

FALL COLOR FOR YOUR GARDEN P. 43

Sunset

Coastal
picks from
SoCal to
Washington

MOONSTONE
BEACH
near Trinidad,
California

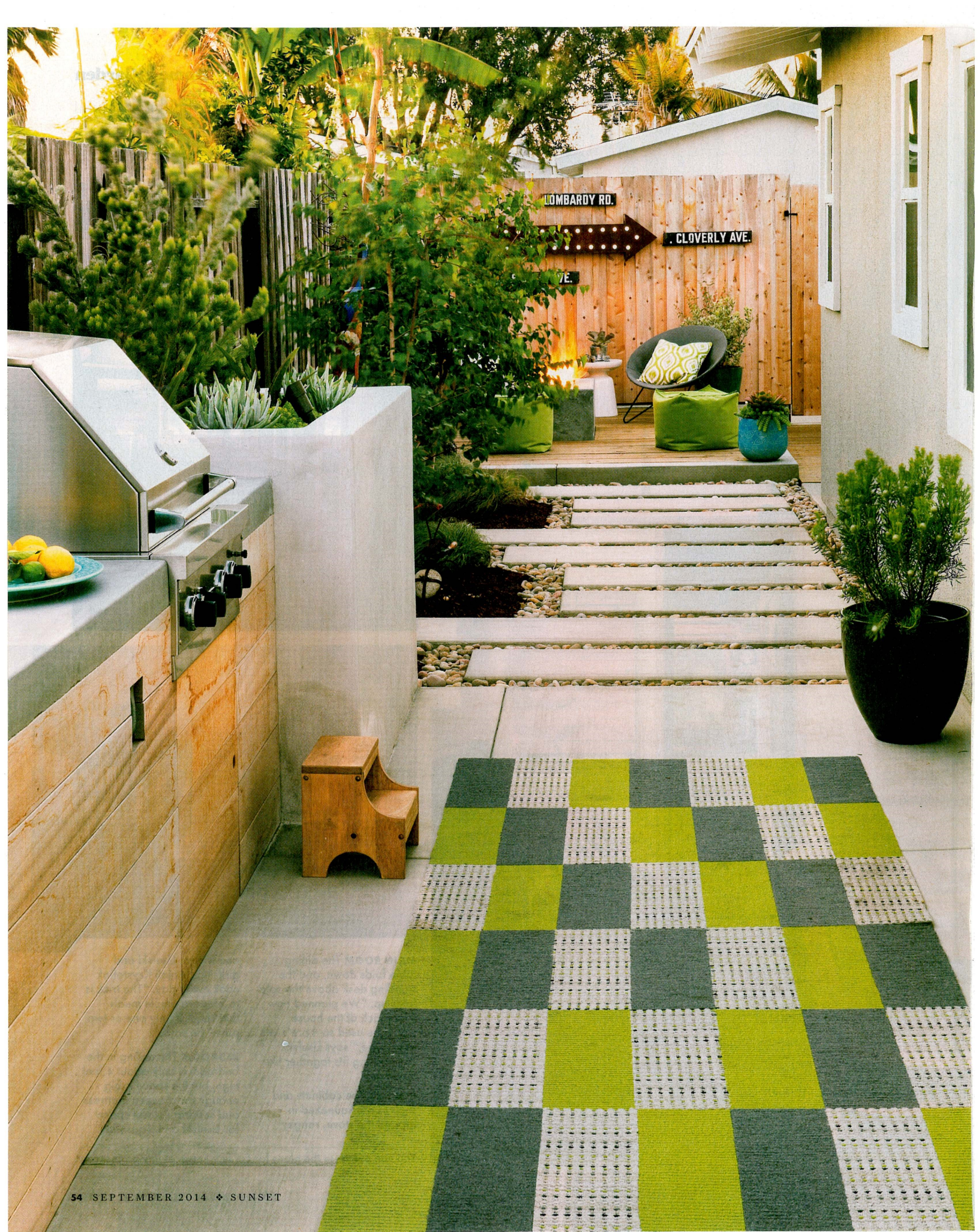
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Small Space
Home Ideas

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WINNER

OUTDOOR
SPACESTRUCTURE
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2

THE OPTICAL ILLUSION

With some clever tricks, landscape designer Chris Oakley and her husband turned their 10-foot-wide yard into a party-ready space that seems much larger than it is.

