

Alpine Modern

Quarterly

Elevated Living



ISSUE **01**

Style Staycation

On a design journey to winter resorts in Austria, Canada, and the United States, four interior design experts revisit alpine modern interiors and share inspirations on how to bring the cozy ambiance of a ski chalet home to wherever you live.

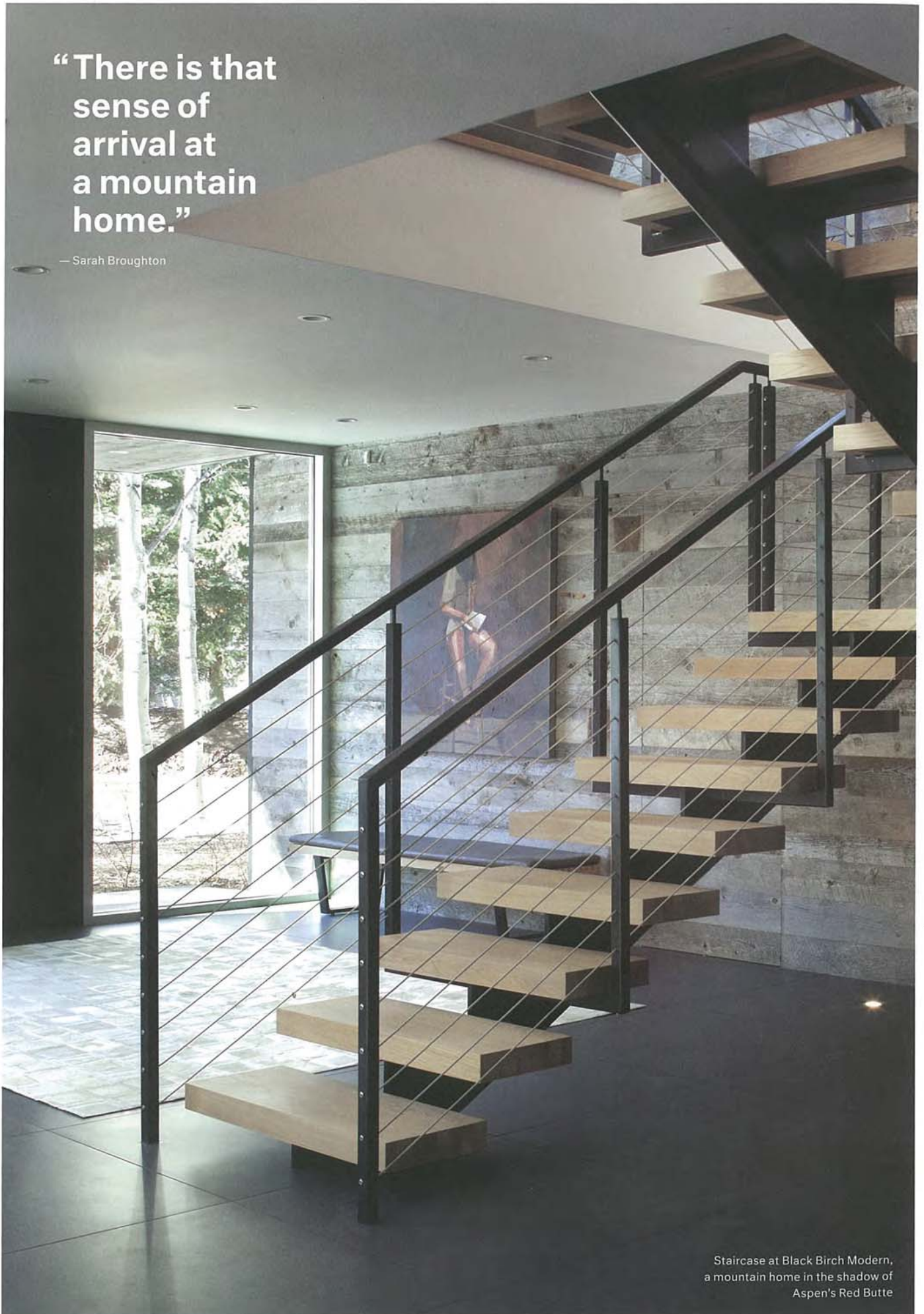
WORDS Sandra Henderson

Escaping to a mountain cabin hidden among ponderosa pines, curling up by the fire with hot chocolate after a day of playing in the snow . . . ah, a dream winter vacation. What to do, though, if you can't get away to the mountains this season? Transform your modern home into a relaxed space with a distinct nod to your favorite alpine destination. Then, cocoon in style and relive winter vacation memories right in the living room.

