

Heavenly Remodel



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPHS

A modern glass aerie gets a burst of warmth, color, and mountain comfort.

BY CINDY KLEH



LOTS OF LUXURY mountain properties have a genteel lodge feel (and plenty of logs and antlers). But perched high above the town of Breckenridge at 10,500 feet is a prime example of a mountain home completely reimagined. This amazing amalgamation of glass, steel and concrete, built in 2002, has recently been transformed into a one-of-a-kind, five-bedroom vacation-rental home.

This home, dubbed “Seventh Heaven” by the owner, Marita Soucie, because it’s in the Peak 7 neighborhood and she feels closer to god when in the mountains, was built with the idea that see-through walls would bring the dramatic views and high-alpine environment inside. The main living space is enclosed by soaring 22-foot-high windows that show off Mount Baldy, the town of Breckenridge, and a picturesque view of the resort’s Peak 8 ski runs. With outdoor views and natural light in every room, no matter where you are in the house, guests find themselves face-to-face with the beauty and awe of the great outdoors, whether that be blue skies, wild life, hummingbirds, rainbows, moonlight or powerful storms.

Just after the home was filmed by HGTV in 2013, it was purchased by Marita and Mark Soucie, who prefer a modern take on construction and furnishings. “It was so unique ... so minimalist ... so different than anything else around,” recalls Marita. “We wanted to remodel it and add warmth to prove that modern design doesn’t have to be cold and hard.”

Using the original house as a framework, they changed the interior significantly with the help of renowned Denver architect Ron Faleide, who designed the original home. The entryway was relocated creating a vestibule where you are welcomed by an oversized, lipstick-red front door.

In order to accommodate more guests, the Soucies reconfigured the interior space to add two additional bedrooms and two and a half more baths. They also enclosed the outdoor space between the main living area and the garage with glass walls, creating one of many surprising spaces throughout the home that offer privacy and an invitation to relax and be with nature.

If you open the gigantic glass doors to the “Summer Patio,” you can cook steaks on a grill or roast marshmallows around a campfire. If you open the doors on the other side of this room, you can enjoy the “Winter Patio,” complete with a fireplace and hot tub.

Without formal training in interior design, Marita hit a home run decorating Seventh Heaven with splashes of bright colors, rich textures, a forest theme and bold furniture that sometimes seems to defy gravity. She uses bright colors sparingly, giving them even more impact against the shiny-silver-and-grey industrial background of the home.



The “Seventh Heaven” home in Breckenridge is a luxury rental that features 22-foot-high transparent walls with splashes of bright color. The high-tech home is perfect for multi-generational families.



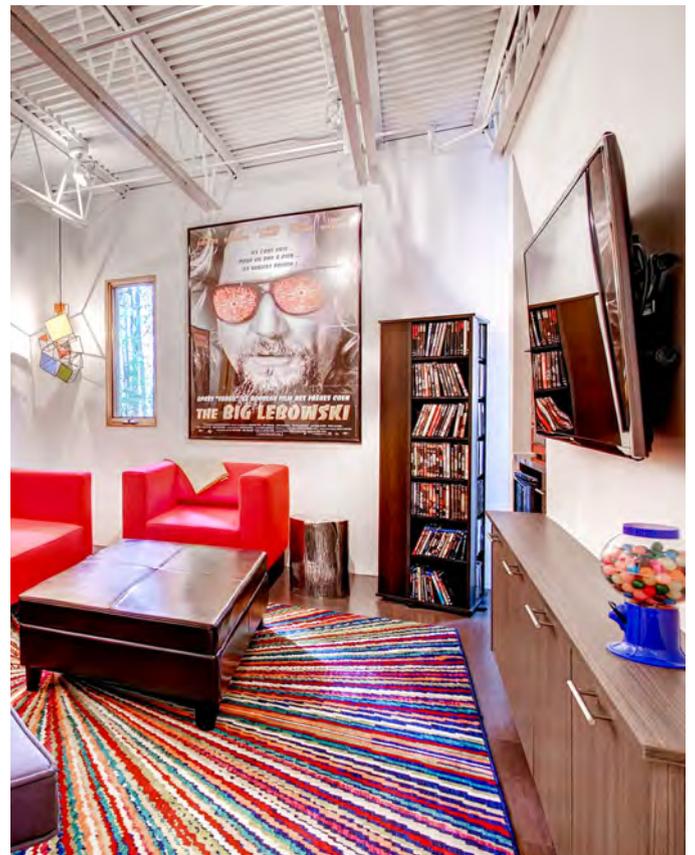
The home is nestled in the pines with snowshoeing and hiking trails to be found right out the front door. It hides a number of nooks for guests to find solitude, like this downstairs video room (right)—a perfect place for teens to hang out and make noise.

“Comfort is essential. I never buy furniture before trying it out,” she says. One surprisingly comfortable piece is a clear, spherical chair that hangs above a see-through floor, surrounded by windows. “Functionality is also important to me—making sure guests have what they need to feel at home. All the bedrooms have places for luggage and handy outlets with USB ports next to the bedside table.”

An avid cook, Marita outfitted the original minimalist-style kitchen with upgraded appliances and modern cabinetry. In the heart of the main living and dining space, the open kitchen layout easily accommodates multiple cooks, and practically begs guests to congregate there to enjoy a roaring fire and savor the expansive views.

Guests are blown away with the high-tech touches of Seventh Heaven—the remote-operated window shades that regulate the amount of sun coming through the windows; the soundproof movie theatre room with reclining seats; and the TV and Sonos sound system that sinks into the fireplace when not in use. They also rave about the beds: king-sized in each room with one room containing three queens and three unusual loft beds that seem to float in mid-air. But what they mention most is being so enthralled with the home’s interior that they had to force themselves to leave and go play outside!

Marita envisions Seventh Heaven as a perfect home for multi-generational families looking for a mix of



To find out more about renting Seventh Heaven for your next Breckenridge vacation, contact property managers Pinnacle Lodging at 800-860-6234, or visit booking.pinnacledodging.com.



The Seventh Heaven home is full of surprising colors, textures and optical illusions. Above, a guest room features Mother Nature at each window with a clear floor section below a hanging see-through chair. Right, the master bath has a handcrafted-glass, see-through counter that seems to be hanging in mid-air, and a rug that looks warped but is actually lying flat.

gathering spaces and privacy. The glass walls thrill renters who embrace nature and want to be constantly reminded that they are, for a short time, living face to face with the mountain outdoors. **B**



RESOURCES

- Architect: Ron Faleide, Denver
- Contractor: Mathison Custom Builders, Tony Mathison, Breckenridge
- Cabinetry: Cutting Edge Woodworking, Inc., Leadville
- Fireplaces: Frisco Fireplace & Stone, Frisco
- Technology (AV, Sound, Blinds): ListenUp, Denver
- Steel work: DeVitian Industries, Danny DeVito, Breckenridge
- Front entry Pivot Door: The Pivot Door Company, Colorado Springs
- Glass work: Dunlap Glass, Jeff Hatch, Breckenridge