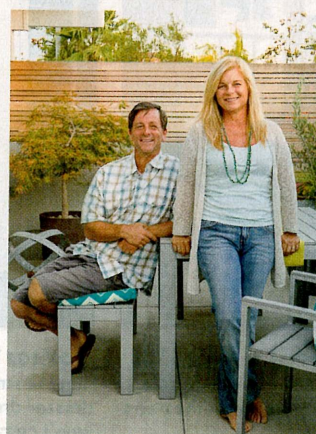
How did you plan your space? First, I wanted places for people to congregate. That would be the entertainment/deck area. Then, I wanted it to look interesting. I used a lot of color and a lot of reclaimed material.

If clients told you they wanted a big grill in their tiny yard, what's the first thing you would tell them? When I meet someone who has limited space and wants a built-in grill, I always plan the grill to one side of the bar. That way, you have a surface for a buffet or drinks. I even hosted a party where I turned the bar into a potting table so guests could take succulents home as gifts.

How did you choose the plants in your yard? I didn't want someone walking through to feel like they were getting eaten by the greenery, so I used low plants like 'Frosty Curls' sedge (*Carex albula*).

What did you do to make your space feel larger? Rather than having a straight line of pavers of all the same size, I used varying lengths. It pulls your eyes away from the house and makes the area seem bigger.

What's the best party you've hosted in the backyard? In December, we decided to create an annual neighborhood cookie and microbrew exchange. We had 12 people total. The men hung out between the table and the fireplace, listening to retro music. The ladies secured spots at the firepit, drinking wine and eating cookies. One of the funniest moments—possibly because of the wine—was when we realized the boys were crawling toward us with Nerf guns in hand. There was laughter, screaming... it was perfect. —As told to Carol Shih

