

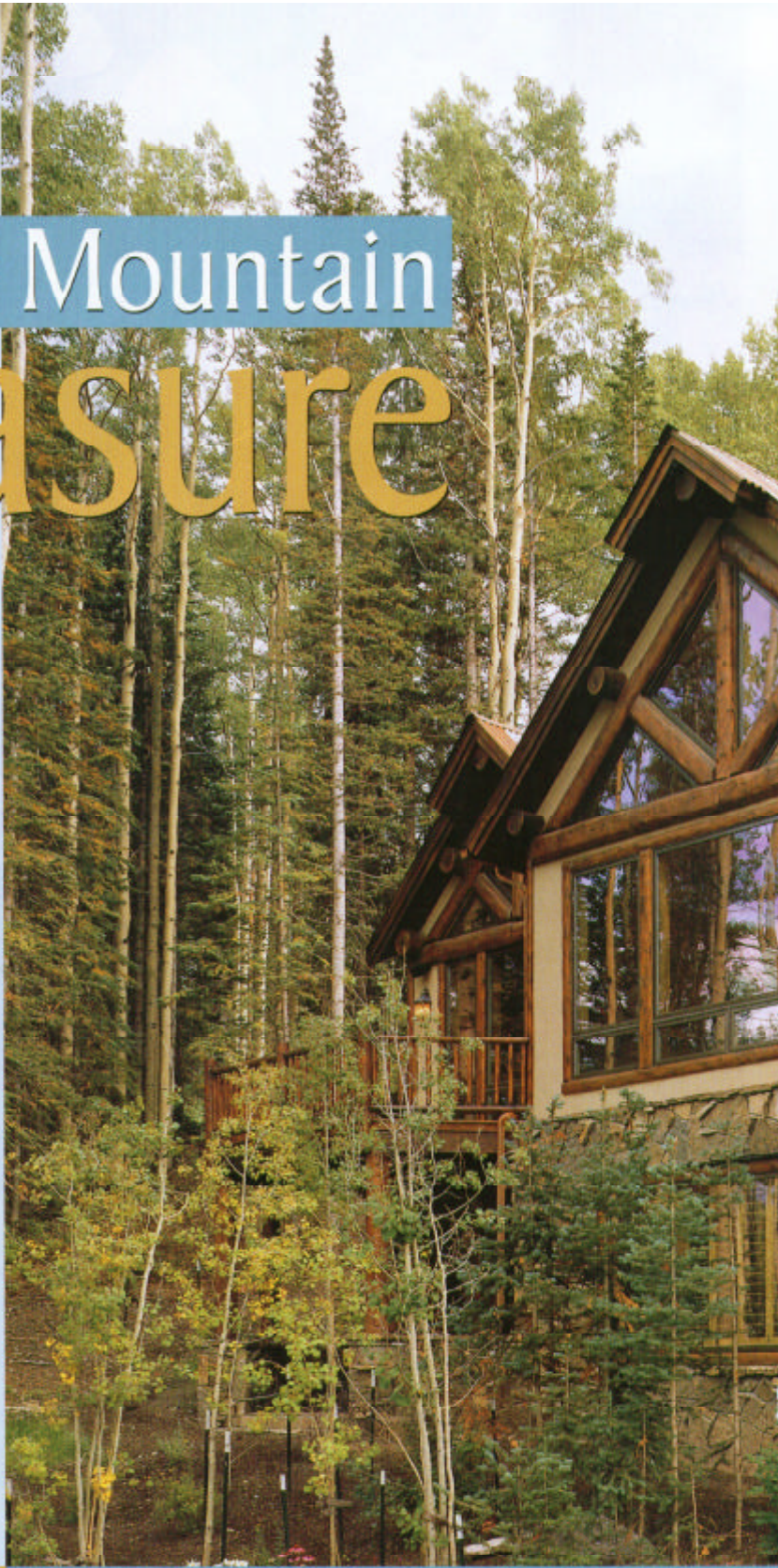
T Rocky Mountain Treasure

Florida residents Diane and Herman Klemick fell in love with Colorado's ski slopes 18 years ago. They sampled the major resorts, until friends invited them to Telluride. "It was somewhat inaccessible, but one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen," Diane recalls. "It's in a box canyon that you enter from the west, with a waterfall at the end. In winter, lift lines are almost nonexistent. I skied for two hours and it felt like six." She and Herman, who heads the law firm Klemick and Gampel, began looking at residential property with Realtor Dave Flatt.

