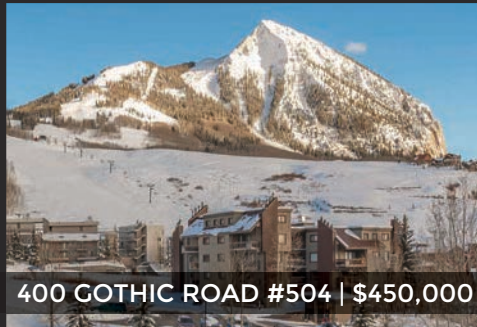
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STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAYLA VIDMAR

If a home is an extension of the person, an artist's studio must be an extra limb, as necessary as the canvas, as functional as a favorite paintbrush. A peek inside the studios of three Gunnison Valley artists' shows that their spaces reflect their individual personalities and, ultimately, the kind of art they produce.

Kimbire Woods' studio, set in the corner of Midnight Gallery on Elk Avenue, reflects her artwork, which combines historical methods of photo printing with watercolor to create ethereal prints. Her studio also suits her outgoing personality, and allows her to interact with customers and discuss her artistic process.

Nicholas Reti's studio transforms his home into an aesthetic work of art, with luminous oil paintings stacked against the walls and a commanding work in progress taking center stage in what should be a living room. His space conjures a sense of wonder, and makes you immediately want to find your passport and book a trip to one of the breathtaking oil pieces that fill his home.

Suzanne Pierson's studio, which she calls the Copper Heron Studio, pays homage to the natural world she loves, filled with her water-based paintings, a gallery wall made of beetle-kill pine and a copper heron weathervane on the studio's roof. Suzanne's work, and therefore her space, feels less like an expression of self and more like a tribute to the wild things and places she loves—as if it is her duty to showcase them and help the world fall in love once again with nature. Here's a closer look:

Continued on page 34



Kimbre Woods

Watercolor, Photography

OWNER, MIDNIGHT GALLERY

Continued from page 33

What's in a name? For Kimbre, it turns out, a lot. She named her space Midnight Gallery because of her late-night working hours in the gallery's studio space. Being a night owl and midnight artist, she says, "People would come by after leaving the bars at 2 a.m. and see me working, and want to know what was going on. I've sold so much art at midnight."

Her studio and gallery space allow her to make her art while also being at the gallery—a perk not just reserved for her industriousness, but also for her customers. "People get excited to actually see something being made," Kimbre says, noting the connection people have to her art when they see it being made in real time.

The studio space is functional, and she rearranges it based on what she's working on, saying the arrangement often fluctuates between printing studio and photo lab, to watercolor and more. "I'm always able to move the space around, and make it do whatever it needs to do," Kimbre says.

Her studio occupies a corner of her gallery, where she's surrounded by her art and that of numerous other photographers, painters, jewelers and artists. Much of her space, from the family-sized box of Arm & Hammer baking soda used for bleaching photographic prints to her vintage print chair and art desk, harkens back to yesteryear. It's similar to her photograph printing method, which dates back to 1842, utilizing natural light to print images onto a variety of papers and fabrics.

What you'll always find in her studio? Watercolors, brushes and pencils, which allow her to create custom pieces for people on the spot and sign her work for customers—something Kimbre says is her favorite part of having a shared studio and gallery space.

Continued on page 36





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Nicholas Reti

Oil landscape painter

OWNER, OH BE JOYFUL GALLERY

Continued from page 34

If there's one person who is living and breathing his craft, it's Nicholas Reti, owner of the Oh Be Joyful Gallery in Crested Butte, just off Elk. His Crested Butte home, as he says with a laugh, "is 75 percent studio space and 25 percent kitchen." Canvases are stacked against walls, and in the center of his living room stands his easel, with his current project waiting.

In every corner of his space inspiration flows, and everything has a story beckoning to be told. From the children's book Nicholas illustrated about Antarctica to the boxes of spent oil paint arranged into a rainbow of chaotic color, Nicholas is living in art.

"When you live the life of an artist, it is your life," he says. When he wakes in the mornings, he lets inspiration guide him, with a number of unfinished pieces waiting, or, if he's feeling less creative, he's always able to stretch canvas or make prints.

"It's about making a hundred paintings and getting lucky with one," Nicholas says of his unfinished work stacked around the room, each piece reminiscent of a rich life of travel and artistic immersion. "When I start the day, I check in with myself and understand where my mind is and where my heart is and what I want to work on."

His inspiration is overflowing from the walls. Of the few pieces not painted by him, he says his favorite is a small painting of a crinkled tube of paint. "Every time I see the way it's painted," he says, "it reminds me how hard you have to work to succeed as an artist."

Continued on page 38





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Suzanne Pierson

Watercolor, acrylic, gauche

Continued from page 36

Ethereal light and a calm coziness fill Suzanne's dedicated home studio space in Crested Butte. As with most artist's studios, it is filled with inspiration hanging from the walls and stacked within bookshelves.

Suzanne began her painting career at just nine years old, sitting upon her grandmother's lap. "I knew what I was going to be," she smiles, holding a photo of her grandmother. Of her home studio space she says, "I feel like it's helping me hit a prime. I'm beginning to peak again, the more I work, the better I paint."

It's a space in which you would be hard pressed not to be inspired, with its beetle-kill pine accent wall and its signature navy blue tint and floating rough-edged shelves displaying some of her pieces. The white walls have a lavender tint, of which Suzanne says, "Everything in the color spectrum reflects well off that color, and shows the work off well."

Suzanne filled the studio with a moveable drafting table and other items with wheels so she can quickly transform or move her space to meet whatever needs she has. "I have the freedom to have several pieces in motion at a time, without the need to clean it all up at the end of the day," she says.

It seems every corner has an inspirational knick-knack or memento, from a prayer wheel brought from Bhutan in the window to her bookshelf filled with art books, and treasures from her childhood and world travels. The space begs you to linger, if not to get to know her dazzling depictions of her favorite mountain scenes, then to get a feel for a life well lived traveling the world. •



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NEW LIFE, NEW LOVE:

Restoring a Crested Butte classic



COURTESY PHOTOS

BY MELISSA FENLON

There are so many jewels in Crested Butte's historic district, but one that stands out for Molly Minneman, the town's historic preservation coordinator, is the house at 210 Whiterock. "It is one of my all-time favorite homes, not only because of its quintessential vernacular architecture, but because the Sedmak family were significant members of the community," Minneman explains. "Rudy Sedmak was the kindest man." Rudy worked the mines in the valley until they closed, then worked as an early lift operator.

Continued on page 42



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Continued from page 40

According to the town's records, the house was built in the late 1880s and was long associated with the Sedmak family. Rudolph (Rudy) came to the United States in 1904 from Austria-Croatia and became a citizen in 1917. His wife, Mary, was born in Crested Butte to parents from Austria/Croatia and attended school in town.

The couple raised their five children in the house on Whiterock. Their son, Joseph, nicknamed Cheech, lived his entire life in the house until 2005 when he died at the age of 90.