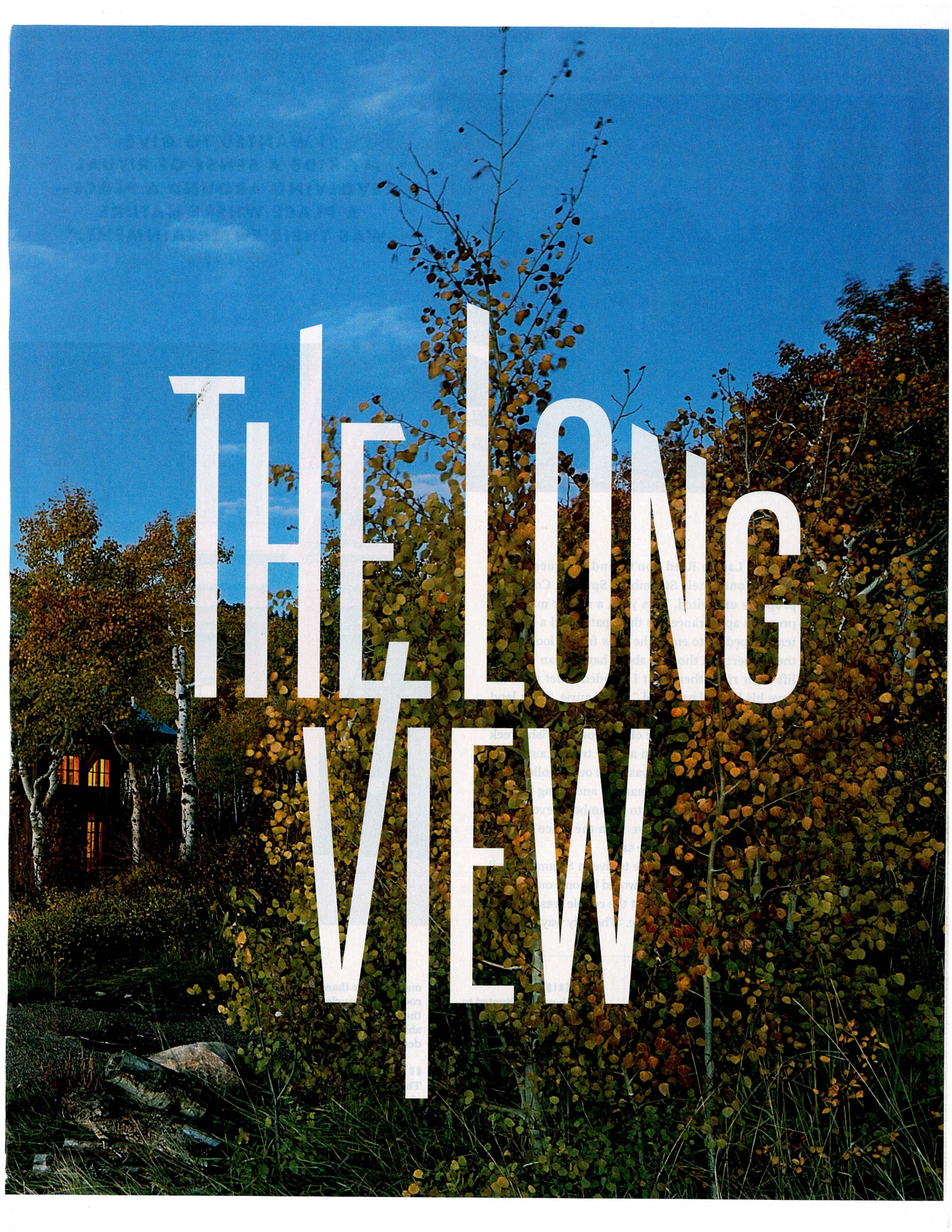


DECK AND DINING To visually expand her 10-foot-narrow deck, Chris and her husband, David, relied on directional art. "The trick is to draw the eye down the length so it hides the lack of width," she says. "That's why there are two metal arrows over the dining area and firepit; they elongate the yard and make it look wider."

One couple built their forever home
on a Colorado hillside—while preserving
the land that drew them there.

BY PAIGE PORTER FISCHER / PHOTOGRAPHS BY THOMAS J. STORY / STYLING BY MICHAEL WALTERS





THE LONG VIEW

**"I WANTED TO GIVE
MY KIDS A SENSE OF RITUAL
REVOLVING AROUND A PLACE—
A PLACE WHERE NATURE
WAS THEIR ENTERTAINMENT."**

—DAVE REED



Dave and Laurie Reed don't mind the guests who wander onto their Steamboat Springs, Colorado, property uninvited. This year, a moose made impromptu appearances on their patio, and a bear often stopped by to enjoy the view from a lookout on the property. "I thought about hanging an old ski-lift chair right there, but I decided to let the bear have his little playground," says Laurie. "This land doesn't really belong to us, if you think about it."

That land is the gently sloping hillside off the road to Fish Creek Falls, a hiking haven blanketed by aspen and fir trees. Laurie discovered Steamboat years ago, when she was fresh out of college and working there as a ski instructor. Later, married and living in Seattle, Laurie and Dave regularly traveled to Steamboat, eventually toting along their two sons. "I fell in love with the place all over again, seeing it through their eyes," Laurie says.

The Reeds decided they'd eventually like to live in Steamboat full time. "It seemed smart to build a home that would become our forever house," says Dave, a software developer. But the couple was troubled by the implications of building a second home. "The only way we could conscientiously do it was to build a house that was environmentally aware."