After searching during several winter visits for a ski-in/ski-out property in the incorporated town of Mountain Village located above Telluride, Flatt showed them a very desirable lot on two-thirds of a sloped acre. The houses on three sides had already been built. None interfered with their view of the spectacular 14,000-foot peaks. The property and the surrounding area were heavily forested. A chair lift on the fourth side was buffered. It was ideal.

BY PAT HYLAND
PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE
STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL

A Florida couple escapes to





Designed to blend into the environment, the roofline mirrors the nearby peaks.

a log home on the ski slopes near Telluride.



THE KLEMICKS BEGAN SHOPPING FOR A BUILDER. DEAN Anderson, owner of Anderson Log Homes and a longtime representative of Town & Country Cedar Homes, was constructing a house on their street. "We talked with him by phone and liked him," Diane says. "There was an immediate rapport." At the same time, they were doing lots of research via log home magazines.

Herman liked the log look, and Town & Country topped his list. He was sold on the properties of the company's white cedar, including its light color and natural beauty. In addition, Herman liked the building method—using a fully insulated 2-by-6 stud wall covered on the outside with white cedar half-logs. Town & Country's product plus Anderson's work and references sealed the deal. Anderson specializes in working with people at a distance. "Ninety

percent of my clients live outside the state," he says.

Space planning and attention to detail are two of Diane's strengths. A former teacher and a current adviser to a fraternal organization at the University of Miami, she sees space planning as "puzzle solving." She had already built the family's home in Miami. When Town & Country's designers asked for a notebook of ideas for the new house, she was knowledgeable and eager to comply.

"I cut and pasted, explaining *what* I liked and *why* I liked it," Diane explains. "Two stories fit the lot. Every room had to face north to take advantage of the view, with the living space on the upper level, the sleeping space below." Diane wanted big rooms with high ceilings to create the feeling of a big house. Working with Town & Country's design department, information was

submitted, reviewed, revised, and incorporated for the three-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath custom home. The lower floor holds two guest bedrooms, the ski room, and the family room, which has a Murphy bed for extra guests.

The plans also had to be submitted to Telluride's Design Review Board, a three-step process. Numerous covenants, written to protect the environment and residents' property values, had to be met. Living almost 3,000 miles away, Dean Anderson served as the Klemicks' agent. Two major adjustments to the plans were eventually required. To ensure fire-equipment access, the driveway grade had to be reduced. To accomplish

this, the garage was moved from the east to the west side of the house. The driveway then crossed the property instead of coming straight up and in. As a result, the main entry was placed at ground level, adding five feet to the house. "The great room got bigger," Diane says.

Diane began working with Town & Country's design department in September of 1998. She and Herman made three onsite visits during construction. Diane made a fourth trip on her own. "We talked almost daily," Diane says. "I would be driving around Miami, using my cell phone. I'd go home, do a drawing and fax it. That's how Dean and I worked on the project."

BELOW: Family and friends gather around the Kraiss coffee table of alder wood in this comfortably furnished conversation area. **OPPOSITE:** A Casablanca fan adds a decorator touch in a guest bedroom.





"I cut and past

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ALTHOUGH DIANE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE DECISION MAKING, Herman selected the stone flooring, granite, and marble for the interiors. He instructed the mason regarding the stonework. He also wanted the house to have these three things: a recliner in front of a fireplace, a large television to watch sports, and a view of the mountains from his chair. To maximize the view from the second-story great room, the building pad was raised. In November 1999, 30 truckloads of gravel were brought in and compacted. Before framing began, the cement pad was poured and the back retaining wall built. This was then tented and heated to cure the cement.

