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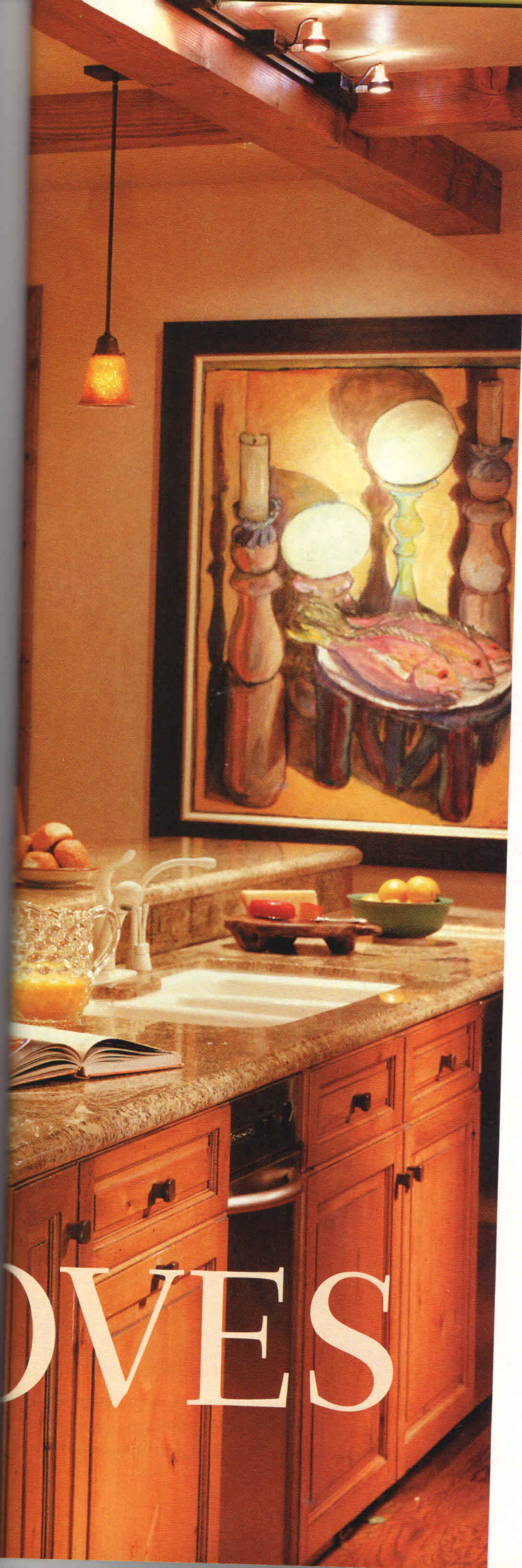


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THE RIGHT MO

"Since the kitchen is open to the entire living area, something really interesting was needed to draw the eye into the space," says Grice. A pair of bold paintings by Boulder artist Gigi Lambert proved the perfect focal point. Basalt Gallery, (970) 927-9668. Slab granite countertops with black-and-cream-swirl patterns and different shades of marbeling pick up all the colors in the great room.



A TOWNHOME MOVES FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY

STORY BY **BY HALEY CARPINELLI** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **HATCH/CLOOS**

MOVES

Location, location, location. For some homeowners, it's a guideline. For Richard and Sue Tallman, it's a rule. The California-based couple divide their time between their waterfront Newport Beach residence and their getaway home, a mountain escape nestled on a hill above Aspen Glen Golf Club's ninth green. Here, with 180-degree views of both the golf course and the Roaring Fork River, the grass doesn't get much greener.

The inside tells a different story. The Tallmans' Aspen abode today is a far cry from its original appearance just three years ago. "We put about \$150,000 to \$200,000 into the design," confides Sue.

The home was originally built as one of five spec duplexes punctuating the golf club landscape. "We fell in love with the area," Sue says. "But since there were going to be five of these homes, we wanted something entirely unique."



THIS PAGE, LEFT: Handpainted furnishings are like pieces of art and should be used sparingly. BOTTOM: Grice worked with Decorative Materials to select the shapes and finishes of the powder room tiles.



The design, with its mix-it-up elegance, balances **FRENCH** and **ENGLISH COUNTRY-INSPIRED** furnishings with rustic accents.