"This house is one of the best preserved of the dwellings erected during the late nineteenth century in Crested Butte," explains Minneman. After the house sat on the real estate market for over five years, in 2015, local mother and daughter duo, Erika and Bailey Hosier, purchased the property and painstakingly rehabilitated the residence in place so that a piece of Crested Butte's history still stands.

"We just couldn't shake it," says Erika of the Sedmak house on Whiterock. "We kept looking at it and realized we had such a big connection with it."

So Erika and Bailey, along with help from an engineer and builder, began a ten-month long renovation. They gutted the house, giving the historic Crested Butte home a new life.

"You can feel the people who have lived there from the past," Erika explains. "When we were working on the house, we could feel the people around us, especially the women. It was as though we were being helped along, encouraged. It felt really good to do this project."

The mother-daughter duo spent day after day, sweating in their Tyvek suits removing coal dust from everything. But all those hours spent renovating the house are not lost on them. "It was the coolest thing we've ever done," says Erika. "We would laugh, we would cry, we would sweat. But you've got to put your time and money where your love is."

Bailey says one of her favorite parts of the house project was that there was still a double seated outhouse in the back shed that was used until the 1960s. They saved all the wood from the outhouse and turned them into the kitchen shelving.

"We need to preserve as many relics as we can. Preserve them in honor of the people who were here before us," Erika says.

Bailey says that during the renovation, Rudy Rozman, Cheech's nephew and the realtor who sold the house to the Hosiers, would visit them often at the house. They learned that at one time nine family members lived in the 1,100 square foot house.

"It seemed to be quite a central gathering place and I still feel that the house calls to be a communal space. A space for warm gatherings," Bailey says.

Many old timers have come to visit and are elated upon walking in that the house is being taken care of.

Ben Somrak, a local builder, is the great-nephew of Cheech, and grew up spending many days at the Whiterock house. He has so many sweet memories of his grandparents' house. "That front little sidewalk and roof was always leaning to the side with the snow. But it was always hanging on."

Somrak says his great uncle Cheech was the last of a dying breed in Crested Butte. "Being at Cheech's house was an authentic look at what life was like. His wood burning stove in the kitchen, his potato cellar underneath, that's what life used to be like here." 210 Whiterock was a gathering place for the Sedmak's extended family. "There are so many good memories of everyone in the kitchen. It was the heart of that home. And so many good times were had in that backyard."





Somrak was thrilled when the Hosiers bought the house and renovated. “I was really excited it was getting some love, especially that it was becoming home for a local girl who grew up here,” he says.

From the exterior color scheme of white with red and green trim, to the lace detail, Somrak is so pleased the house has new life, while still being an icon of Crested Butte. “It’s such a quintessential Crested Butte house, a real classic,” he says.

There’s a heart at the peak of the house that was broken when the Hosiers began their renovation. They fixed the broken heart and painted it red for all to see.

“The house is so darn cute,” Erika concludes. “It’s full of character and so much love.” •

For a closer look at Crested Butte’s history, take a visit to the Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum, or tag along on one of their walking tours during the summer.

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BY KATHERINE NETTLES

“For every minute spent organizing, an hour is earned.”

—Benjamin Franklin

Chances are, whether they're longtime residents of the Gunnison Valley or new arrivals, most people have experienced a storage squeeze or the challenge of keeping gear in some semblance of order.

Inspired Home CB owner and closet expert Robin Yost describes the following scenarios: climbing over a bike (or bikes)

in the hallway, retrieving wet socks from the snow melting off the skis by the front door, bi-annually rotating plastic boxes of seasonal clothing to *any* available space for storage, or hooks hanging on every square inch of the walls—especially in the absence of an entryway closet.

Continued on page 46

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***–Robin Yost,
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Continued from page 44

If any of that sounds familiar, it’s for good reason. A major trend in the building and remodeling industry is to consider storage more carefully at the outset. In the Gunnison Valley, that trend has an additional component, with muddy transition seasons and year-round sports.

Yost came to the storage and closet design world after living here for more than 24 years, thinking the Gunnison Valley could use another specialist in our construction process to cater to the clutter factor.

“We have a gorgeous variety of custom new construction homes, remodeled Victorians and mining cabins. Almost everyone can agree that none of us have enough storage,” she says. “Being able to put our hands on our gear at a moment’s notice ranks high for our residents.”

To that end, Inspired Home CB custom-designs closets, pantries and entryways, or “really, any space you can dream up” for clients around the valley and beyond.

Yost notes current local trends: “Entryways seem to be as ‘grab and go’ as possible—with a place to sit momentarily and put on your shoes or boots. Hooks, baskets and easy-to-access storage are always popular here. Baskets are a fantastic option over drawers, so our gear can dry out and air out.”

When it comes to closets, it’s not just about function—there is room for design too. Yost says matte-gold hardware in closets is a current favorite “and looks especially great with a white closet.” She adds that the finishes available for closet shelving and cabinetry have expanded, and “We are certainly not limited to white and brown anymore.” Her pick for cabinet color is Frequency which “looks like a medium grey linen,” but she also likes the reclaimed barnwood and “barnwood-esq options” that are having their moment.