Mountain Village supplies water and sewer connections. Gas is piped in. The house is warmed by in-floor radiant heat. Water tubes embedded in two inches of concrete are installed over plywood under the finish floor material. It supplies a very uniform heat. "We have two giant water heaters in the mechanical room," Diane says.

A third of the home's exterior is covered with stone. Labor intensive, the rocks are laid with some protruding to create an attractive, irregular surface. Beige-colored stucco walls are accented with half-logs. Log posts support the balconies. White cedar trims the windows. All boast a dark stain. The steel roof, silver at installation, rusts over time, resulting in an attractive red hue. It is, like the exterior walls, well insulated.

Inside, natural log accents are repeated on the downstairs ceilings and interior hallways, and cover the ski-room's walls. Upstairs, white cedar covers the cathedral ceilings. All of the white cedar interior doors were custom-made in Montrose, Colo., by Woodpecker Manufacturing. The top panels are slightly arched. This arch is repeated in the garage door. Wall ends are slightly rounded. "I thought we should invest the most money in the house," Diane says. "Furniture can be replaced."

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Its opening offset to accommodate a large-screen television, the fireplace is made from a local material called Telluride Gold. OPPOSITE: The dining area, alongside the great room, was designed to take advantage of the view.



GRANITE COUNTERTOPS GRACE THE KITCHEN AND THE bathrooms. All of the kitchen and bathroom cabinet layouts were designed in Miami by Trimline Kitchens, then shipped directly to the building site from the manufacturer in Minnesota.

Additional wood accents are seen around the double-paned windows, which are trimmed with 5-inch hand-hewn white cedar. The windows are tinted and aluminum-clad on the outside. Window treatments are minimal—drapes on bedroom windows and wooden shutters in the game room. The front door, a Cantera product from Texas, has an iron frame with a bronze look. Made primarily of glass, it brings in natural light.

The master bathroom features a glass-enclosed steam shower. An 11-foot counter containing two sinks and a vanity runs the length of one wall. The granite countertop is sapphire brown, a color repeated in a diamond pattern set into the floor tile. The mirrors are trimmed with white cedar. A triangular Jacuzzi tub sits in the southeast corner. Eight-foot built-in cabinets and a walk-in closet complete this area. A second steam shower is located in the ski bathroom.

Floor treatments are varied. All bedrooms are carpeted. Mexican tile is found in the first-floor master bathroom. The other bathroom floors are Travertine stone, known for its beauty and durability. The lower level hallways,

game room, ski bath, and ski room are flagstone. Herman first saw such flagstone in the lobby of the Peaks Resort in Mountain Village and wanted to duplicate the look. The great room floor and staircase are crafted from hickory planks, left natural to show their color variation.

Tall aspens and firs removed for the house and driveway were replaced at a ratio of two or three to one. The driveway is blacktop with a heated cement section in front of the garage door. This distinctive door was pieced together with vertical planks of white cedar, then stained. A walkway to the ski slopes is heated also, and has lighting activated by a motion sensor.

Exterior decking is extensive. The deck outside the kitchen's French doors measures 20-by-22 feet, the size of the two-car garage. From the hot tub in its far back corner, Diane and Herman, their family, and friends can sit listening to music and, during the winter, watch skiers return from the slopes. During summer visits, the couple enjoys golf.

Although via long distance, the couple created a perfect getaway home that they can enjoy any time of year. ♣

LOG HOME MANUFACTURER: Town & Country Cedar Homes, Petoskey, Michigan; BUILDER: Anderson Log Homes, Telluride, Colorado.



ABOVE: The master bedroom is surrounded by windows and a door that allows access to the deck outside.

OPPOSITE: A built-in desk and a television set, tucked into a corner cabinet, are just two of this kitchen's extra features.