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# PERFECT HARMONY

A NEW HOME IN ASPEN BLENDS THE BEST OF  
CONTEMPORARY DESIGN WITH TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS.

WRITTEN BY PAIGE PORTER FISCHER / PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSHUA MCHUGH

ARCHITECTURE / JOHN ROWLAND, ROWLAND + BROUGHTON  
INTERIOR DESIGN / TERRI RICCI, TERRI RICCI INTERIORS  
HOME BUILDER / SCOTT SCHERER, SCHLUMBERGER SCHERER CONSTRUCTION  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / AMY BARROW, LAND DESIGN 39





Designer Terri Ricci never underestimates a game of pretend. With a sincere belief that her best projects result from good storytelling, Ricci invited her Aspen clients to imagine their future life in the home they were building. The couple had purchased a stunning piece of property—and the architectural plans that came with it—but wanted Ricci to tailor the plans to fit their laid-back lifestyle. Though the blueprint promised a sophisticated home with incomparable mountain and valley views, the clients, who love to entertain, wanted to ensure the home would also envelop friends and family with a warm aesthetic that says, “Welcome.”

In order to inform design decisions, Ricci started by asking the clients to give her a glimpse inside their imagined future life here. “The wife described what she would be serving

during meals and who would be coming over to enjoy this space—how they would arrive, what they might be wearing, what the lighting would feel like, and where the kids would start and end up,” recalls Ricci. “It was her way of being able to visualize.”

That visualization led Ricci and architect John Rowland to enunciate certain aspects of the home’s layout and design, such as the garden courtyard around which the U-shaped house is oriented. “The entry court was a very purposeful part of the design,” says Rowland. “It’s the *amuse-bouche* before you go into the house for the real party, and everything horseshoes around it. When you stand in the courtyard, you’re engaged with the structure because you can see right through it and watch people moving through the home.”

Architect John Rowland fashioned this Aspen home around an exterior courtyard composed of weathered flagstone, which is used by the owners as a gathering spot near the entrance. Designer Terri Ricci created the dark-stained, overscale pivot door and its hand-carved ergonomic disc. The mahogany wood siding wears a pigmented stain.

The foyer has a lower ceiling, which creates an intimate welcome before opening up to the double-height living room. “We wrapped the entrance in wood paneling for warmth,” says Ricci, who designed the waterfall console and green suede bench. A French ceramic lamp and African sculpture deliver a sense of history while art by Lucio Fontana creates a focal point.



The great room was designed for entertaining. A custom velvet chaise, vintage leather chair and curved Sabin armchair surround a glass-top table from Stahl + Band in Los Angeles that's perched on a Lepere area rug. The fireplace features a screen by Liz O'Brien; Materia leather sconces hang above. Ricci designed the dining table that's surrounded by Carl Hansen chairs. A Nepenthes chandelier by Christopher Boots dangles above.

Rowland says he worked to honor the clients' desire for feng shui, planning the home's spaces according to the idea of *bagua*—an organizing element of feng shui that encourages energy, balance and flow. "The whole idea of the house was to be humble, not ostentatious, so we really tried to build something that felt glamorous, and also serene and tranquil," says the architect, who worked with builder Scott Scherer on the structural changes.

The house offers plenty of space for this family of five but feels much more intimate because of the spatial plan—with thoughtful transitions from double-height spaces, like the main living areas, to more intimate spaces, like the kitchen, library and small-scale bedrooms. Light-filled corridors connect the public and private zones, and the master suite doubles as a wellness retreat, complete with a Bikram yoga studio, a cycling studio and a heated lap pool off the master portico. And all rooms enjoy views to the great outdoors and the stunning landscape, refreshed by landscape architect Amy Barrow, that led the family to settle here in the first place.



The breakfast area marries a round concrete table with wooden base from Mecox in Southampton, New York, a bespoke settee, and a purple upholstered chair by Dmitry & Co. A light fixture by Hollis + Morris and artwork by Jack Whitten deliver impact without distracting from the views. "We added the beams in the kitchen because it felt important to ground the room in natural elements, since the ceilings are so high," says Ricci.



