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Dark wood paneling on the great room's ceiling visually draws the room downward, creating intimacy. Originally, the home's woodwork was yellow pine. Joffa and Herbert chose darker stains throughout. A painting by Salt Lake artist Rick Graham sits on the mantel.





Mountain Makeover

Two home pros create an ideal Park City abode

JUST AS A CHEF KNOWS THE SECRET TO A PERFECT soufflé and a horticulturist can coax magnolias from the desert, architect/builder Scott Jaffa and realtor Shane Herbert understand homes, and more important, the secrets of creating an ideal modern dwelling. For a textbook lesson on form and function, look no further than the pair's Park City home.

When Jaffa and Herbert bought the home in 2006, their well-trained eyes saw beyond its surface. "We didn't like anything about the home's décor," says Herbert. "What we liked was the lot, the view, and the floor plan." It was the perfect blank slate upon which to create their ideal home.

First, the home's flow needed a few tweaks. The kitchen—an essential gathering point in the modern abode—was originally isolated and small. The duo removed a wall and connected the kitchen with the dining room. "We usually just hang out in the kitchen, so we wanted it to be very warm

PREVIOUS PAGE: As visitors enter the home, they're greeted with views of the great room and of Park City beyond. Underfoot, black river rocks and an organic curved line separate one floor finish from another, making the foyer flow seamlessly into the rest of the home.

TOP LEFT: Faux coffers in the kitchen and TV room create intimacy; salvaged copper nailed to the ceiling adds warmth and rustic charm. Jaffa and Herbert chose a uniquely colored, large-grain Kodiak granite for countertops.

TOP RIGHT: From the open kitchen, Herbert can interact with guests in the dining room and take in views from the facing windows. In the dining room, a chandelier from Fine Art Lamps casts a soft glow.

BOTTOM LEFT: Herbert and Jaffa.



and comfortable, like a TV room," says Jaffa. Plus, the treatment maximized mountain views from the home's most popular room—because what good is a view if you never see it?

The home's entryway needed similar treatment. A utilitarian powder room door, directly to the left, once greeted guests entering the home. Jaffa didn't want this humble room to determine the home's first impression, so he simply walled over the powder room's door and added a new entrance around the corner, out of the way. With the door gone, a sweeping view of the great room and Park City's peaks now greets guests.

The changes here aren't merely cosmetic; the duo also made several decisions to improve the home's flow and usability. Their secret: consider how you truly live, and design your home around that idea. For example, Jaffa and Herbert knew they didn't want to climb stairs all day long, so they chose an abode where all the necessities lie on the first floor. And they knew they'd need a second dishwasher just for glasses (anyone who's cleaned up after a dinner party will understand).

Sometimes, designing for real life means admitting to some lackadaisical tendencies. Take, for example, the home's mudroom. "We intentionally didn't put coat racks there because we've found that you'll hang every single coat there, and they'll stack up until someone



Custom-built cabinetry conceals the freezer and refrigerator in the kitchen. The matching wood floors are made of reclaimed wood from a barn in Cedar City; its smooth edges are soft underfoot and give the room a lived-in feel.

Jaffa happened upon a steel beam at a salvage yard and realized it would make a perfectly hip yet rustic mantel for the living room's stone fireplace.





TOP LEFT: The home's master bathroom features a steam shower and side-by-side vanity; the mirror conceals a television for viewing early-morning news. The room's crystal chandelier is a 1970s-era antique from Jaffa's grandmother.

TOP RIGHT: Several bedrooms and bathrooms accommodate family or guests (The house boasts five of each).

BOTTOM RIGHT: Scott Jaffa and Shane Herbert completely re-landscaped the backyard, moving trees, adding lawn, and placing boulders along the stream to create a more natural appearance. The pair loves modern décor, as evidenced by a colorful set of garden furniture on the patio.



moves them," says Herbert. Instead, Jaffa designed a walk-in coat closet off the mudroom, with so much space that hanging up coats is a simple task.

The same logic applied to the mudroom door. "Most people will put a door between the mudroom and the house," says Jaffa. "Whenever we've had a door, it's always stayed open, so why have a door there? It's just going to take up space." Plus, not being able to hide the space provides incentive to maintain a tidy mudroom.

Finally, no matter how well designed the floor plan, if a home doesn't suit its inhabitants' taste, it's useless. Jaffa and Herbert created a haven that matches Park City's rustic atmosphere with dark wood finishes and warm metal hardware. But this mountain lodge also holds its own eclectic twists: The pair's extensive art collection covers the walls, and mod accessories—like minimalist '70s chandeliers—grace every room.

The lodge-with-a-twist theme continues in the residence's finished surfaces. Jaffa and Herbert chose unconventional materials throughout the abode—glass tile, scrap copper, and honey onyx, to name a few. "I design so many homes and Shane goes to see so many," says Jaffa. "everything starts looking the same, after a while. So we tried to find things that didn't look like anything else." **SL**





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