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*featured homes*

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*Designing a New History*

A Tudor mansion in the Denver Country Club neighborhood retains many of the home's original details, yet updates them to fit a young family.

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*European Warmth,  
Colorado Views*

This cozy and cordial mountain home features a style and colors that are reminiscent of a Tuscan summer, but that work with the property's stunning views.

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*The Elegance of  
Just Enough*

This riverside retreat near Montrose is the perfect fit for a bachelor homeowner who has filled his rustic-meets-modern space with mementos of his travels abroad.

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*Colorado Contemporary*

The New York couple that built this Boulder County home is familiar with amazing views; however, their new home allows an interaction with the outdoors they can't get in Manhattan.



(LEFT) DAVID MARLOW; LEFT, BARRETT STUDIO  
(LEFT TO RIGHT) MARK OSLER, DAVID MARLOW, BARRETT STUDIO, EMILY MINTON REDFIELD

*featured HOMES***HOMES with CHARACTER**

The ideal home is a reflection of the owners' personality. A well-designed space perfectly accommodates its residents' interests and lifestyle. In this issue, we go inside a stately Tudor that was reconfigured to meet the needs of a young family and a new build in Boulder that offers an open layout with plenty of walls for the couple's art and book collections. We also open the doors to two stunning mountain homes: an Avon vacation space that is all about the views, and a riverfront home in Montrose that fits perfectly within a tree-filled lot and in the bachelor owner's relaxed way of life. Each of the four is an exceptional manifestation of the owners' unique charms and originality.



# THE ELEGANCE *of* JUST ENOUGH

This calming space fits effortlessly into the woods at the edge of the Uncompahgre River.

BY KIMBERLY FIELD | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BARRETT STUDIO

**C**oming home to this rustic, modern home tucked into the woods along the swiftly flowing Uncompahgre River is instantly calming. It's a needed respite for Matt Cotham, a busy, young emergency room physician in Montrose.

Cotham found the three-acre site in 2011. "It's very park-like, with cottonwood trees in a sea of grass," he says. "It was like a cathedral, with the branches like high arches." He entrusted David Barrett, founding principal of Barrett Studio Architects in Boulder, to design a home that fit the rhythm of the land, the river and Cotham's own sensibilities. Barrett describes his design as "living architecture."

Cotham, who spent several years working at Mukinge Hospital in Zambia through the NGO Samaritan's Purse, says he liked the "ethos" of Barrett Studio. Cotham frequently returns to serve in Africa and speaks of his time there with the same humility one senses from the design of his home.

"The house is a reflection of Matt. It is calm, present and unpretentious," Barrett says. Before putting pen to paper, the architects camped on the property, watching the light, listening to the river and feeling the trees swaying in the wind. "Our challenge was slipping this house into a beautiful, wooded setting," Barrett adds.

The design is informed by qualities Cotham grew to love in Africa: openness to nature, sunlight and outdoor walkways. The architects created a "climatic design" that offers a simple way to stay comfortable in a colder climate. At 2,100 square feet, the three-bedroom, two-bath home provides enough space for Cotham and his rescue dog, Bella, and also welcomes guests with comfort and privacy. "Matt is not gluttonous about space," Barrett says.

Cotham wanted a "calm, neutral background for important things." A well-used piano here, a Zimbabwean sculpture there, along with batiked pillows and textiles acquired in Africa add warmth, texture and rich color to the soothing interior. A

*[continued on page 69]*



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local welder crafted a double-sided fireplace surround of steel finished with a gun-blue patina. It provides a sense of separation without overwhelming the space. "It preserves the sight lines in the house," he says. A fir table tucked under a sleek, quartz kitchen counter provides a casual eating space and can be repositioned as a dining table. Ceilings of beetle-kill pine and Douglas fir barn doors grace the interior, and wood reclaimed from an antique barn in Virginia clads the exterior. "A palette of imperfect materials shows aliveness and reflects Matt's humility," Barrett adds. "Matt was out there nailing up the barn wood with the builders."

A favorite feature for both the homeowner and architect is the bifold glass wall from Sierra Pacific Windows. "Matt can pull the corner away and enjoy the presence of the river," says Barrett.

The house lives comfortably. Giant cottonwoods provide shade, movement and the play of green in summer, and the home is flooded with sunlight and warmth in winter. "The hall is like a cloister. The sun through the upper windows warms the entire house," Cotham says.

The design maximizes energy efficiency, Barrett says. South-facing glass in the hallway, with its east-west orientation, captures winter sun for high passive solar gain. The concrete floor acts as a heat sink, and interior transoms share sunlight throughout the rooms. Open windows provide cooling breezes in summer. "I'm continually surprised at how warm it is in winter," Cotham says. "And the loft feels like I'm up in the treetops in the summer." ♦



▲ **A BATH WITH A VIEW**  
Kohler Leaf vessel sinks float on a green sandstone counter, and the shower is lined with Rustico, a basalt-colored tile with wood-grain finish from Ann Sacks, which echoes the river and tree-top view from the master bath.



▲ **BASKET CASE**  
This cozy nook accommodates guests as well as a collection of baskets made in Africa by Tonga, Kaonde, Gikuyu and Nyanja artisans.

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▲  
**RECLAIMED WOOD**

Soaring windows open to cooling river breezes. The home's siding, sourced from a century-old barn in Virginia, shows the holes, knots and repairs of its working past.

## RESOURCES

**Architect:** David Barrett, architect, and Sam Nishek, project architect, Barrett Studio Architects, 1944 20<sup>th</sup> St., Boulder, 303.449.1141, barrettstudio.com

▼  
**AFTERNOON SHOWERS**

A bright curtain surrounds the outdoor shower on the deck as the Uncompahgre River rolls along.