Ricci was enamored with the layout from the very beginning. "It's so inviting, especially for a family with children," says Ricci. "All of their bedrooms are on one level, but in different zones, which is appealing. There's a seamless transition from inside to the outside, with massive steel windows and doors creating a sense of transparency—an easy flow from one corner of the house to the next. Light passes through the house at all points of the day, uniting the spaces. My goal was to design the rooms to enhance that flow and create visual continuity."

The designer did that by using consistent natural materials throughout—from the wide-plank European white-oak floors to soft textural finishes like Calacatta gold marble and limestone. The color palette of pale, cool neutrals is punctuated with jewel-tone accents like jade, amethyst and ruby. Ricci also purposefully added some grit and patina, so the house didn't skew too contemporary—or feel too trendy. "I wanted the house to be curated, to tell a unique

story and to be a little bit unexpected for Aspen," she says. "My desire was that no one would pinpoint the age of this house or be able to tell when it was built or furnished. I wanted it to stand the test of time."

To that end, Ricci brought in a few key antiques, like the massive hutch that serves as a counterpoint to the modern French oak cabinetry in the kitchen. She chose lighting and hardware to double as art, mixing metals to buoy the storied aesthetic. "I'm not into sets or matching things, so we worked really hard to deliver eclectic moments," says Ricci. In the breakfast room, for example, she assembled a custom settee, a Shaker-style ladder-back chair and an upholstered seat with a rounded back around one concrete table. "The interplay of things that wouldn't normally go together is what keeps things fun," says Ricci. "The clients said all along they wanted fun and family friendly by day, and sophisticated and alluring by night—and I think we were able to deliver." ■

Ricci knew the modern kitchen needed a touch of patina to soften its edges, so she convinced her client to purchase this antique pine cupboard from Lucca Antiques in Los Angeles. The piece lends gravitas to the space, which features European pippy oak cabinets and limestone counters from Hausmann Natural Stone in California. A multi-arm fixture by The Urban Electric Co. lights the space.

**Right:** "In Colorado, we get incredible weather seven months out of the year, and we design around it," says Rowland, who created corridors of glass that hem the house and blur the lines between inside and out. This one leads to the children's wing and allows access to the entry courtyard.

**Opposite:** Ricci designed a children's lounge, for reading or playing games, at the end of the light-filled corridor. Her custom twig pendant hangs over a slipcovered sofa from Brownstone Upholstery. Woven slipper chairs by Foley & Cox flank a Button Table by Chista. A custom area rug warms the light-filled space.





**Above:** A hallway extends from the public spaces to the master suite. A round mirror by Anish Kapoor visually elongates the corridor, and lends a warm, amber hue to the cool plaster walls.

**Left:** A custom fringe-and-leather headboard features built-in sconces. The velvet-and-metal bench, also custom, was fabricated by DLV Designs. The bed linens from Grande Maison de Blanc in Los Angeles deliver luxury, while a rose-colored throw by Society Limonta adds subtle color. Simple artwork by Wade Guyton grounds the ethereal space.

**Right:** The master bathroom is a light-filled retreat. Custom European oak vanities by Benchcraft Custom Woodwork are topped with Calacatta gold marble counters. The polished nickel faucets are by Watermark Designs. The Fizi Triple Ball sconces in mid bronze by Articolo Lighting lend an industrial flair. The bespoke L'Oeuf mirror is by DLV Designs.

**Opposite:** The clients love being outdoors, so the master suite is designed with an outdoor lounge where the homeowners are able to enjoy the open-air spaces, designed by landscape architect Amy Barrow. "The idea was that you can close the door to the master suite and have a private retreat," says Ricci. The asymmetric chandelier is from O'Lampia in New York, and the dusty rose linen curtains were crafted by Caryn Company.





Also off the master suite, a lap pool that seems to stretch into the surrounding trees is created as a wellness retreat for the exercise-loving clients. The pool was designed by Barrow, and the Mistra outdoor lounges are by Janus et Cie. The Sommer lounge chairs around the table are from Design Within Reach.

“ONE OF OUR PRIMARY GOALS WAS TO MAXIMIZE THE GREAT LIGHT QUALITY AND THE VIEWS.”

—JOHN ROWLAND