



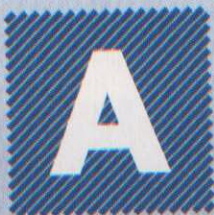
mountain life

EXISTENCE ON A HIGHER PLANE

SHELTER

Aspen Edge

What would you do with 9,000 square feet? With a revolutionary layout and futuristic technology, an Aspen couple rethinks every last inch. ♦ By Kimberly Beekman



AND THIS," SAYS THE ASPEN, COLO., HOMEOWNER IN HIS Minnesota accent, "this is my man cave." We're standing next to a mirrored bar topped with a gleaming procession of single malt-scotch bottles. With the touch of a finger, an adjacent wall pivots to reveal a secret chamber, and if it weren't for the Bob Dylan boodleg on the stereo ("I have hundreds, much to my wife's chagrin," he says), I'd feel like I were a character in a





Location Aspen, Colo. **Elevation** 8,040 feet **Closest skiing** Aspen Highlands, steps away **Square footage** 9,000 **Lot size** 1 acre **Architect** Scott Lindenau, Studio B Architects, Aspen **Builder** Paul D'Amato Builder Inc., Aspen **Lighting designer** 186 Lighting Design Group Inc., Lakewood, Colo.

Materials To ground the modern shape in the mountain vernacular, the owners and architects chose native stone and natural materials. The windows are designed to maximize energy efficiency, and much of the wood is recycled and compressed for longevity.

BLUEPRINT



Sherlock Holmes novel. Painted eggplant, streaked with art-deco chrome and complete with a smoke filter, this is where he and his buddies disappear for poker, billiards and cigars. "When you build a home that's 9,000 square feet," he says, smiling, "you can have a lot of fun."

Fun, indeed. Designed by Scott Lindennau, founder of Studio B Architects, the home is a short skate from the slopes of Aspen Highlands. "On big snow days, we put our skis on at the end of the driveway," the owner says. Then, after spooning powder turns down Highlands Bowl, they take in the view of the race course from their hot tub. It's a view that makes both feel at home: She's a former racer for Brown University, he's a slalomer with a Buck Hill pedigree.

The two also share professional backgrounds, both having worked on Wall Street. But when it comes to their home, the similarities end. "He's the design guy, and I'm all about function," she says, shifting their new baby to the other hip while walking into the bright main living space.

The kitchen, living and dining rooms occupy the upper level, which, because



the driveway was built on a bridge to save a cluster of aspens, is also the entry level. The rooms are not parceled by walls, but each is clearly defined by geometric furnishings with low profiles that don't detract from the views. Oriental rugs add warmth and encourage going barefoot, which, judging by the owners' stocking feet, is important here. "My key word was

INSIDE OUT From top: In keeping with the owners' desire to blur the lines between indoors and out, huge sliding glass doors in the open living room lead out to the slate deck. In the master suite, wall-length glass pocket doors open up the room to the outdoors at night. "I wanted to be able to go to sleep in a snow globe," the husband says. Previous pages: The home is stacked neatly on its uneven site. The driveway, which is a bridge to the top level, is visible on the far right.

'warm,'" she says, and nods at her husband. "He found all the cool stuff."

Stuff like a bedside switch that illuminates a path to the fridge for a midnight snack. Or an air-conditioner that pipes in 55-degree air efficiently cooled underground. Or contemporary art that splashes the walls. But it's the structure, not the stuff, that pushes the boundaries of the traditional mountain vernacular.

Columns of stacked stone support glass walls and a copper roof that juts into the sky to mirror the surrounding peaks.

'GOOD DESIGN COSTS AS MUCH AS BAD DESIGN. WE WANTED A THOUGHTFUL HOUSE.'

Hallway walls open at a 5-degree angle, enticing you in. The six bedrooms are on the lower floor, because that's where the family spends the least time. All are just big enough for a bed and nightstand. "We're ingrained to think we need big spaces," says the husband. "But you end up putting ottomans in the corners to take up room." And, adds his wife, "You want to make sure you spend time together, and the kids don't just run to their bedrooms."

How the family spends time was the foundation upon which the entire home was designed. Before Lindenau drew a

single line, he asked the couple hundreds of questions, down to details such as who makes the coffee. "Good design costs as much as bad design," the husband says, "and we wanted to build a thoughtful house." The result is a dog-washing

station in the garage, a laundry facility with drying racks for polypropylene, and a wine cellar equipped with a butler's pantry and dining table for tasting parties.

And then there's the man cave. A night in there—*that's* time well spent. ♦

BON APPÉTIT Left to right: The wine cellar was built to double as a dining room. The chandeliers are made of wineglasses, which are plucked by guests as they enter. Because the wine is kept at a brisk 57 degrees, the owners give guests pashminas of every color to wear during dinner. Upstairs, the gabled roof adds a traditional element to the modern kitchen, dining room and living room. Clean-lined furniture divides the open space into functional rooms.