The floor plan held promise: lofty ceilings, a spacious gathering area, floor-to-ceiling windows. But perhaps the true selling point was the attached guest suite, since the Tallmans wanted a home where their six children and growing brood of grandchildren could vacation. Outfitted with its own kitchenette, bathroom and separate entrance, it would afford all parties with space and privacy.

The Tallmans knew their duplex was a masterpiece in the making. What they needed was someone who could translate concept into reality, and they found their muse in interior designer Anne Grice, BIDA. "When you have someone who really trusts your judgment, it enables you to be your most creative," says Grice.

The design, with its mix-it-up elegance, balances French and English Country-style furnishings with touches of rustic accents. "I try never to be tied to a particular period or style," Grice explains. "The Tallmans wanted to keep their home comfortable without too casual of a look. The mix of fur-

nishings seemed the answer," she recalls. The design not only satisfies Sue's vision of "warm, refined comfort" but also offers a style distant from their Newport Beach home, where vivid colors and formal 19th-century furnishings reign.

At the Tallmans' request, Grice first gave several of the rooms an architectural once-over. The kitchen's alderwood cabinetry was reconfigured to accommodate more walking space, the addition of a stair-step island and a large, custom-designed hutch. Unable to find an antique that would proportionately fill the wall space and provide the storage Sue needed, Grice worked with Modern Kitchen Center to design the hutch utilizing Davis Cabinetry. Beadboard accents, a furniture-style base and custom hardware complete the look. The slab granite counter, with its unusual black-and-cream swirl patterns and different shades of marbling, picks up all the colors in the great room and proves a conversation piece during informal gatherings.

But both homeowners and designer agree that the



Putting two queen-sized beds into the guest suite posed a design challenge, given the spacing of the windows. Grice worked with Scandinavian Antiques to make the two antique twin headboards wider by adding parts of two matching footboards to the sides of each. This made the beds fit more pleasingly between the windowsills. Scandinavian Antiques (303) 722-2541



Carved aspen-leaf doors over the fireplace hide a plasma television. The design was created from Ann Grice's sketch of local landmark Mt. Sopris. Neutral furnishings form a cozy conversation area around the fireplace. "I wanted the sofa to match the stone in the fireplace," says homeowner Sue Tallman. Sectional by Burton James, burtonjames.com. French Bergere chairs by Minton-Spidell. Rugs from Isberian Rug Company, (970) 925-8062.

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Given Grice's penchant for mixing wood with painted finishes, it was only natural that she snatched up the master bedroom's tall armoire while antiquing in Aspen. With its painted palette of teal, red and gold, the antique armoire from India not only drew upon the master bedroom's color scheme, but its detail provided the inspiration for the hand-painting above the bed. "I thought it would be nice to have something on the wall besides a picture," says Sue.

In fact, the decision to eschew framed artwork was much more conscious than that. Grice chose to emphasize each of the bedrooms' Old World character by accenting the plaster walls with custom stenciling. "You see this on the exterior of buildings in many parts of Germany and Switzerland. Vail, too," she explains. Grice selected Colleen Clare of Basalt to design the stencils, who then applied them to the walls and added hand-painted accents to the design.

The airy elegance of the stenciling plays off the large-scale dried floral arrangements. "Dried flowers have a mountain look and are perfect for a home that is not heated in year-round," explains Grice. "They provide texture, softness and beauty, and are a great way to bring nature into the home." Floral designer Laura Lucero of Basalt's Sundried Flowers created arrangements with strong color and utilized flowers consistent with the Aspen landscape. And since the landscape is what converted the Tallmans to Aspen, it's no surprise that their favorite area of the house is the great room, where two Scandinavian leather chairs recline in front of the expansive windows. Here, Sue and Richard like to read and watch the fishing boats drift by on the river. Says Richard, "It's a very peaceful, awe-inspiring place to sit and bide your time for awhile." ■

SIGN BOOK

- Architect** Elisabeth Wagner, AIA,
Santa Fe, NM
P 988-4020
- Designer** Jane Smith, Jane Smith Ltd.,
Santa Fe, NM
P 988-4775
- Painter** Fritz Staver, Santa Fe, NM
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