



The St. Cloud Mountain Club uses natural materials in their raw state, from stacked slate walls to walnut wood panels, and blends it with warm-fabric furniture.

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MountainModern

From St. Cloud to Trailhead, new design creates enticing interiors

Move over mountain rustic and other interior design motifs. There's a new sheriff in town when it comes to design.

Mountain modern, a blend of rustic mountain charm with modern amenities, is making waves in Routt County. "It combines rustic elements like log furniture but uses clean lines and modern designs," says Sara Shalls, an interior designer for The Ranch House, which decorated

Resort Ventures West's Trailhead Lodge near the ski area's base. "We looked to the Steamboat environment for inspiration, including the ranching and ski heritage and landscape."

Matching the landscape is an open floor plan where contemporary lines blend with traditional furniture and metal accents. The rooms' use of granite, slate, travertine and iron create focal points, offset by the clean straight lines of wood

and timber, from flooring and counter-tops to beams overhead. Straight-edged furniture and leather couches enhance the feel, as do flat screen TVs above natural stone fireplace mantles and the liberal use of floor-to-ceiling windows that open onto expansive decks.

Exploring its own ways to create mountain modern ambiance, the St. Cloud Mountain Club, also at the mountain's base, turned to San Francisco's Hirsch

Bedner and Associates. The use of natural materials in their raw state, playing stacked slate walls off walnut wood panels, creates a harmonious fusion that pairs with warm-fabric furniture, including leather chairs with squared-off edges and rectangular benches with leather toppings. The club also employs hammered copper for drop-down lights over the bar, as well as art pieces that blend with the interior's materials. For the latter, the club employed long-time Steamboat Springs artist Eileen Braziel for a projection piece featuring an oil-on-canvas painting of a phoenix wing with a hologram of a moving wing. The effect is one of doves fluttering up the wall.

Other materials used to create the mountain modern effect include wool, cotton and mohair, used in ways that minimize patterns and keep the color palate simple.

Not all modern design elements are visible. Hiding appliances like dishwashers, trash compactors and wine refrigerators



Hammered copper drop-down lights over the bar are one of the club's many highlights.

creates a clean feel that goes along with a sense of airiness and openness.

"For a long time the cabin feel was popular," says Structural Associates' Bruce Shugart, designer of The Porches. "While we still incorporate small cabin-style windows, they are set against two or three walls of picture windows." He adds that

many of today's buyers want rustic charm combined with such modern amenities as air conditioning, humidity control, electric air cleaners and heat control zoned into different sections of the house. "People live with convenience at home and they expect those same conveniences in their vacation homes," he says.

The Ranch House's Sara also says you can say *adios* to such things as antlers. "People don't want to see them any more," she says. "They want an updated take on mountain living."

While Steamboat isn't alone in seeing the trend – it can be found in mountain communities from Tahoe to Telluride – it is on its cutting edge. "There are enough new higher-end developments around now that buyers are looking for that perfect combination of modern amenities and mountain feel," says Cam Boyd of Prudential Steamboat Realty. "And Steamboat is the perfect location to showcase it."

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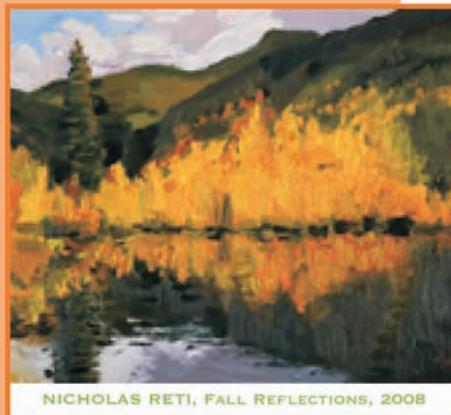
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