Continued on page 49

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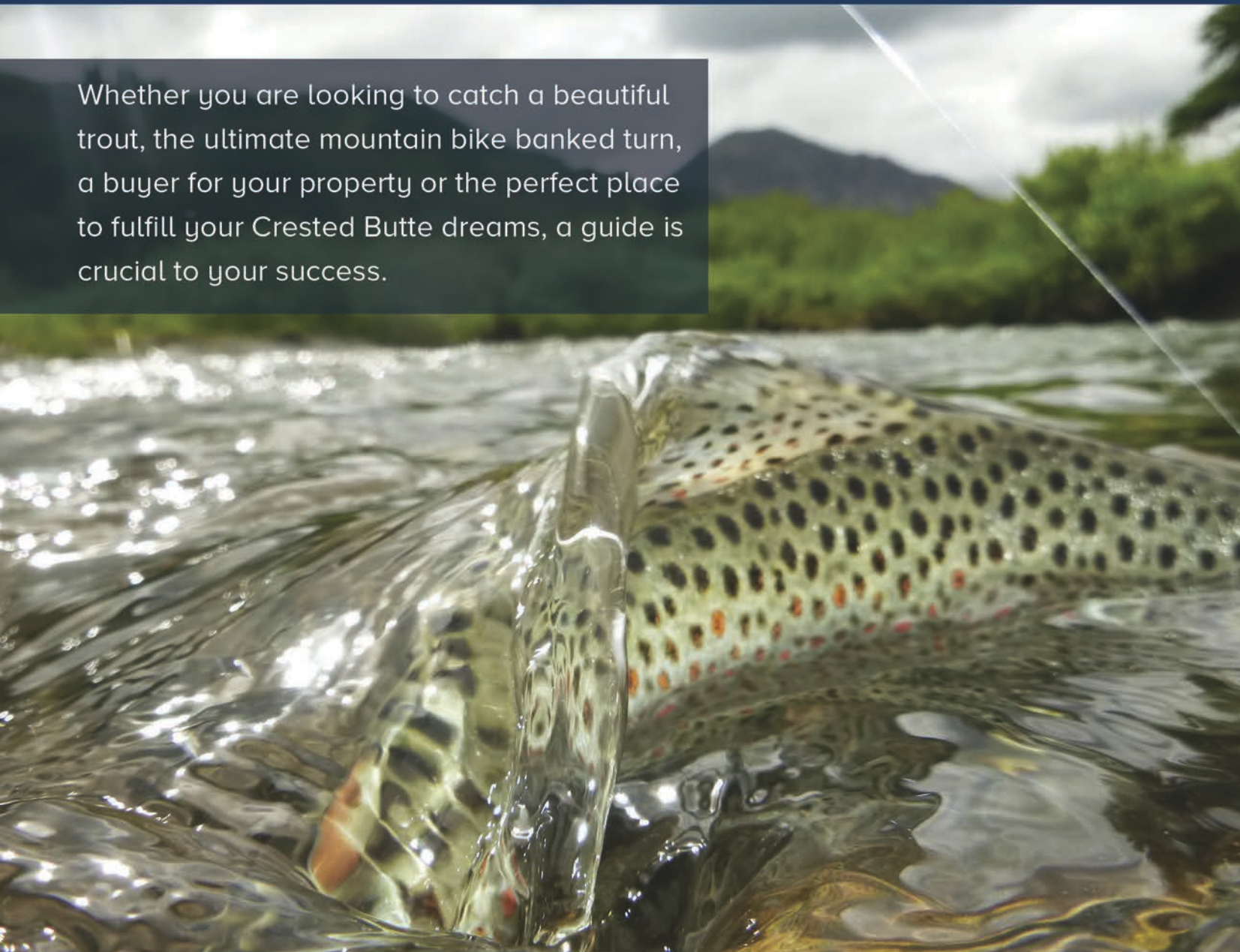
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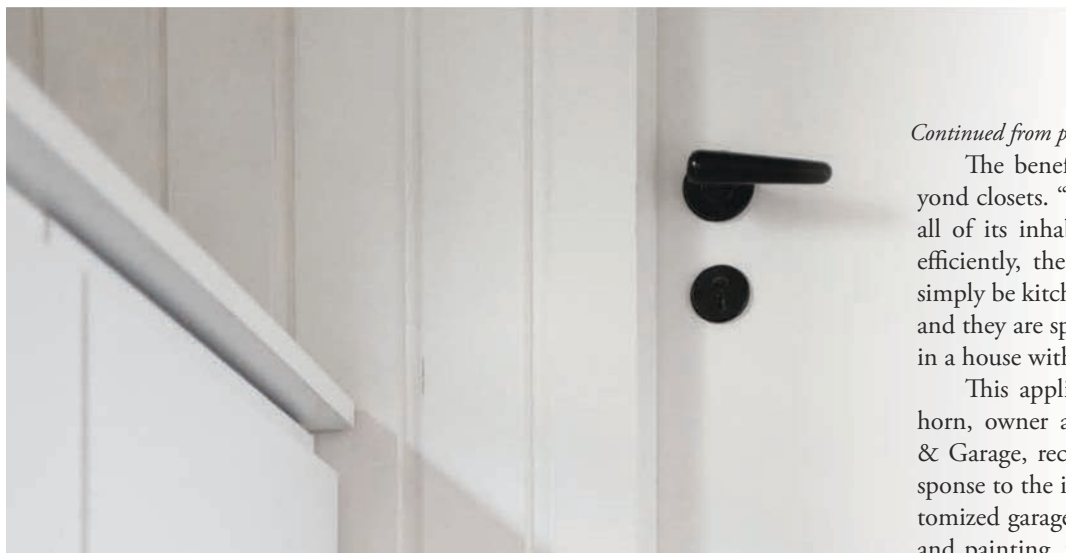
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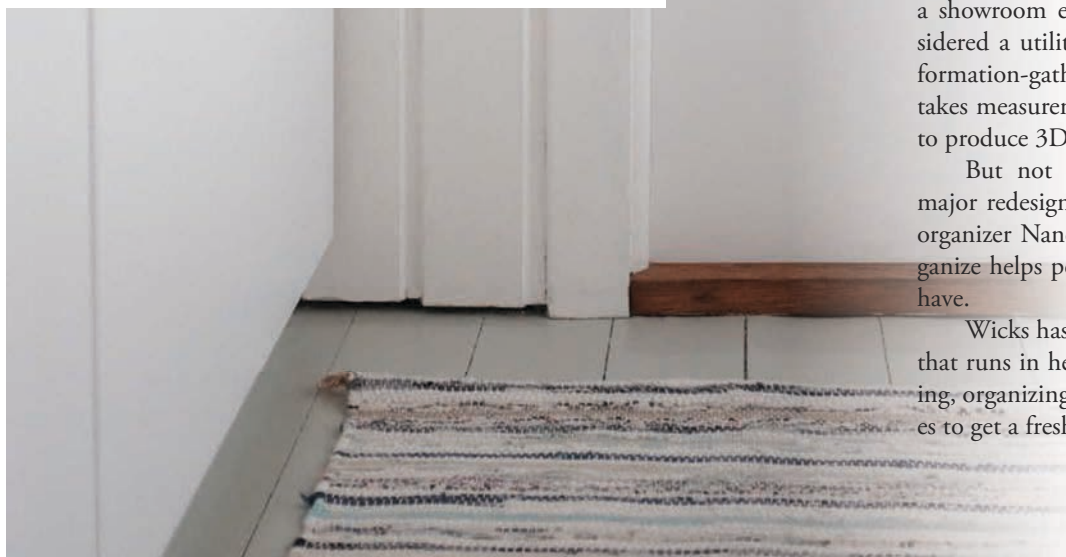
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- 1. Plan ahead.** Transitional times (like a birth, graduation or relocating) are a natural fit for making changes. Take a full day and consider the way traffic flows through the home, entryway or garage to decide where to focus.
- 2. Look up.** Make the most of ceiling height or wasted vertical space for storage areas.
- 3. Reconsider stuff.** Compare each item's value to the time for upkeep and the space required to keep it.
- 4. Make it pretty.** Folding textiles creates extra space, lends an aesthetic quality and makes things easier to find.
- 5. Take your time.** Outdoor storage pods can hold "extra" belongings onsite until it's convenient to sort through them (just be aware of local regs on how long one can be present).
- 6. Reduce visual clutter.** Keep open shelving for minimal or aesthetic uses, and use closed cabinetry to store the bulk of dishes, clothing and tools.



Continued from page 46

The benefits of planning for storage go beyond closets. "When a home is equipped to store all of its inhabitants' clothing and sporty items efficiently, the rest of the spaces are allowed to simply be kitchens, bathrooms, living rooms, etc., and they are spared from the overflow that ensues in a house with no storage plan," says Yost.