These welcoming winter interiors — all modern interpretations of traditional local styles — are deeply rooted in their place and environment. Nonetheless, style transcends a destination through inspirations and accessories carried home in remembrances and suitcases. With a little help from these interior design pros, staycationers can achieve the magical, modern-yet-cozy flair of an alpine holiday home through warm woods and natural stones and by mixing clean-lined furniture with luscious textiles and rustic surfaces. Finally, add a personal touch and a sense of place with souvenirs from your last mountain vacation, such as local art, whimsical objects found on a walk in the woods, or quirky artifacts from a village shop.

“There is that
sense of
arrival at
a mountain
home.”

— Sarah Broughton



Staircase at Black Birch Modern,
a mountain home in the shadow of
Aspen's Red Butte



Aspen, Colorado

UNITED STATES

Designed for Legacy

Aspen is steeped in tradition. Generation after generation, families vacation at the posh winter sports resort. Slope-side chalets and opulent second homes alike are built for legacy, as venues for extended family to gather and carry on traditions, season to season. A continuity that translates into architecture and decors of great depth and layering.

Nevertheless, even mountain folks for a fortnight must have functionality alongside style, beginning at the entry. “There is that sense of

arrival at a mountain home,” says Sarah Broughton, co-owner of Rowland and Broughton (R+B), an architecture and interior design firm in Aspen and Denver. Aspen homes are planned with the understanding that one comes in from the elements. “People need to be able to knock snow off their boots.”

Style without Borders

Many of R+B’s clients have primary homes on the beach or in big cities, all over the world. “One thing that is important to them is that they really feel they are in Aspen,” says Broughton, a modernist at heart. To achieve this sense of place, she relies on

natural materials such as wood, grasscloth, and natural stone — “things you see when you look out the window.” What’s more, treating woods in surprising ways, such as planking or wire-brushing, brings out something special in a natural material.

Broughton complements mountain settings and modern, clean lines with cashmeres and wools in the furniture and textiles. She loves to add ample pillows and throws on beds and couches. “Hemp, wool, and cashmere textures and patterns can speak to a natural environment without being literal,” the award-winning architect says. The beauty of sunlight falling through an aspen



The view from the bathroom into the aspen trees gives a sense of place. This is Aspen.

forest's canopies, for instance, can translate into a pattern. Twinkling lights become reminiscent of a starry winter night in the Rocky Mountains.

With its clean-lined, minimal design, Black Birch Modern in Aspen is an example of a mountain retreat that not only boasts stunning alpine-modern architecture, but is warm and welcoming to boot. R+B achieved this balancing act by bringing outdoor materials inside. That, Broughton believes, is something anyone can do at home. "Carrying a material found around the outside of the house into the flooring, for example, is an effective way to blur that indoor-outdoor line, which is such a quintessential element of



The chair fabric's texture contrasts with the mountain setting's modern, clean lines.

Aspen style."

Give your home a touch of Aspen flair and make room for your own legacy. Create spaces where friends and family can gather to share food, drinks, and stories, while they sink deeper and deeper into your cashmere pillows and pull up their feet under a wool blanket.

Art from an Aspen gallery adds a fine finishing touch. "Bringing in local talent is a nice way to tie it to the place and a great way to modernize a home," Broughton says. "Make it feel collected and not staged," are her parting words of style wisdom. "Modern design has a lot of depth and layering to it. It's not a one-hit wonder."



Broughton loves to add ample pillows and throws on beds and couches.



The Aspen home's large kitchen is a space to gather.



Bringing the outdoors in: The wood-paneled wall repeats a natural material seen outside the window.