

# TRADITIONAL HOME

Holiday 1999  
Display until January 11

A TIME  
TO REFLECT  
SHARING THE JOYS  
OF THE SEASON



DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS  
MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION AT HOME  
DRESSING UP ROSEMARY



Left: Eastern-style shingles and Western river rock meet at the simply decorated entrance to Karen and Nick Mastronardi's lodge-style home in Boulder. Here they enjoy the snow with their children, Sophia and Darius. Below: Nature paints a joyous holiday scene at the lodge-style home.

# A BOULDER LIFE

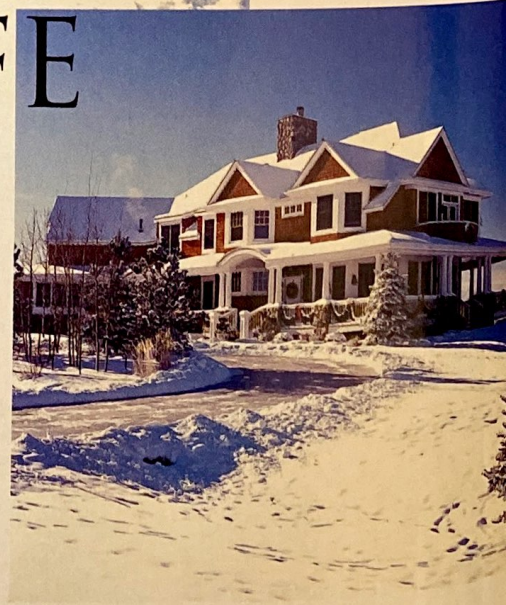
A New York couple turn a ski vacation in the Rockies into a new life for themselves and their four children in Colorado.

By Eliot Nusbaum

WHEN JUST ABOUT EVERY room in your house offers a breathtaking view of the Rocky Mountains, you can keep the decorating simple—and that goes for holiday decorating as well. That is the happy situation in which transplanted New Yorkers Karen and Nick Mastronardi find themselves. Their handsome shingle-and-stone home set in the Colorado countryside offers sweeping views of the mountains from nearly every corner of the house. That their house is furnished with a delightful mix of cherished family antiques brought with them from the East and new Western-style pieces just adds to the ambience of the place they and their two children now call home.

Karen and Nick had been visiting and skiing in the Rockies for years before making the decision to make a home in the West. "We were vacationing one time and didn't want to leave. We were tired of the New York rat race and wanted to invest in a quality lifestyle," recalls Nick. "Karen and I agreed it was a beautiful place and that we should live here." "Here" is just outside Boulder.

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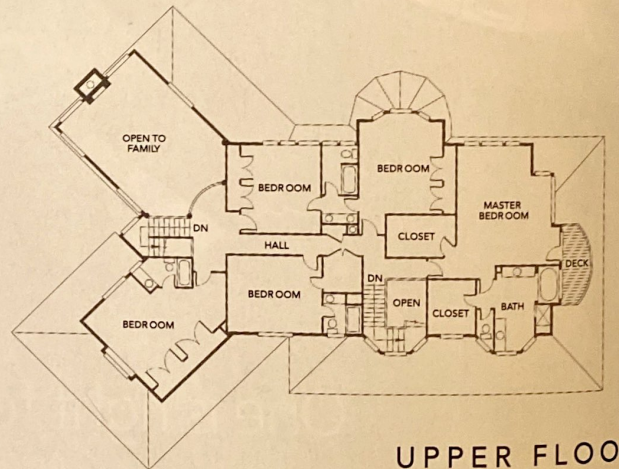




Left and center: The house is organized so that all of the important rooms are oriented towards the west and the fabulous vistas. Karen and Nick bought the property because it is far enough from the foothills to provide unobstructed views in all directions, but especially to the Rockies, seen here from the wrap-around porch. Below: To lighten the Arts and Crafts style of the garland-and-ribbon-wrapped stairway in the main entry, it was painted white, as was much of the trim in the house.



MAIN FLOOR



UPPER FLOOR

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Part of that investment was building a new house, one designed to accommodate the casual, outdoors-oriented life they envisioned for themselves and their four children. That began with the right piece of land. "We chose this one because we wanted to be away from the foothills so we could take in all of the views," explains Nick.

Inside and out, the 5,000-square-foot house embodies both the Mastronardis' past life on the East Coast and their new life in Colorado. Outside, architect Phil Pokorny's rugged lodge design is derived from the Eastern Shingle style, but he grounds the structure with western stone, melding the two with simple but sturdy columns. At the owners' request, a covered porch nearly encircles the house. "The Mastronardis had spent many vacations at an oceanside home with a large porch, and they wanted a similar exterior feature here," notes the architect. "The porches here take advantage of the spectacular mountain views, as well as being perfect for enjoying the outdoors."