This applies to garages as well. Matt Kuhlhorn, owner and proprietor of Kooler Painting & Garage, recently expanded his business in response to the increasing market demands for customized garage spaces. He also does garage doors and painting, which are the original heart of his business.

"The garage is one of the most under-utilized spaces in our homes," says Kuhlhorn. He works with clients to determine what they need based on several aspects: what they are storing, and if it is long-term (seasonal decorations that come out once per year) or short-term (camp chairs, ski equipment, or other recreational gear).

"A lot of times around here, it's a lot of rec equipment that we are managing," says Kuhlhorn.

Often, that is best achieved by layering systems and storage. This means making the most use of vertical space, and pairing hooks with hanging shelves alongside bike racks, ski racks and other elements to keep it organized and make it efficient. Among the solutions he offers is a versatile system of steel components from the U.S. manufacturer Monkey Bars, based out of Idaho. Kuhlhorn describes a common scenario where "We're going to put in these shelving units, then hanging bike bars, then [storage for] rafts and SUP boards."

Kuhlhorn is bringing aesthetics to these spaces as well. Using clean, modern counters and both open and closed cabinetry can lend more of a showroom effect to what is traditionally considered a utility area. He conducts an initial information-gathering interview with a client, then takes measurements and uses a software program to produce 3D images for approval.

But not all home organization requires a major redesign or home renovation. Professional organizer Nancy Wicks of Wicks Clean and Organize helps people work with what they already have.

Wicks has channeled the "Wicks clean gene" that runs in her family to help people with moving, organizing and even deep cleaning their spaces to get a fresh and practical start.

Continued on page 52

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Continued from page 49

"In this valley, at this time, there is a lot of moving and shaking and people are coming and going. So, I can help people set up their homes in an organized way as they unpack," she says.

Wicks says her style is "very specific to the space and the person and what they have." She specializes in a particularly tricky move: downsizing. She has moved clients from as drastic situations as "a big, beautiful place in Skyland to a one-bedroom retirement home in Denver," and emphasizes that in such cases, "You have to prioritize."

Drawing on a recent example, Wicks describes a client who had "thrown everything in the garage for two years—so there were a dozen pair of the same garden gloves, and several of the same style of gardening tool, because [the client] would just go out and buy it new when she couldn't find it."

If that sounds like a familiar problem, Wicks says it can be avoided by "putting like with like—a really simple thing to start with." Adding labels, no matter how obvious that may seem, can also make a difference. And if it's too late, sort what you have and donate the extras.


Wicks advises, "You have to ask yourself, how much maintenance do you want to do to take care of your items, so you have more time to go recreate and have fun?"

Spring and fall are those optimum transition times, adds Wicks. But plan ahead for the clean-outs, "and take one day to do it, on a sunny afternoon."

And if that doesn't inspire a spring cleaning, the experts are always available. •

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find your STYLE

If you've ever undertaken a remodel or a new build, you know it's one thing to admire someone else's house and another to design your own. From size and layout to color and texture, there are so many choices. We turned to Crested Butte designer Carolina Fecho Alling, founder of ID Studio, for some tips on finding your style.

At ID Studio, Alling helps clients create homes that are sophisticated and elegant yet also reflect their personal style and identity. She knows that comfort and livability are just as important as timeless design.

1 Choose an anchor piece. This is something that you love—a rug, a piece of furniture, a lighting fixture, an art work or fabric—and will guide you to your ultimate style.

Get inspired by ideas on Pinterest and create a board with your favorite looks, or create a physical mood board from magazine clippings. Already on it? Take it a step further and really ask yourself why you like the image you pinned. More important, consider whether you like the entire image or a particular piece of furniture or item in the space.

Once you have enough images, start looking for similarities. Are you drawn to a specific style of design, such as traditional, modern, industrial, country or Scandinavian? Or are you pinning images with the same color scheme? It's key to become aware of why you are attracted to certain things.

2

Take a look at your closet—it says a lot about you. Are you drawn to repeating patterns? Bold colors? Or mostly neutrals? Transfer what you see to your room décor.

3



PHOTOS BY JAMES RAY SPAHN

TEXTURES AND LAYERS ADD VISUAL INTEREST TO THIS BEDROOM USING GRASS CLOTH WALLS, A CRYSTAL CHANDELIER, BRASS ACCENTS, A BOLD FABRIC PATTERN, TASSELS ON THE BEDDING AND ACCENT DÉCOR ON THE SIDE TABLE.

Create a color palette for the space. Gather samples of all kinds: paint chips from Mountain Colors, wood samples with finishes that you like, pieces of tile that you're thinking about using, countertops, and decorative hardware such as pulls or knobs with the correct finish. Make sure you like them and how they work together before you make the final commitment.

4

Add culture to the space and incorporate your travels or adventures. This adds personality and a one-of-a-kind finished product.

5

Continued on page 54



IN THIS BEDROOM, TEXTURES AND LAYERS COME FROM RECLAIMED WOOD WALLS, BIRD CLOTH LAMPSHADES AND ROMAN SHADES, A METAL BED, BOLD STRIPE BEDDING, VELVET, ZINC SIDE TABLES AND CONTRASTING COLORS OF RED, MUSTARD, GREY, WHITE AND TAN.

Continued from page 53

Add layers of textures. This creates visual interest and can be accomplished in a number of ways, but the key is diversity among objects and finishings. Forgetting to layer in texture can lead to a space that feels flat or soulless, and texture really is the secret to making a space look and feel finished and lived in.

The more you mix opposing elements the better. And over time, you can buy pieces that really speak to you and add them in to create a new layer and further fill out a space. Doing this gradually is almost always better than trying to buy every single element at once.

Continued on page 57



IN THIS PROJECT, THE TEXTURES AND LAYERS COME FROM STEEL, ANTIQUE TIMBERS, NEUTRAL CLAY WALLS, LARGE PATTERN FABRIC CHAIRS, LEATHER, GLASS, MONGOLIAN SHEEP FUR AND A MAUVE ACCENT COLOR.

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RESERVE on the EAST RIVER

Continued from page 54



IN THIS POWDER ROOM, THE TEXTURES AND LAYERS COME FROM GRASS CLOTH WALLS, BRASS AND NICKEL ACCENTS, MARBLE SINK, OAK CABINETRY AND FLOORS AND ARTWORK WITH GREEN ACCENT.



IN THIS KITCHEN, THE TEXTURES AND LAYERS COME FROM CLAY WALLS AND CONTRASTING CHINKING, ZINC PATINA FOR THE HOOD AND COUNTERTOPS, BOLD USE OF THE RED STOVE, METAL MESH FOR CABINETRY, ANTIQUE PENDANTS WITH PULLEY SYSTEM, RECLAIMED TIMBER AND ANTIQUE OAK FLOORS AND AN ISLAND COUNTERTOP.

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STORY AND PHOTOS BY MELISSA FENLON



Big wooden boards filled to the brim with cheeses, cured meats, dried fruit, artisanal jams and candied nuts have taken home entertaining by storm. Believe it or not, mastering the charcuterie and cheese board is actually not that difficult.

