

NORTH METRO / BOULDER COUNTY DIVERSIONS

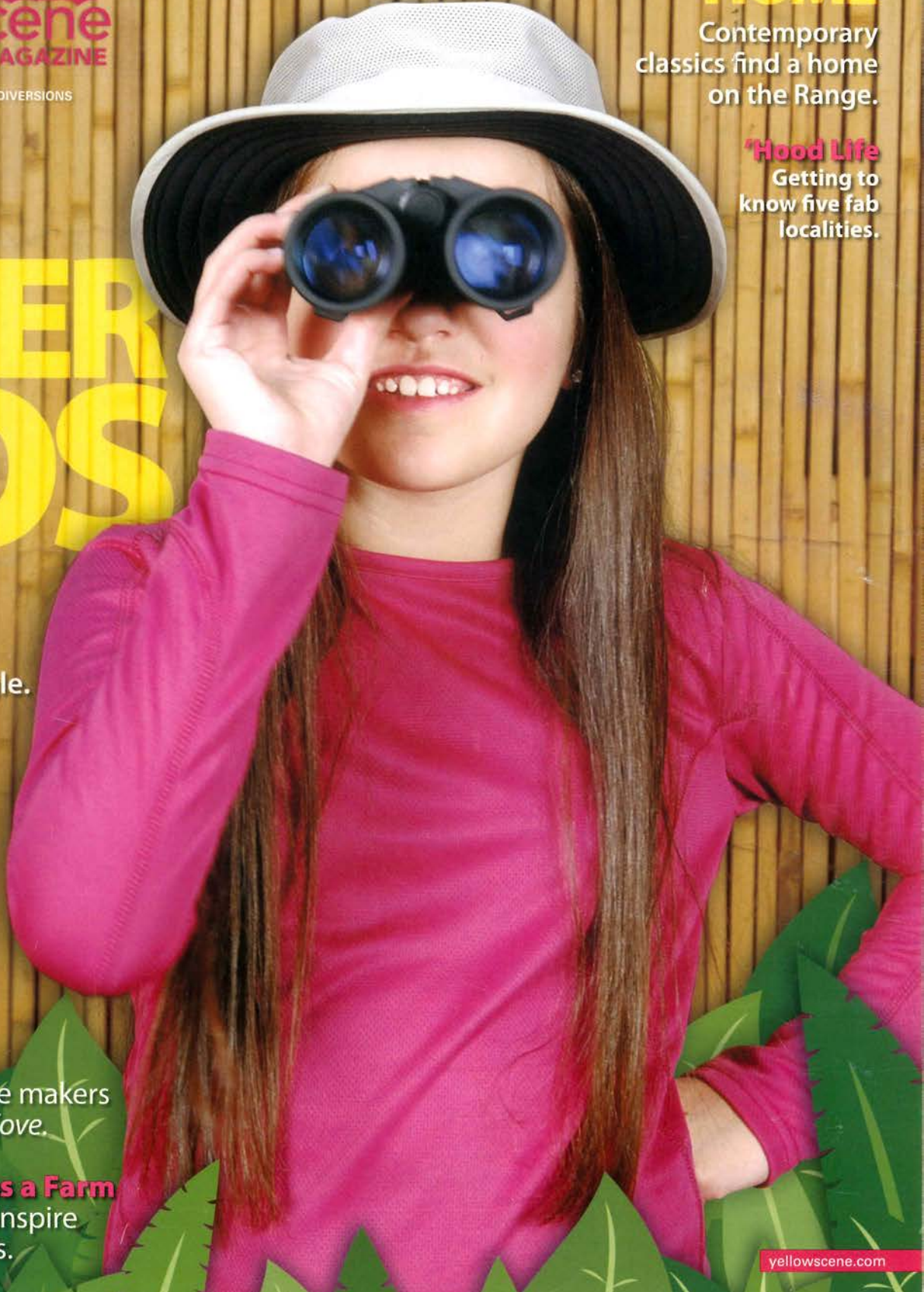


**HOME**  
Contemporary  
classics find a home  
on the Range.

**'Hood Life**  
Getting to  
know five fab  
localities.

## 2ND ANNUAL SUPER KIDS

It's your field guide  
to being a kid in  
Boulder County.  
Welcome to the jungle.



**Swim Fan**  
In deep water with the makers  
of Oscar-winner *The Cove*.

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Locavore movement inspire  
a new crop of growers.



## contemporary colorado

BY ANDRA COBERLY

The phrase “home on the range” once conjured thoughts of rickety, wind-blown ranches that sizzled in the summer sun and shivered in winter storms. But no more. The architectural landscape has matured, and homes on the Front Range now vary from weighty Colonials and bungalows to acres of traditional suburban split levels. While Colorado has never been a mecca for brilliant architecture, these days high-quality modern design is finding its footing on the Rocky Mountain terrain. Here, we explore what it means to be contemporary in Colorado.

*The Rockscape Home, by Barrett Studios, was conceived as a perch for experiencing the landscape. Minimal site incursion left the rocks intact. They provided inspiration for the jagged roof forms and the exterior color palette. Photo by Ron Ruscio*

PHOTO BY BARRETT STUDIO

## barrett studio architects STYLE: INSPIRED ECLECTIC

They talk about collisions. They talk about freedom of space. They talk about sense of possibility, reach and the seed.

Maggie Flickinger, business director, and David Barrett, owner principal, are earnestly exchanging abstract thoughts about design and materials and space and walls. It becomes apparent that, here, in this office, a home is not just a home. A building is not four walls and a roof. A window is rarely something that simply lets light in. Architecture and design seem poetic, emotional and metaphorical while remaining tangible and functional, informed by landscape, location and client and reined in—or occasionally inspired—by technology, design limits and reality.

“You look for a feeling. You solve a

problem. You end up with something unique,” Barrett says. “Modern can be technical and austere, but we like modern that has heart and feeling.”

Their poetic seed very often comes from nature and setting. But it’s not always literal: Each home is a grand realization of a specialized vision, no matter how simple the seed might be. Barrett’s “Home on the Range” (below) is subtly influenced by the barns, silos and sheds that sit near the property. For another home, the design discussion ended with the client saying he saw his home as his final resting place—“We talked about him dying there,” Barrett says. It triggered the idea of a fallen leaf that laying peacefully on a hillside. In other home designs, they have mimicked the

flow and ease of a wispy, white lenticular cloud and the craggy points and edges of a rocky peak (see page 63).

They call it living architecture and they think about the homes they design as “being in tune with nature,” Barrett says.

Contemporary design is about freshness: A process of creating something clean, light, inspired and unique. Still, even though each home is splendid, Barrett’s team often emphasize the rawness of a building, leaving beams exposed or materials unfinished. Walls or structures are built knowing they’ll rust, with corrosion becoming a design feature. It’s beat-to-hell sophistication that balances, warms and brings a handmade quality to these splendid, dynamic homes.

