

BRINGING THE OUTDOORS

inside

Courtesy

A glass enclosed stair tower provides natural light to the home. It features custom lighting.

Mountain home offers
a taste of nature,
elegant space

By Chris Rourke



From breathtaking views to rustic finishes, Mt. Crested Butte's Jim Moran had a vision when he built his house at 17 Timberland Drive — not to keep it all to himself, but to share it with others. The home sits high on the mountain with sweeping vistas, a ski trail and a forest of aspen trees nearby that glimmer in the fall. The large floor plan allows for many guests. But perhaps what is most unique is the way it incorporates outdoor elements and space indoors for year-round enjoyment. In fact, wildlife frequent the large glass walls of the first-floor providing entertainment in even the quietest of moments.

But Moran had an idea beyond creating a typical mountain resort home. His goal was to enhance the lives of others by providing an extraordinary experience. Because, as he said, nature provides relief from the monotony and the “sameness” of the world.

‘Let’s see what this house wants to be’

Moran — who had been a frequent visitor to the Gunnison Valley — recalled hiking with his daughter along the ski trail which is located next to his current home. He was at a point in his life when he wanted to own a home in Mt. Crested Butte. While the two were hiking, they spotted an old red cedar house along the trail with amazing views. When they looked inside they discovered the house was empty and available to purchase. His daughter convinced him to buy the house and renovate it.

“Daughters can be convincing,” Moran said.

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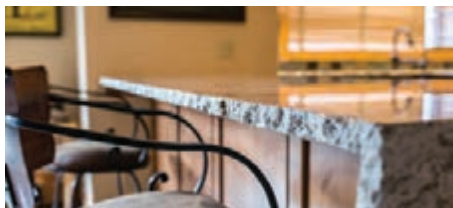


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But during renovation, excessive water damage was discovered. Moran said he had no choice but to strip the site down to the home's foundation.

Moran then reached out to architect Tom Pritchard of Madderlake Designs based in Aspen, who gave Moran guidance on developing the property into a new home.

Pritchard, said Moran, offered simple advice.

"Let's see what this house wants to be," Moran said.

But it was Moran — who has spent much of his life in commercial real estate — that came up with the concept for the new home, and he proceeded to build it in what he calls an "unorthodox way."

Construction began without full plans — each section of the home was built one at a time in sort of a phased process. In addition, Moran determined the true identity of the home.

"I decided that it would be a legacy property, that it would still be in my family and that my kids would have it to enjoy," he said.

Elements come alive

The 6,800 square foot home features five king bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. Two lofts contain four bunks in each of them for children to have their own space. The home has six full bathrooms and three "powder rooms." In total, Moran estimates the home can sleep 21 people.

A media and recreation room spans the below ground level space, while a glass encased stair tower leads to all four stories of the home.

The ground floor features a unique twist to the home — the ability to bring the outdoors inside. Two walls of the living room consist of NanaWalls — constructed with large panes of glass. The glass walls allow for the greatest views of the surrounding mountains in the winter, and are retractable, allowing the living room to function as an open air space. NanaWalls are also found in the home's dining and kitchen area.



Chris Rourke
Outdoor spaces are a highlight of the home.



Sweeping views surround Moran's home.



Lofts in the upper level of the home provide bunk space for youth.

On the second level, a music room, which will be wired to feature state-of-the-art sound, is constructed to accommodate a full-sized grand piano. Stairs lead further upward to open air decks, complete with grills and an outdoor fireplace — an ideal spot for entertaining and enjoyment of the views.

Finally, the loft rooms complete the final level with a porch area which opens to the front of the home.

“It’s called the sunset porch — a covered porch where you access the two lofts,” said Bridgette Bellamy, Moran’s partner. “You can put hammocks out there, they can play music. It’s a place for teenagers — their own private little spot.”

Yet, another way outdoor features are incorporated inside the home are through its rustic finishes.

Large boulders have been placed in strategic locations throughout the room, giving the impression that it was carved out from the hillside. The hood over the kitchen stove is fabricated from sheet steel giving the room clean lines. Steel handrails give the glass stair tower stability and strength, while native stone can be found throughout the home.

“I tried not to overdo things like people do,” said Moran. “It’s a match up of modern lines, rustic materials and industrial items. The key was to keep it simple and use simple materials.”

Perhaps one of the most unique materials featured both inside and out is reclaimed wood taken from two cabins built in the late 1800s. The wood used for the cabins was about 160 years old, so the trees which supplied the timber began growing in the 1600s. The timber used consists of about 70,000 linear board feet, and was used on the home’s exterior combined with horizontal chinking, and inside as floorboard and trusses.

“I believe we have a connection with the infinite variety of nature,” said Moran. “When we’re looking at wood — how that every single piece is different — I believe it does something for your soul.”

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Moran's home has been used for private concerts such as Tough Enough to Wear Pink's fall fundraiser.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS HOME

Go to 17timberland.com

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All the elements are bathed in natural light supplied through abundant windows and the stair tower.

Multi-level patios and decks accommodate many guests.

'Shared' space

With exquisite architecture and scenic beauty, the house is a respite to its owner. One might be tempted to keep such enjoyment to oneself — but not Moran. His goal is to share it with as many people as possible, hosting non-profit events and housing guests. The home twice has been the gathering spot for Tough Enough to Wear Pink's annual fall fundraiser featuring country music singer Sundance Head.

"We're extroverts and we love people," Moran said. "I think some of the richness in our lives is because of the people around us. The opportunity to share time with each other and to share this amazing place — I don't mean house, but I mean this place."

Moran said his vision for the home has always been to share it — with friends, family and grandkids.

He has plans to welcome other events to the home, such as weddings and other special occasions and has given thought to renting it



as a small venue — not a vacation home. The goal would be to entertain people in a space which offers peace in a chaotic world. By doing so, Moran feels the house fulfills his vision.

"What inspired the building of this was my vision over a 25 year time frame ... it was built to be shared," he said, reflecting on the effort that went into creating the home. "This house built me." ■