Chef Chris Schlaudecker is an artist when it comes to building these meat and cheese boards at the Club at Crested Butte, where he serves as executive chef. He loves playing with flavor and textures.

"You have a palette of colors when you paint, and you have a three-dimensional palette when creating a board with all the colors, textures and flavors," he says.

Historically, charcuterie boards were predominantly meat, but more recently the appetizer or grande manger board has become popular.

A meat and cheese board can be used as an appetizer or main course. And when it comes time to build your board and choose your ingredients, Schlaudecker says the sky is the limit.

Continued on page 60

HOW TO BUILD YOUR MEAT AND CHEESE BOARD:

Choose your board: Schlaudecker likes using big wooden boards for a rustic feel, but says any platter will do. "You can pull out your old family silver platter if you want," he says.

Start with something pre-sliced: Cured meats such as thinly sliced prosciutto work well. It's great to pull apart the thin slices and roughly fold each slice to get a rustic feel.

Add something you slice: Here's where you add in cheeses and hard meats that need to be sliced, such as hard salamis.

Something spreadable: Pâtés and rillettes work well on boards. For more vegetarian options, try a beet hummus to add color.

Add the accents: Include ingredients that give contrast and bring new flavors and textures such as soft cheeses, preserves, dried fruit or pickles. Schlaudecker says to always remember you've got crunchy, sweet, briny, savory and musky on your board.

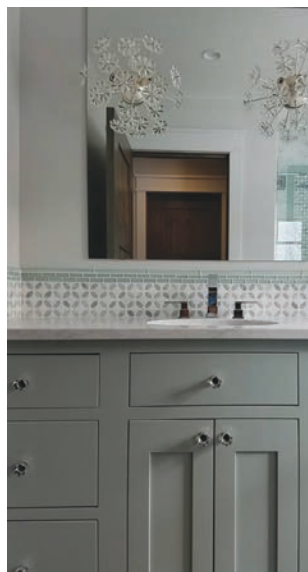
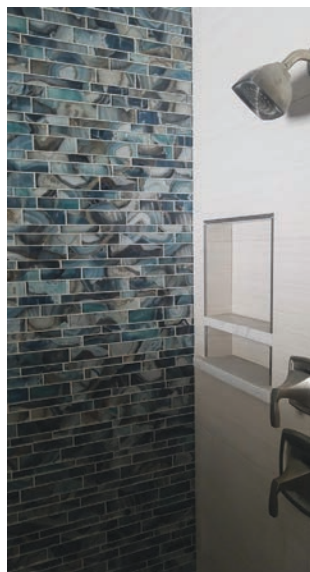
Serve with breads and crackers: Add some crunch with crostini, grissini (breadsticks) and lavasch crackers.

Serving size: Plan on 2-ounce portions per person for an appetizer and 5 ounces per person for main course.



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Chef Chris Schlaudecker. PHOTO BY ALEX FENLON

Continued from page 59

Some of Schlaudecker's favorite accents for his cheese boards are dried apricots, candied walnuts and cabernet poached onions. If you're using camembert cheese, try putting roasted garlic next to it. And if you're including cheddars and fontina-style cheese, he loves pairing those with grilled tomatoes.

When you're building your charcuterie board, try using pickled, smoked and savory items such as gherkins, peppers, mustards and grilled tomatoes to pair with the meats. When placing all your ingredients on the board, place the less flavorful items first. So, for instance, keep the blue cheese in the back, being one of the last things your guests go for.

These boards may look like the ingredients are all from out of town, but they are comprised of items you can buy at the local grocery stores.

They're the perfect thing to serve at a get-together any time of year and they are sure to please guests in an informal environment for friends to chat over food. Whether you put together separate boards for charcuterie and cheese, or you put together one large board with both, there's something for everyone, including the one crafting it. "There's such an artistic element in creating these boards," Schlaudecker says. "Just have a glass of wine and have fun." •



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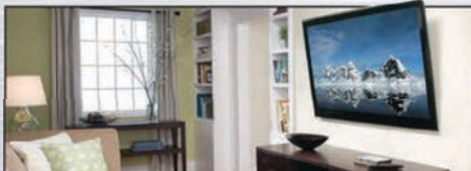
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BY ERICA ANDREWS · PHOTOS BY LYDIA STERN

Winery dream begins in Crested Butte South

With a landscape completely void of vineyards or a climate to grow even a single grapevine, Crested Butte might seem the unlikely place in the world to start a winery. But for Joe and Shamai Buckel, Crested Butte was the only place they could envision putting down roots to begin Buckel Family Wine.

“Crested Butte is where we met, and where we wanted to raise our family,” Shamai says. And while a 13-year sojourn led them away from the area, it proved necessary to build the couple’s expertise and experience before bringing their dream to fruition; it was a full-circle journey that delivered them back to the Gunnison Valley in 2017. Despite being in a somewhat unconventional location, the Buckels plan to “go big” in pursuit of their dream and build the Buckel Family Wine label in Colorado’s last great ski town.

Continued on page 64



Continued from page 63

“We want to be one of the top quality producers in Colorado, and to help the wine industry here gain the positive recognition it deserves,” Joe says. With only two vintages, Buckel Family Wine is squarely in its infancy as a wine label. But the seeds that eventually grew into this brand were sown decades ago, with the backing of a lot of experience and knowledge.

Shamai spent her formative years in Santa Fe, New Mexico, immersed in a family farm environment where she developed an appreciation for health and local food systems. From this lifestyle, she knew she wanted to have a business of her own someday. She took her passion to what is now Western Colorado University, where she earned a master’s degree in functional nutrition. And Joe, with wine collectors as parents, spent his youth traveling the finest wine regions of the world—Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Washington, France and Italy, to name a few. “That set a big impression,” he says. It also sparked his life-long passion for winemaking. As a first step, he got his bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Indiana University and worked in basic research as a protein chemist.

Joe and Shamai’s paths intersected in Crested Butte in 2000, where they met and fell in love and began blending their lives and experiences. In 2004, they moved from the Gunnison Valley to Santa Rosa, California, where Joe pursued his studies in viticulture (grape cultivation, specifically) and enology (the actual science of winemaking) at Napa Valley College. He later studied winemaking at the University of California at Davis. This era in California was critical to learning the many facets of the wine industry and immersed both Joe and Shamai in a culture that would nurture and guide their family path. Together, they produced their first batch of wine in 2005, in a garage with the help of friends and family. “A lot of good wine was consumed!” Shamai recalls.

They continued their garage winemaking adventures while Joe worked as an enologist at Flowers Vineyard and Winery and then BR Cohn Winery in California. He also developed a small wine label. When he was offered the winemaker position at Sutcliffe Vineyards in Cortez, Colorado in 2008, the couple jumped at the chance to move back to their beloved Colorado.



