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3 MOUNTAIN HOMES, COLORADO STYLES

LOCAL PROS SHARE INSIDERS' TIPS TO BUILDING IN THE HIGH COUNTRY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RON RUSCIO AND CHRISTOPHER MARONA
KIMBERLY THOMPSON REPORTS



EAST MEETS WEST

Two thousand miles west and one mile up is the distance from the Atlantic shore to Colorado's Front Range. But when an East Coast couple found a plot of land overlooking Boulder's rugged red Flatirons, they felt surprisingly at home.

The plot sits on the edge of an undulating meadow, a vast sea of grass that reminded them of the dunes that stretch up their native Atlantic beaches. "It has unobstructed views across open-space land," says Graham Swett, an associate architect at Boulder's Knudson Gloss Architects, (303) 442-5882, kgarch.com. This view inspired them to build a home with the sensibility of the Eastern seaside but grounded in Colorado's mountain style.

The result is classic, yet simultaneously unassuming and unpretentious. Wood and rock mix with elegant columns and arches, and a low profile blends the home organically into its windswept surroundings. "It is definitely classical," Swett says, "but it also has a lightness and playfulness to it."

BUILDER: Derek Guarascio, TreeLine Homes, (303) 717-5309.

Wraparound Porch

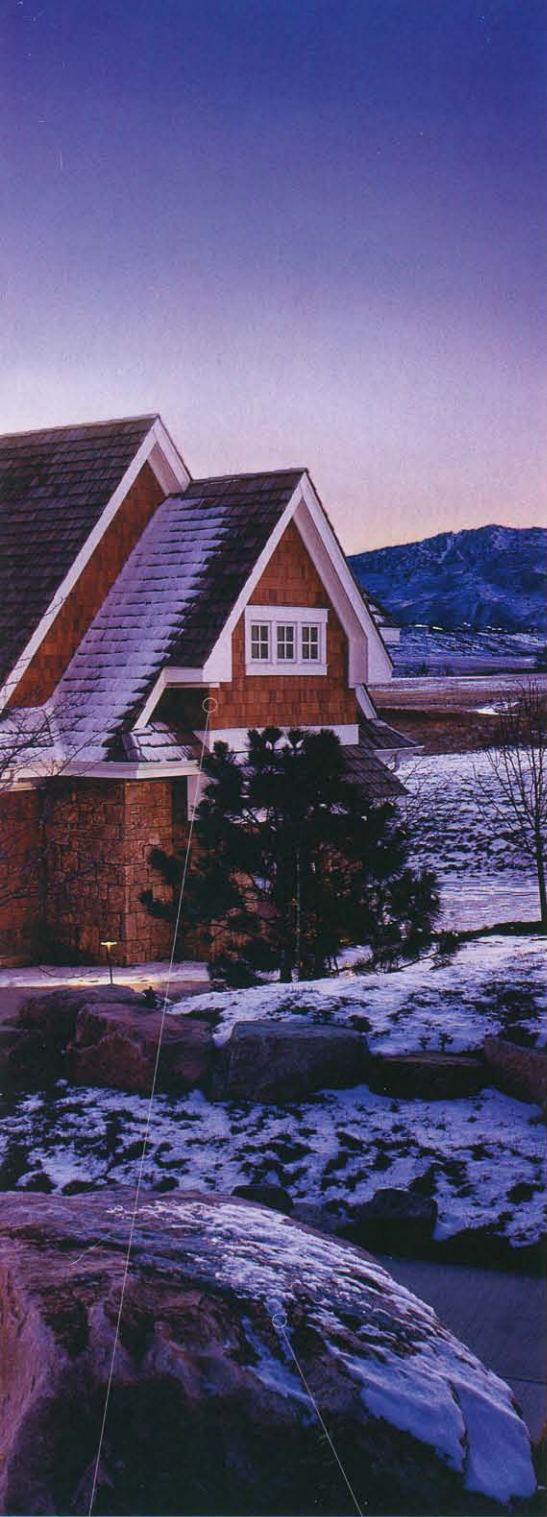
A covered deck makes for year-round outdoor living space. Its rich mahogany planks are fastened to the framing with a concealed system so the finished product looks as seamless as an interior wood floor. Boddington Lumber, Denver, Colorado Springs, boddingtonlumberco.com.

Stone

Limestone blocks give the home a mountain feel, but their hand-pitched crispness is decidedly East Coast. The stone wainscoting anchors the home, and is capped by a custom-fabricated concrete coping. Pine's Stone Company, Carbondale, (970) 945-2940.

Windows

Energy efficiency was as high on the list as beauty, and these windows fit the bill perfectly. Ranging from squares to circles to high arches, the windows add almost whimsical touches to the exterior. Semco Windows and Doors, (800) 333-2206, semcowindows.com.



Shingles

Cedar shingles, de rigueur for homes in the Hamptons, give the house a quaint yet upscale appeal. And, because they are panelized (they come pre-attached to large sheets), they are elegance at its easiest. Shakertown, shakertown.com.

Landscape Design

Because the residence is nestled into its site, it was crucial for the landscape designer to make the structure blend into its surroundings. He studded the area with rocks and indigenous plants, and eschewed fences that would detract from the land's natural beauty. Thomas Altgelt, Boulder, (303) 516-1191. ▷

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