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# ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

IN ASPEN, AN ARCHITECT  
DESIGNS A MODERN HOME  
AS A CLEAN, SIMPLE SLATE  
WHERE THE MOUNTAIN  
VIEWS DOUBLE AS ART.

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Architect Kim Raymond is known for residential work that brings historic houses back to their original glory and creating modern homes with cutting-edge style, but rarely does she have the opportunity to work in both vernaculars on the same site. Such was the case for an Aspen home, located in the historic West End neighborhood.

Like many of the lots in the charming locale, this one contained a small miner's cabin built in the 1800s. Working with the Historic Preservation Commission, Raymond and her team moved the cabin to the front of the property and restored and expanded it, freeing up the back of the lot, where she created a new residence. Although it's completely different, it fits perfectly into the vintage setting while taking advantage of the stunning mountain views.

It was those views that informed the layout of the new dwelling, and they were also the reason the architect decided that transparency was vital for the project. "The exterior would need to be subdued to fit in with the historic homes around it, but I knew that such a structure could be modern, too," says Raymond. "I also knew right away I wanted there to be a lot of glass in the new house."

The resulting residence has multiple windows that open to the mountains ringing Aspen. While the humble miner's cabin was designed to embrace the streetscape of the town, the architect created the modern dwelling to take in the view. It rises up two stories, with a floor plan that project manager Milo Stark terms "upside down" because the public rooms are on the second level and the private spaces are on the first. Raymond explains, "We put the primary, public living spaces upstairs, where the clients could most enjoy the scenery during the day."

"OUR INSPIRATION  
FOR THE HOME'S  
SIMPLE FORMS  
WAS THE NATURAL  
BEAUTY OF ASPEN."

-KIM RAYMOND

Despite being elevated, the main floor still has access to the outdoors, thanks to a giant glass door that slides behind the fireplace wall to expose the living room to an ample deck. Downstairs, the master bedroom has the same indoor-outdoor living opportunity due to a large patio serving as a private outdoor living space.

Traditional windows and doors aren't the only sources of natural light. Multiple clerestory windows and ample skylights deliver both architectural interest as well as additional illumination, making for a seamless indoor-outdoor experience. Even the finished basement invites sunshine from outside, with skylights designed as light wells that prevent the lower level from "feeling underground," says Stark.

The interior steel fireplace and stairway railing mimic the industrial steel channels on the exterior façade. European oak ceilings travel outside to the home's exterior soffits, echoing the warmth of the oak floors used in the interior. Simple, white walls—sans millwork—create the perfect, minimalist backdrop for the commanding views, and the crisp white color echoes the white wood siding on the exterior.

The owners wanted a monochromatic color scheme, with most of the furnishings in shades that fall between black and white, so the changing colors outside could dominate. "Nothing inside the house competes with the view for attention," says one of the homeowners. "I feel that our subtle interior palette and material selections allow the architecture of the home to make a stronger impact." The family selected pieces that are both timeless and contemporary, not to mention forgiving of steady foot traffic in and out of the snow. They carefully curated modern light fixtures in each space that double as sculptural art.

For the kitchen, bathrooms and stairwell, Raymond took a less-is-more approach and designed spare spaces that allow lines and angles to become artistic architectural features. Slate gray cabinetry and open shelves create a geometric contrast in the kitchen alongside a beautifully veined marble backsplash. In the stairwell, exterior wood louvers deliver pattern—and a bit of privacy—to the glass walls that encase it. The master bathroom features subtle touches like a marble bench that extends outside of the shower.

Whether the home's architectural elements are quiet or more pronounced, Raymond says they all shine. "This house was designed to showcase the 'new' Aspen—to show where architecture is going now," says Raymond. "I'm finding more and more people crave modern design because its clean lines promote a Zen atmosphere. Everyone these days feels the weight of the chaos and busyness of life, and it's nice to come home to a space that provides a sense of calm." ■



The front pivot door of this Aspen home opens to the dramatic stairwell, which appears to float in the light-filled space. Black basalt stone floors are forgiving to snow-covered boots and extend to the entry porch outside, creating a seamless transition. Wooden louvers on the windows break the plane of white and add an element of privacy to the street-facing foyer.



The living room gains square footage when sliding glass doors disappear behind the mass of the fireplace, surrounded by blackened-steel panels. A sculptural light fixture by Gabriel Scott nods to the industrial steel surround. Wooden ceilings warm the contemporary space, which receives ample southern light and passive solar heat. The living space boasts two seating areas, both outfitted with family-friendly furnishings by RH.

A pair of black dome light fixtures by Allied Maker echoes the steel elements throughout the open public spaces, while artwork by Kall Sanders—*Reverse Hashtag*—references the black-and-white palette used throughout the house. The homeowners chose driftwood gray furnishings for their neutral color, such as the dining table and chairs by RH. Clerestory windows maximize light in the room.



Raymond designed the living room to feel as if it were outside, with pocket doors that disappear entirely to expose the panoramic views of Aspen Mountain. "The whole upper part of the house needed to be glass," she says. "It feels transparent and it's subdued, so you can really take in that view." A simple rolling bar cart by RH lends a sense of transparency. Steel railings off the balcony mimic those used in the stairwell.



Raymond designed the wine cellar to be a semi-transparent room divider. "You can access the wine from either side, and it reads as sculptural art as well as storage," she says. White RH barstools feature steel bases, which marry well with the veneered India wood cabinetry, whose matte finish mimics the steel opposite the kitchen and blends seamlessly with the black appliances. A waterfall Caesarstone countertop wraps the island, which delineates the kitchen and the living room. The trio of contemporary pendants is by Allied Maker.

**Opposite:** On the lowest level, a cozy guest bedroom wears serene shades of gray, while vertical mirrors on either side of the upholstered bed seem to elongate the small space. "Taken together, the furnishing is neither masculine nor feminine, old or young," says the homeowner. "It appeals to everyone in our extended family."

**Below:** A sculptural pendant by Apparatus illuminates the stairwell, which arrives at the top floor—and main living spaces—of the house. The steel stair railing and exterior louvers create a geometric pattern that delivers visual interest in the otherwise serene space. Leather chairs by RH feature geometric lines that play to the sharp angles employed throughout the contemporary rooms.



"WE WANTED TO CREATE A SOPHISTICATED  
CANVAS THAT DELIVERED A SENSE OF CALM."

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The historic miner's cabin faces a pedestrian-friendly street, and Raymond worked closely with the Historic Preservation Commission to restore it. The modern residence sits behind the cottage, with a patio and a lush landscape in between. "We wanted to create a modern dwelling in back of the cottage that would be a product of its own time yet also fits into the neighborhood," says Raymond.