PHOTOS BY LYDIA STERN

**“We want to be one of the
top quality producers
in Colorado, and to
help the wine industry
here gain the positive
recognition it deserves.”**

-Joe Buckel, Buckel Family Wine

Their years in Cortez enabled Joe and Shamai to acquaint themselves with the inherent differences of the Colorado winemaking industry from that of California. Over the course of nearly a decade, they were able to connect with a broad network of farmers and vineyards on the Western Slope, and built relationships with growers who now contribute fruit to the Buckel wine label.

All of the grapes used in Buckel Family Wine are from small, family-owned vineyards, primarily from the Palisade area of the Western Slope. Collectively, this group of growers comprise “a diverse group of personality types,” with a focus on quality. “We are making wine in an Old World style,” Shamai explains, noting that this style is less mechanized than most commercially produced wines, utilizes less technology, and includes zero additives. “We create wine that is alive, ages, and evolves,” she says.

Joe and Shamai “custom crush” their grapes in other wineries, essentially renting the use of the facilities to juice, store and age their carefully selected grape combinations. And while it might seem contradictory for a winery to not have a vineyard, there are myriad benefits in not tending to one. Worrying about the temperatures, the rainfall amounts, the flood rates, pruning (even in winter), and pest control are reasons enough to continue their winemaking with a custom crush focus. “The farmers are connected to the earth, and walk the vineyards every day looking for changes. All care very deeply about the ground they farm and treat it with the utmost care,” Shamai says. Most important, the Buckels can instead focus on the most important elements of winemaking—selecting the best grapes from the Western Slope region and making delicious wines.

Continued on page 66

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Continued from page 65

Part of Joe's personal style as a winemaker is walking the vineyards with the farmers and helping them determine when to harvest by testing sugar and pH levels of the fruit. "He is committed to helping the grower produce the best fruit," Shamai says, which is then, of course, used in their wine blends.

With their 2018 vintage occupying around 1,300 bottles, the family business is growing steadily. Their children, Kalyn and Cy, 9 and 12, respectively, help out when they can, too. According to Shamai, "They have inspired label design and are constant idea factories."

As the family moves toward creating a production space and tasting room in Crested Butte South, seven miles south of Crested Butte, the future for Buckel Family Wine is looking as bright and cheery as the rosé they are bottling for summer drinking. Shamai envisions this space to be a community gathering place where tasting events, special occasions and other get-togethers can be held. "It will allow us to interact directly with the community and learn more about each other and, of course, have a good time," Shamai says.

Continued on page 68





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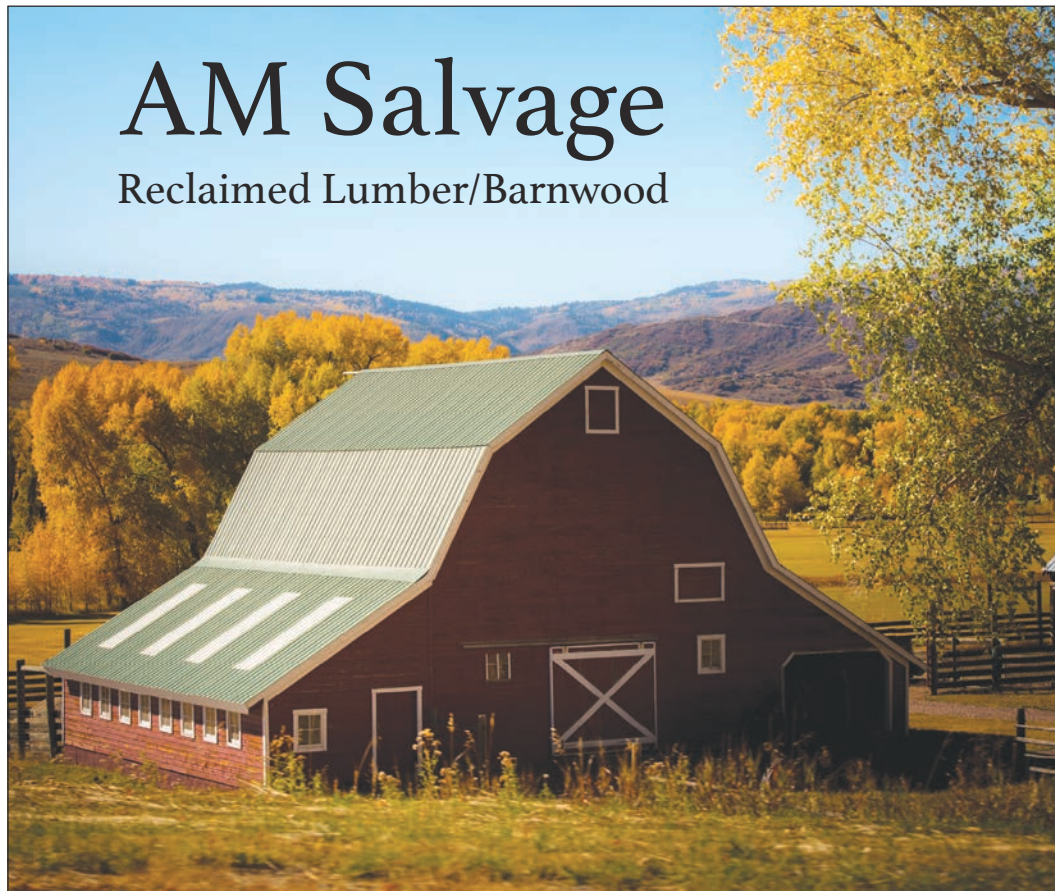
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Continued from page 66

In the meantime, tasting events at Scout's General Store in Crested Butte and throughout the state help to develop the reputation and knowledge of Crested Butte's only winery. "We are always testing blends, wines, and ideas," Shamai says, acknowledging that they rely heavily on the Western Slope community to develop their next wines.

And like the wines the Buckels handcraft, their endeavor is only getting better with time. In the future, "We want to be a standard in Colorado wine," Joe says. Anyone who has tasted their wines would agree they are on the fast track to achieving that goal.

For those wanting to taste the best of what Colorado wines have to offer, Buckel Family Wine will participate in this year's Crested Butte Food & Wine Festival July 25-28, will have a tasting booth at the Crested Butte Arts Festival August 2-4, and will have a presence at the Crested Butte Film Festival September 26-29.

Various purchasing clubs for their wines are available through buckelfamilywine.com. The website also has a site locator for purchasing, including restaurants, liquor and wine stores throughout Colorado. •

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BY CASSIE PENCE

In the not so distant past, there was a time when you couldn't always get strawberries. You had to wait until strawberry season. In Colorado, that's late May to early July. Most of us don't remember a time like this. We are so accustomed to buying anything we want, any time we want, from any place we want—even if it is that tasteless, pale imposter of a strawberry—that we've lost our connection to the seasons.

Continued on page 72

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Natalie Berkman established the Mountain Roots community farm. COURTESY PHOTO

Continued from page 70

A growing number of people are recognizing that just because modern agriculture affords us the luxury of eating winter strawberries, that doesn't mean we should. According to the Climate Institute, global agriculture and food production emit more than 25 percent of the world's total greenhouse gasses, which help keep the earth's atmosphere warm and contribute to climate change.

