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rocky mountain high

Designer Shawn Henderson elevates a family's slope-side Utah getaway with cozy-chic furnishings and sophisticated art

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A glass mosaic work by Shahzia Sikander pops against the living room's blackened-steel fireplace surround in a Park City, Utah, vacation home renovated by Shawn Henderson. A custom-made sectional sofa is grouped with velvet-clad vintage armchairs and a Campana Brothers cork chair around a Vincenzo De Cotiis cocktail table. Next to the sliding glass door, which is curtained in a Cowtan & Tout sheer, is a wood sculpture by Dan John Anderson and a stained-glass lamp by Maarten De Ceulaer. The rug is by ALT for Living. For details see Sources.





In the rec room, a Liz Nielsen painting joins a pair of vintage ceramic lamps on bespoke Severin Hansen-style tables; the ottomans were made with a cork fabric by 4Spaces, and the rug is by ALT for Living. **Right:** In a nook off the primary bedroom, a Betsy Eby painting hangs above a bench crafted from reclaimed wood; the walls are coated in a lime plaster by Domingue Architectural Finishes.

it's rare for

an interiors project to be published before the owners ever see it in person. But these are unusual times. By all accounts, Shawn Henderson's renovation of a family's vacation home in Park City, Utah, was a resounding success. To better suit the needs of a Hong Kong-based art collecting couple and their two young sons, Henderson devised some modest updates, including turning a gym into a bunk room and reimagining a wine closet as a game room. He then arrayed the spaces with a cozy yet elevated mix of furnishings and sophisticated art, wrapping up the installation—minus a few pieces—in winter 2020.

Nearly two years on, the homeowners are still waiting to enjoy their mountain getaway, thanks to COVID-19 quarantines and travel restrictions. "The first thing we'll do is just look around the house and spend time there," the wife says wistfully.

For now, they can peruse the home in Henderson's debut monograph, *Shawn Henderson: Interiors in Context*, just published by the Monacelli Press. The Utah retreat is one of 14 intriguing residences (including Henderson's own city and country homes) that highlight the New York designer's polished, quietly chic style. His warmly inviting rooms may share common threads such as judicious splashes of color, compelling textures, and a prevailing sense of restraint (also notable is his penchant for Papa Bear-style chairs), but each project manages to achieve a supremely singular look.

"One of my hang-ups earlier in my career was that I didn't have a 'look,'" confesses Henderson, who launched his namesake design studio in 2003 and currently is working on his first furniture collection, called Swaine, with fellow designer Mike Rupp. "For me it's about creating a unique space that doesn't feel cookie-cutter. I





Ebonized-oak cabinets with black granite countertops and matching lacquered oak stools make a bold statement in the kitchen, which also features richly grained door fronts on the built-in refrigerator and a Franke faucet. **Below:** A grid of works by Thiago Rocha Pitta spans a wall behind the study's metal-and-travertine desk, which is joined by a vintage Pierre Jeanneret chair and topped by a circa-1960s Lisa Johansson-Pape lamp; the Paavo Tynell chandelier is circa 1940s, and the rug is by FJ Hakimian. **Opposite:** Henderson designed the honeycomb-form light fixture installed over the dining room's Damien Gernay table and Ruemmler chairs; the vintage bar cart along the wall is by Edward Wormley.

mix in how the client lives, what the home calls for, and what's happening architecturally."

In the case of the Utah house, the architecture provided few design cues. The 8,450-square-foot, six-bedroom structure was built on spec in 2018 in a conventional "modern mountain contemporary" style, as Henderson puts it. His primary inspiration came from the majestic peaks and towering firs visible through the floor-to-ceiling windows, which he saw during his only on-site meeting with the clients, in 2019. "I wanted to keep the furniture young and fresh with pieces that weren't easily identified," explains Henderson, who mostly stuck to an earthy, natural palette. "It was more about creating warmth with every single element."

In the living room, he grouped a sumptuous bespoke sectional sofa, velvet-covered vintage armchairs, and a quirky Campana Brothers cork chair around a sculptural Vincenzo De Cotiis table in marble, silvered brass, and Murano glass. Fuzzy bouclé fabrics were deployed on armchairs in both the primary bedroom and the home office. Moody jewel tones animate the lower-level bar and game room, which will be a snug spot for après-ski card games once the family arrives.

Throughout the house, eye-catching lighting lends a distinctive sculptural presence to the clean-lined rooms—not least the beefy brass





A ceramic wall installation by Maren Kloppmann presides over the primary suite, where the bed is dressed with Deborah Sharpe Linens and the nightstands, designed by Romeo Sozzi for Promemoria, are topped by Liz O'Brien lamps; the chandelier is by the Campana Brothers, the lounge chairs are by Otto Schulz, and the rug is by ALT for Living. **Opposite:** In the primary bath, which features a marble floor by Bedrosians, a Josef Hoffmann chandelier hangs above the Apaizer tub with Rohl fittings; a vase by Christiane Perrochon perches on a Fernando Mastrangelo stool.

“I wanted to keep the furniture young and fresh with pieces that weren’t easily identified,” says Shawn Henderson

fixture Henderson created for the dining room with a design resembling a block of honeycomb. A chandelier by the Campana Brothers, featuring a chunky wood frame and large, irregular-shaped glass beads, gives the primary bedroom a one-of-a-kind look. “Design is everywhere so fast, from the internet to social media, that it’s hard to find something special you haven’t seen a thousand times before,” Henderson laments. “When I discovered that chandelier I knew we had a winner.”

Avid collectors, the couple acquired many of their artworks visiting top international galleries and fairs such as Art Basel Hong Kong. For this project, they worked remotely with Henderson to find contemporary treasures online—a process that extended well into the pandemic, as they continued to add new works to the house. The centerpiece is the living room’s striking glass mosaic work by Shahzia Sikander, which reflects the bright high-altitude sunshine. A series of evocative environmental photographs by the Brazilian artist Thiago Rocha Pitta spans a wall in the office. A wall sculpture by Maren Kloppmann, composed of a cluster of handcrafted porcelain elements, floats ethereally above the couple’s bed.

“For such a massive house, artworks were essential to add personality and reflect their personality,” Henderson says. “On long conference calls, they shared details about some of the pieces they owned in Hong Kong. One drawback was that we couldn’t physically see the works, but we could also slow down and really focus.”

In the end, designing a home for the long-distance clients worked so harmoniously because, as Henderson notes, “we spoke the same aesthetic language. It made for a very easy process.” □

