

# Monumental Design

A minimal palette of stone, steel, concrete and wood keeps serious architecture light—and perfectly at home at the base of Utah's Wasatch Mountains



Architect Jack Snow designed a nearly transparent structure to ensure that dramatic mountain views to the north are visible from this patio on the south side of the house. Lighting design by David Craige emphasizes the dramatic sloped roof and minimal materials palette of gray Texas limestone, blackened steel and Douglas fir.

ARCHITECTURE **RKD ARCHITECTS** INTERIOR DESIGN **ERIN MARTIN DESIGN** CONSTRUCTION **GO WEST DEVELOPMENT** STORY **CHRISTINE DEORIO** PHOTOGRAPHY **DAVID O. MARLOW**



Architect Jack Snow thinks he probably could design a regular old two-story house, but he doesn't expect to any time soon. "People just don't call me to do those," he says. What they do ask him for is bold, sculptural dwellings that rival their mountain surroundings in their ability to inspire awe.

Compared to the rugged precipices that Snow's Edwards, Colorado-based firm, RKD Architects, is known for building on, this gently sloping 20-acre bluff near Park City Mountain Resort was downright tame. But its views of the Wasatch Mountains to the west and the Uintas to the north are some of the most dramatic the architect has ever attempted to capture.

He began by drawing a few bold lines that mimicked the grandeur of the landscape: three large pods—each with a low, sloped roof—linked by flat-roofed bridge elements. One structure is the garage and a two-bedroom guest wing; another comprises the living, dining and cooking spaces; and the third contains a master suite and a bedroom for each of the homeowners' three children.

Breaking the house into three distinct structures created more exterior walls to accommodate towering windows. "You never get the same exact view from each place," Snow says, "and that makes a big difference." To enhance the experience, he made the north side of each pod a curved, outward-leaning window wall that he says seems ready to "pour the home's occupants into the valley below."

Muscular wood and steel structural components frame the home's open interiors, to which Snow added a few floor-to-ceiling walls. In the master suite, a fireplace column delineates the sleeping and bathing areas without fully enclosing either space. In the main living pod, a partial wall separates the kitchen from an adjacent sitting room. Other walls disappear entirely, pivoting up in the dining area and sliding away to connect the living and sitting rooms to a south-facing patio.

Snow credits interior designer Erin Martin, principal of St. Helena, California-based Erin Martin Design, with pushing his vision into a more modern direction. She lobbied to replace the rubble masonry he specified with linear strips of gray Texas limestone, and chose rich walnut paneling and cabinetry to counterbalance the home's concrete floors and blackened-steel accents. >>

California wood artisan Evan Shively transformed a salvaged eucalyptus tree trunk into a room divider that supports a custom light fixture by Mick Handley and a built-in dining bench.



“THIS IS A MOUNTAIN HOUSE;  
THERE’S DOG FUR AND MUD  
AND MOUNTAIN BIKES AND  
DIRTY CLOTHES.”

—THE HOMEOWNER



### A HOME COOK’S MUST-HAVES

*This family-friendly kitchen has size on its side—“the island is the size of a real island!” the homeowner laughs—but it’s also filled with smart features that make cooking for a crowd easier and more fun. Here, the avid home cook shares a few of his favorites:*

**OPEN SPACE** “This kitchen really works well because of the circulation space between the counters: People can eat at the bar or work at the sink and there’s still easy access to the refrigerator.” **CLEAN-LINED CABINETS** “When it comes to cabinetry, I like the clean look; too much detail is just a lot of hot air.” These sleek, solid-walnut cupboards were built by Rand Moeller of RMS Cabinets in Cotati, California. **STEAM OVEN** “Our favorite household toy for cooking is our Gaggenau steam oven, which is an amazing substitute for a microwave, convection oven, and even a rice-cooker. You can bake bread in it, you can reheat vegetables or pasta—it’s incredibly versatile.” **LINEAR LIGHT** Inspired by 1970s supergraphics, the “incredible” Endless Straight fixture, designed by Jason Miller for Roll & Hill, is a modular LED lighting system that can be customized to any length. This one spans nearly the entire width of the 18-foot-long kitchen island. **6-FOOT-LONG SINK** “This sink is so long and deep, you could bathe a teenager in it. We saw something similar in Rome and had [former “The Brady Bunch” star] Mike Lookinland, owner of Just Add Water Concrete, replicate it. To him, it was this crazy challenge and he absolutely nailed it.” Two Regulator Gooseneck Double-Spout Marquee kitchen faucets by Waterworks provide four spigots.