The distance that food travels from farm to plate is part of that total food-related carbon footprint, at about 11 percent. Emissions from agricultural production make up the other 89 percent, including everything from pesticides to food storage to cutting down forests for cattle to graze. To eat your way to a healthier planet and a healthier you, choose food that is grown locally (within 100 miles) and in season. Buying local supports small-scale farmers, who often use more diversified and sustainable farming practices, and helps reduce those production-related emissions.

Eating fruits and vegetables in season, the way nature intended, ensures not only that the food hasn't traveled far, but that it was also picked at the peak of ripeness. Many studies show that seasonal foods are more nutritious.

One of the more famous came out of Montclair State University, comparing the vitamin C content of broccoli grown in season with the broccoli imported out of season. The latter contained half the vitamin C.

"Nature sets us up by providing the nutrients our body needs to thrive for the season we are living in," says Holly Conn, executive director of Mountain Roots Food Project, the Gunnison Valley non-profit that helps the community eat locally through education, food production and access to local food and farmers. "It's like we are eating food when it's most alive, and when we do that, the vitamins and minerals in the food nourish our bodies in the biggest possible way."

In addition, Conn points out that seasonal food can be less expensive.

"If you are in touch with when the bumper crop comes in, you can get it for much less. Farmers lower their prices, even at the grocery store," Conn says, adding that there are hidden costs in cheap, industrial food, such as soil degradation, over-fishing and disease from genetically modified crops. For a global population facing climate change, she says the choice is clear: Pay for it now, or pay for it later in unwanted costs.



Fortunately, eating locally and with the seasons is getting easier in the Gunnison Valley. Here's how to do it:

**SIGN UP FOR A COMMUNITY
SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE BOX**

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is one way to buy local food directly from a farmer. You purchase a “share” before the growing season, typically between December and April, that provides much-needed funds to a farmer prior to the growing season. You then receive a weekly box of vegetables, fruit or other farm products like eggs and meat, throughout the growing season, usually 16 to 20 weeks, at an average of \$17 to \$50 a week. CSAs vary, but one box usually feeds a family of four, or two veggie-lovers.

“Our members share the costs and risks of farming via their CSA subscription, and in turn they get the satisfaction of enjoying a weekly bounty of fresh, wholesome produce only hours from the field, and knowing where their food is coming from,” Lynn Borden says. She and her husband, Guy, own and operate Borden Farms, located on the Western Slope in Pea Green.

A member's box grows with the season, making it a culinary adventure. Early-season shares are smaller and include the very first crops to be harvested, such as spring salad mix, beets, carrots, Swiss chard and kale. By mid-August, boxes are bigger and may include juicy peaches and homegrown tomatoes. Mid- and late-season shares usually include 12 to 15 items, and start to feature additional produce like beans, broccoli, eggplant, leeks, melons, okra, onions, potatoes and squash.

“You get to really see what is growing abundantly that year,” says local yoga teacher and CSA member Juliet Stillman. “I like not having to choose the veggies. It's what's in season that week.”

Mountain Roots offers a multi-farmer CSA that includes produce from a variety of Gunnison Valley farmers, including veggies grown on Mountain Roots' community farm just outside of Gunnison.

“The multi-farmer CSA format allows the Gunnison Valley family farmers to diversify production and balance the risk among more people,” Conn says. “For the customer, you get high-quality, high level of consistency and diversity in the boxes. Why know just one farmer when you can know 10?”

Continued on page 75



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Continued from page 73

For those who aren't sure they can commit to a CSA, Farm Runners—a regional food distributor specializing in custom-harvested products from a variety of farms within a 100 miles of Hotchkiss—offers what they call a “Flex Summer Share,” which for \$50 per week allows customers to pick and choose the weeks they would like a delivery. Customers can also select additional items, including but not limited to eggs, meat, and cheeses.

“It’s easy. It’s online. The quality is consistent,” says private chef Dana Zobbs of Crested Butte’s Personal Chefs, whose business focuses on local, seasonal food. “When I plan my home meals, it’s always a protein, vegetable, carb. If you know that, buying local is easy. Then you just decide if it’s Mexican night or Udon noodle night.”

SHOP THE LOCAL MARKETS

From late May and early June to early October, there are farmers markets in Crested Butte (Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Gunnison (Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Both markets host farmers from within 100 miles, some coming from the Gunnison Valley and others from the Western Slope. As opposed to a CSA, where the farmer picks and packs for you, at the farmers market you can touch, smell and even taste a rainbow of fresh fruits and vegetables.

It’s here you get to meet the farmer, ask questions about specialty heirloom varieties or how to cook the Japanese eggplant you’ve never seen before. Farmers will have lots of ideas about what to do with summer’s bounty in the kitchen. And since you have direct access to the farmer, you can also set up a trip to visit the farm and pick your own. This is a fun, educational way to really learn where your food comes from. And in Crested Butte South, Tassinong Farms offers hydroponically-grown, local greens, herbs and other produce - fresh veggies just seven miles south of town.

Continued on page 77

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ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR, LIFESTYLE & RESORT PHOTOGRAPHY



Continued from page 75

GROW YOUR OWN
FOR PEAK FRESHNESS

Imagine heading to your backyard or deck to pick vegetables for a salad. You clip and then eat. Nancy Wicks, owner of Round Mountain Institute, a demonstration farm and greenhouse located outside Crested Butte South, says growing at high altitude isn't as hard as people imagine; you just need to know a few tips. First, choose the right vegetables to grow for our climate, says Wicks.

"Because our days are so hot, people get fooled. Our nights are cold, and you need to choose cold-hearted vegetables like cooking greens, kale, chard, collards, along with lettuces, arugula and cilantro to add even more flavor to your salad garden," Wicks says.

Potatoes are another easy crop, she says, along with garlic, which you plant like tulips in mid-October.

"Plant garlic four to six inches deep, cover with straw so it overwinters without freezing, but if we are having a big snow year, snow is another great insulation layer. Every root vegetable is happy when there's a lot of snow on top," says Wicks.

Our climate is dry, hot and windy, so watering and using row covers is extremely important, Wicks adds. And if you choose to buy starter plants, she urges you to "harden them off," meaning, expose them slowly to the outside before planting, since they were most likely grown in a temperate greenhouse. And remember, the mountains' frost-free date is Father's Day, not Mother's Day, and even then, things can frost or freeze in July. •

Top 10 Vegetables to Grow at High Altitude

<i>Kale</i>	<i>Garlic</i>
<i>Chard</i>	<i>Radishes</i>
<i>Collards</i>	<i>Carrots</i>
<i>Lettuces</i>	<i>Beets</i>
<i>Arugula</i>	<i>Potatoes</i>

Year-round seasonal eating on the horizon

When you think of the harsh climate of the mountains, seasonal eating seems nearly impossible. But as a community facing climate change, non-profits and businesses are working to make it easier to purchase local food year-round.

