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ERIC CUMMINGS ARCHITECT P.C.
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COLORADO EDITION

NATURE'S OWN

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AFTER YEARS OF RESIDING IN A CUSTOM ARTS AND CRAFTS-STYLE TELLURIDE HOME CHARACTERIZED BY WARM WOODS AND INTIMATE SPACES, A PAIR OF NEW YORK TRANSPLANTS DECIDED IT WAS TIME FOR A CHANGE. "They were in the mood to switch to something more contemporary, streamlined and open, but deciding how modern to go was tricky," says architect Eric Cummings, owner of E Cummings Architect in Telluride.

Using Farnsworth House—the iconic Mies van der Rohe stone, concrete and glass structure in Plano, Illinois—as a baseline, the couple quickly determined that quintessential minimalism was outside of their comfort zone. "They liked the simplicity and relation to the outdoors, but wanted to pull back and add rustic, modern elements," says Cummings. "Finally, we came up with the idea of a reinterpreted farmhouse that made sense for both them and the property."

Located in a forested section of the Idarado subdivision in the far-east pocket of town, the two-acre lot claims spectacular views of Ingram and Bridal Veil falls. "It was important to design a house that would maintain that preconstruction feeling of just standing on the property and seeing

ARCHITECTURE Eric Cummings, E Cummings Architect PC

INTERIOR DESIGN Catherine Frank, Studio Frank

HOME BUILDER Bob Allison, Allison Construction

BEDROOMS 4 **BATHROOMS** 5 **SQUARE FEET** 5,360





ART SELECTION

A painting by Telluride artist Andrea Knorr, titled *Sasha*, welcomes the owners home.

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the falls,” says Cummings, who established an east-west orientation that guaranteed incredible vistas from the living room, dining room, kitchen and master bedroom.

With a local historic boarding house as a vernacular reference, Cummings used a band of colored board-form concrete to ground the house, and he clad the main building with rough board siding and stone. “We wanted the building to feel like it could have been added onto over time,” Cummings says. “These materials were conceived of as being part of the original structure.”

The projection on the front, meant to read as an addition, is sheathed in bonderized pewter-colored metal, and the stone-and-wood garage was designed to mimic a secondary structure that could have come a bit later. The glass-enclosed walkway that connects the two buildings, however, is pure 21st century. “Most owners enter a house from a dark garage, but, here, you step directly into the light and views,” says the architect.



ARTISTIC ENTRANCE

At the entrance, the owners are greeted by colorful artwork and sculpture. Stone and white oak flooring and gray plaster walls reflect the palette of the neighboring mountains, while a sandblasted solid-steel shelf adds a hint of modern styling.



VIEW INSPIRED

An embossed-metal front door, designed by Crawford artist Don Giminaro to mimic the surrounding aspen trees, opens to reveal an oil-on-canvas painting by Todd Murphy.

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Inside, Cummings worked with interior designer Catherine Frank, principal of Telluride-based Studio Frank, to incorporate a juxtaposition of modern, clean and comfortable elements. Flat 10-½-foot-high ceilings, expansive windows and a lack of ornamentation put the house squarely in the modern camp, but a stone wall and black slate floors in the living room and gray waxed plaster walls in the entry and staircase keep the house from being excessively so.

Materials in the Bulthaup kitchen were kept sleek and simple, with steel and aluminum playing a lead role in the design. Plastic laminate cabinets



CONTEMPORARY COMFORT

A sofa and two club chairs from Knoll's Lounge Collection provide a soft touch in the living room, while a rift-cut white oak ceiling and gray stone floors contrast each other. The metal armchair is by Knoll, and the coffee table is Mimi London.



SERENE SCENE

The subtle neutral hues of *Cranes* by New York photographer Scott Cohen mesh beautifully with the homeowners' refinished antique dining room table and Folio ash leather Crate and Barrel chairs. The light fixture is by Robert Abbey.

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and a kitchen island topped in ½-inch-thick cold-rolled steel define the space, while mullions on the windows bring a touch of soft Arts and Crafts style. Off of the kitchen, an oak-paneled island designed to coax guests out of the cooking arena separates the living and dining rooms. "The kitchen is where everyone gravitates, so the owner uses this island as a buffet to encourage guests to hang out in other rooms," Cummings says.

Working with Frank on interior finishes, layout and design, the home-owners settled on neutral tones similar to the exterior, and mixed existing



SLEEK CHIC

Stainless Knoll barstools pull up to a hand-burnished steel island in the Bulthaup kitchen. The white-oak plank floors add a touch of country to the ultra-modern plastic laminate cabinets and anodized aluminum pantry doors.

NATURE MADE

An antique pine sleigh bed set atop Ralph Lauren carpeting nestles in one corner of the master bedroom. Drapes are by KnollTextiles, and the light fixture is Stonegate Designs.



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pieces like a refinished Mimi London coffee table with new classic wool and leather Knoll furnishings. “They wanted a house that was very different from their previous one, without sacrificing comfort and warmth,” says Frank. “The quiet palette gave them that sense of simplicity and peacefulness.” Like everything in the house, the simple forms and quiet hues defer to the surroundings.

“Living in a house at that location is more about the dramatic light of the setting sun moving up the backdrop of mountains, waterfalls and sky than anything inside,” says Cummings. “The interiors and the house itself ultimately had to play second fiddle to embrace those moments, because, once that light arrives, nothing else matters.” **L**



DEEP SOAK

An oval soaking tub from WetStyle's OVE Collection sits on marble floors and in front of a wall of white crystalline stone tiles from Stone Source. Also from WetStyle, two eggshell-finish shallow basin sinks are built into a floating custom rift-cut white oak vanity.

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