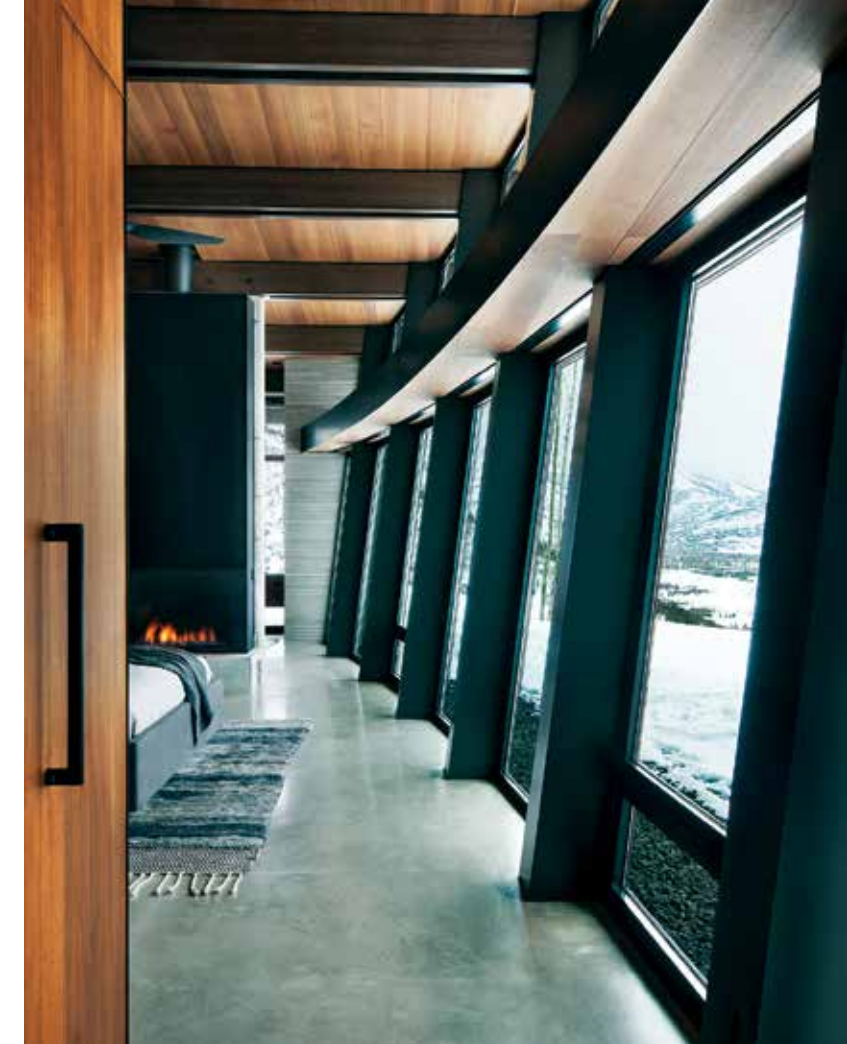
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A raised concrete walkway leads to the main entry bridge. The living room’s Hanging Swing Chair Aux Deux, designed by Erin Martin, and built-in bench are positioned to maximize enjoyment of the view—without blocking it. Glass pocket doors slide open to connect the sitting room to a south-facing patio.



Dark furnishings with brass accents add glamour to the kitchen. An Endless Straight light fixture from Roll & Hill hangs above the 18-foot-long kitchen island.



TOP: Walnut paneling warms the master bedroom's austere palette. A metal screen behind the bed separates the sleeping area from the closet.  
 BOTTOM: A tufted leather chaise, double-shade floor lamp and massive mirror furnish the guest wing's sitting area.



Her approach to furnishing such serious architecture keeps the mood light: "I love big spaces; I think of them more as jungle gyms," she says. In the living room, a steel swing chair hangs in a two-story corner of the window wall, and a massive, salvaged eucalyptus tree trunk triples as a room divider, dining bench and custom light fixture. The fun continues in finer details: a guest bathroom's hand-painted, zigzag-patterned vanity and wall; a 6-foot-long kitchen sink with four faucets; and stair risers engraved with "867-5309"—a nod to the 1981 song stuck in millions of heads.

Lighting designer David Craige's selections, in contrast, are nearly invisible, though their impact is equally dramatic. Hidden lights illuminate the Douglas fir ceilings and soffits, and tiny bulbs shine on each wood beam where it juts out from beneath the eaves. "There was a lot of focus on lighting the ceilings because the roof forms are such a driving force of the sculpture," Snow says.

Though the architect often refers to his work as art, he's ever mindful of his commissioners: "It's like putting together three variable pieces of a puzzle," he says. "I'm trying to make an awesome sculpture, but it's got to function engineering-wise, and it's got to function for living."

The homeowner agrees: "This is a mountain house; there's dog fur and mud and mountain bikes and dirty clothes, so it's got to be user-friendly—and it is. When we're here, it's all just easy." ○

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: "It was so important that the vanity floated in front of the window to expose the view in full," Martin says of the master suite's custom sinks. The room's curved, outward-leaning window wall frames mountain views to the north. "Two people, two options," Martin says of the soaking tub's twin faucets.

>> For a guide to this home's products and pros, visit [mountainliving.com/ParkCityMonumental](http://mountainliving.com/ParkCityMonumental)