Currently, the farm-distribution company Farm Runners offers a "winter" Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) box through December, featuring salad mixes, potatoes, turnips, rutabagas, carrots, beets, parsnip, sunchokes, head lettuce and winter squashes. But Farm Runners co-owner Emma Stopher-Griffin is working with farmers to grow more winter, storage crops so Farm Runners can offer a year-round CSA, she hopes by 2020.

"We are guaranteeing sales to farmers. We give them an estimate of how many pounds we think we need. We are giving them a financial guarantee that if they grow it, we will buy it," Stopher-Griffin says, adding winter farming is risky and expensive. Farmers have to figure if it's worth it to heat their greenhouses, for example, and water is hard to get and more expensive. "We are guaranteeing they have an outlet for their products," Stopher-Griffin says.

Mountain Roots and Western Colorado University are also working on growing food year-round. Together they are designing and building a four-season greenhouse for education and production, a kind of prototype for a modern solution to growing in cold-weather climates.

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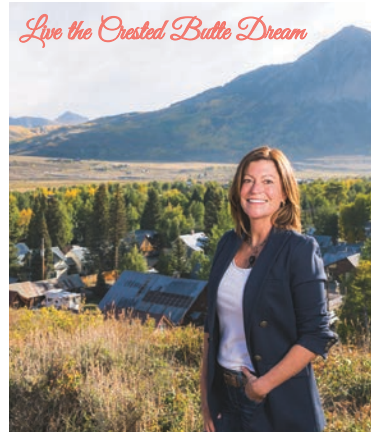
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HOW DID YOU FIND CRESTED BUTTE?

After college I lived in France teaching English, and one of my roommates had grown up coming to Crested Butte. After our jobs ended, she moved here, and a couple winters later I came to visit. I immediately fell in love with the town. A year later, jobless but with a little savings, I drove around the West for six weeks looking for the perfect mountain town, but nothing could compare to Crested Butte! I quickly circled back here and have stayed ever since.

WHEN DID CRESTED BUTTE FEEL LIKE HOME?

I knew I was home the first time I stood on the peak of Mt. Avery. I couldn't believe that my two feet had taken me someplace so beautiful, or that this was just in my backyard. I loved being able to name the peaks and rivers around me, to point to the trails and mountains and say, "I've been there, I know those places." I had moved a lot as a kid and as a young adult. It was the first time in my life I'd felt such a sense of belonging. I was hooked.

WHY ARE YOU PROUD TO CALL THIS PLACE HOME?

I am proud of our sense of community. Crested Butte is still a place where we know our neighbors. I love the off-season, when going to the post office or shopping at Clark's takes twice as long because of all the folks you end up talking to. Our community has experienced a lot of loss in the last year. Sitting at one memorial after another has been hard, but I've also been amazed by the love that was present. I am proud of how we show up for each other, how we celebrate each other's successes and grieve each other's sorrows. It truly feels like we're in it together.

WHAT SETS CRESTED BUTTE APART FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES?

For me, it's the ability to go from my home, into the woods, on foot, in ten minutes or less. This is the feature that drew me to Crested Butte originally and is part of what keeps me here. Getting out into nature fills me up with joy and opens me up to the world. It keeps me sane and keeps me humble. This kind of easy access to wildness is rare in our hectic world, but I think it is so essential for human health and happiness.



CRESTED BUTTE COLLECTION™

Corey | Stacey | Trevor | Erin



22981 State Highway 135, Crested Butte, 4 BR, 4.5 Bth, 5 Car Gar, 5,000 SF, 38.10 acres, Exclusive Slate River Estate, Offered for \$5,400,000



193 Larkspur Lane, Crested Butte, 5 BR, 5.5 Bth, 5 Car Gar, 6,976 SF, 35.24 acres, 800+ feet of East River frontage, equestrian facilities, Offered for \$3,595,500



67 Cinnamon Mountain Road, Mt. Crested Butte, 5 BR, 4.5 Bth, 2 Car Gar, Elevator, 4,527 SF, .53 acres, Ski-in/ Ski-out, Offered for \$2,850,000



2074 Wildcat Trail, Trapper's Crossing, 4 BR, 4 Bth, 2 Car Gar, 4,725 SF, 35.32 acres, private retreat, Offered for \$1,850,000



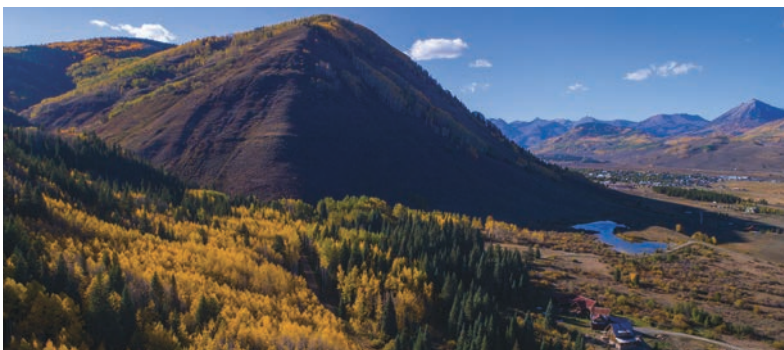
450 Oversteeg Gulch Road, Crested Butte, 3 BR, 2 Bth, 2 Car Gar, 1,497 SF, 35.11 acres, National Forest access, stunning views, Offered for \$1,395,000



San Moritz Condos, Mt. Crested Butte, Ski-In/Ski-Out
Unit I-204, 3 BR, 2 Bth, 1,330 SF, Offered for \$499,000
Unit P-104, 2 BR, 2 Bth, 1,001 SF, Offered for \$360,000



Grand Lodge Condos, Mt. Crested Butte, Base Area,
Unit 355, Studio, 1 Bth, 443 SF, Offered for \$182,500,
Unit 519, Studio, 1 Bth, 395 SF, Offered for \$179,000,
Unit 307, Studio, 1 Bth, 395 SF, Offered for \$179,000,
Unit 375, Studio, 1 Bth, 443 SF, Offered for \$173,500,
Unit 107, Studio, 1 Bth, 395 SF, Offered for \$165,000



Lots 19-23 Belleview Avenue, Crested Butte, .36 acres,
Commercial Land, Offered for \$1,000,000

Lot 3, Hidden Mine Ranch, Crested Butte, 35.10 acres, Offered for \$595,000

TBD Kokanee Lane, Mt. Crested Butte, 1.09 acres, Offered for \$450,000

227 Trent Jones Way, Crested Butte, .64 acres, Offered for \$300,000

5 Peakview Drive, Mt. Crested Butte, 1.07 acres, Offered for \$299,000

64 Coyote Circle, Crested Butte, .44 acres, Offered for \$295,000

30 Castle Road, Mt. Crested Butte, .33 acres, Offered for \$269,000

TBD Round Mountain Road, Crested Butte, 35.29 acres, Offered for \$250,000

465 Teocalli Road, Crested Butte South, .33 acres, Offered for \$159,000

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