



A River Runs THROUGH IT

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WHEN A CLIENT BUILDS a home from the ground up, consideration for one's surroundings is paramount – both in form and in function. Yet in some cases, the environment becomes not only a consideration but also an inspiration. When Aspen-based Land + Shelter architects set out to build a client's home at the base of Mount Sopris along the Roaring Fork River, the area's innate beauty inspired a design that was mindful of its surroundings on every level. And while the homeowner's taste was modern and contemporary, the neighborhood's covenants mandated a more traditional mountain abode. With this in mind, both architect and client worked collaboratively to create a space that would speak to the homeowner's style sensibilities while remaining true to the area's aesthetic. The result was a contemporary green build that pays homage to its landscape at every turn.

"The home is definitely an expression of my character, my love of the natural environment and of artistic expression through design and décor," the homeowner explains. "The contemporary style reflects who I am and the comfortable flow is a reflection of the way I choose to live."

Seeking to create a modern home that met LEED guidelines at the highest of levels, the expansive space was designed as a one-story ranch built with livability in mind. The next objective? To maximize both mountain and river views. Land + Shelter accomplished this by creating a design that was traditional on its street facing side, while incorporating more contemporary lines into the home's back side, which sat adjacent to the river. In fact, the home was constructed with a curvature to mirror a bend in the river and capture the sound of water rushing by. Floor-to-ceiling and corner-to-corner windows, all with unobstructed river and landscape views, added to the space's natural beauty, as did thoughtful interior lighting and décor that highlights the client's impressive art collections.

"The house feels as though it is at one with its natural surroundings. I truly have my dream home." →

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