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ILLUSTRATION: CARSON ODE



Left: The two-story, vaulted family room is designed to capture the feel of the West yet still suggest traditional East Coast style. The Mastronardis' collection of antiques (including a huge bellows used for a coffee table) mixes comfortably with the Western-style leather and log furniture. Peeled pine logs border the room and complement the massive scale of the river-rock fireplace. Below: A Santa Claus collection began with these two figures, arranged on the double-sized mantel in the family room.



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The porch is for all seasons, says Karen. "We enjoy being outside all year long, and if the weather doesn't permit that, we use the porches. In the summer, we also eat meals and take in sunsets on the porch." Adds Nick: "There is a big misconception among people in the East about this part of the country; they think it's cold and stormy most of the time. Really though, New York has more extreme winters than Colorado."

The interior, which is laid out to maximize views of the mountains, is a blend of styles. Designer Lane Elisabeth Oliver describes it as "Arts and Crafts meets East Coast meets lodge." However, one thing the Mastronardis did not bring with them was the color palette from their old place. "Their last house was painted with rich, intense colors; this time they wanted to go with softer backgrounds," says Oliver. "They wanted a neutral palette, so we used a lot of beige, off-whites, camel, and greens throughout the house." Even the floors are softened and lightened by the use of ash wood.

The heart of the house and the place where the blend of influences is at its most dynamic is the 400-square-foot two-story, vaulted family room. With its peeled-log borders and massive river-rock fireplace, the room captures the feel of the West, while the squared timbers and rich green-painted walls suggest traditional East Coast style. "Combining the owners' favorite antiques with leather and log furniture gives the space an eclectic look," notes Oliver. To create a sense of intimacy and control the ambience in the large

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room, lamps are used in combination with up-lights that have been hidden in the stripped-pine cove molding that runs around the room.

It is in this room that Karen displays her collection of Santas during the holidays. The collection began with the gift of two Santas, which she perched on the mantel. "Now friends and family send Santas to me whenever they come across unique ones. And whenever I see a special Santa, I buy it." To add texture to the family room decorations, Karen uses traditional greenery mixed with dried berries and flowers.

The kitchen is connected to the family room, and the area is Karen's favorite place in the house. "It's so comfortable and action-oriented; there is always something going on," she explains. Even though the kitchen is a large room, it's made comfortable by its convenient layout. Pokorny divided the room into three working parts: the cooking area, the pantry, and a dining area. The Arts and Crafts-style cabinets and floor are finished in Caribbean pine, a warm yellow-hued wood that has very few knots. Nearby, a simple wooden table and chairs offer a comfortable place for breakfast.

The kitchen ceiling and moldings are pressed tin, made in Colorado. When the tin first arrived, the color was the bright silver of new metal and not in keeping with the character of the house. "It was obvious the tin was going to need a finish," says Oliver. "So after it was installed, we had the contractor antique it to resemble aged bronze."

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**Left:** Nick and Darius enjoy a moment in the kitchen, which is Karen's favorite part of the house because that's "where the action is." The kitchen cabinets and floor are warm-hued, knot-free Caribbean pine. **Above:** When the new pressed tin ceiling arrived, it was bright silver. After it was installed, the contractor antiqued it to this rich bronze color.



My clients wanted to blend the East Coast Shingle style of architecture with a native Colorado lodge style.

—ARCHITECT PHIL POKORNY

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The same ceiling is carried over into the dining room, tying the two rooms together. The most outstanding feature of the dining room, however, is the curved bank of windows offering a panoramic view of the mountains. To maintain the view without flooding the room with sunlight, Oliver used bamboo shades that filter light while still allowing a view. The room is dressed up slightly with traditional wainscoting and molding and an antique chandelier from the Mastronardis' collection. But it's furnished casually with Western-style log furniture. "Although it's rustic, it's nice to combine the pleasure of fine dining with a casual atmosphere," says Karen.

Karen and Nick's bedroom is probably the least blended room in the house. "My clients have a collection of English antique furnishings that were rather formal and which they wanted to combine with newer prints to create a casual atmosphere," says Oliver. "So we reupholstered the sofa and made the window treatments and other fabrications simple, giving the room a casual elegance—conservative, but not stuffy."

In fact, nothing about the house is stuffy. Quite the opposite: It's a place where the family can live comfortably year-round. "Our lifestyle revolves around the children these days, so the house is basically kidproof," says Nick. It makes for a livable arrangement. Adds Karen: "I'm not sure there's anywhere else we would rather be." ■

**Architect:** Phil Pokorny

**Interior Design:** Lane Elisabeth Oliver

**Regional Editor:** Mindy Pantiel

For more information, see the Reader's Resource on page 156.



**Above left and above:** Karen and Isabelle set the table in the rustic dining room with fine crystal and china from their past life on the East Coast. **Left:** The master bedroom is comfortably casual, with English antiques and newer prints. The beadboard wainscoting was first painted a tobacco color, then cracked.