As they planned the home, a target emerged: to have their electricity use be net zero, meaning the amount of electricity used each year roughly equals the amount of renewable electricity created at the house. Solar panels got the Reeds to the magic number. But Laurie, an architect turned art teacher, didn't stop there. On her list of musts: a metal

EXTERIOR

The house is situated to receive as much sunlight as possible; 16 solar panels along the roofs generate the electricity year-round. Overhanging sections of roof, planted with 20 varieties of sedum, lift the landscape to the rooms upstairs. "It requires more

maintenance than a typical roof," says Laurie. "But there's nothing like being able to walk out and garden right there."

GREAT ROOM

This open-plan space, above and right, is a study in contrasts. Rustic salvaged trestles and

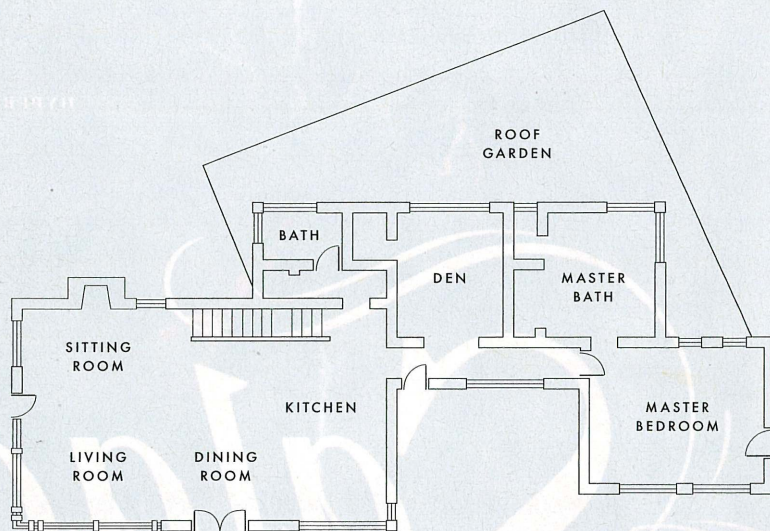
reclaimed wood siding are offset by expanses of glass. Against the stone fireplace surround, which extends all the way up to the second floor, clean-lined furnishings and a globe light fixture keep the space modern. A pair of ski boots serves as art on the mantel.





**"PEOPLE SIT IN THIS ROOM
AND FEEL THEY
ARE ACTUALLY OUTSIDE."**

—LAURIE REED



KITCHEN

"I wanted a kitchen that simply performed its function and didn't draw attention to itself," says Laurie. She originally designed a wooden island for the space, opposite, but the cost was prohibitive. For a tenth of the price, she found this restaurant-style table online, which plays to the industrial touches elsewhere in the house.

DINING ROOM

Laurie and Dave chose their redwood dining table and bench, top left, from Meyer Wells in Seattle, a company that repurposes felled trees as furniture. Also repurposed: the vintage medical cabinet, which they use to store china.

MASTER BEDROOM

High ceilings in the master bedroom, left, made room for a loft, which serves as a quiet home office. The cherrywood of the closet doors was positioned with the grain moving vertically to mimic the upward growth of the trees outside.

roof (to eliminate the pollution an asphalt roof would add); soy and denim insulation; and reclaimed materials, inside and out.

Project designer Jeff Gerber's challenge was fashioning the home's intricate post-and-beam structure, fitting together the massive trestles (salvaged from Utah's Great Salt Lake) with expanses of glass. During the process, a surprise storm dropped 400 inches of snow in Steamboat, filling the not-yet-roofed home. "Our house was like an ice-skating rink," says Laurie. "But the skiing was awesome!"

Eventually, the snow was cleared, the roofs went on, and the house came together. Reclaimed barn siding covers some interior and exterior walls, and stacked stones root the house into the rocky landscape. The furniture is so low profile, you barely notice it. "My philosophy is to let the ingredients in the house be the decoration," says Laurie. "In a setting like this, the house needs to be quiet, and the landscape becomes the real monument." The Reeds even pulled the landscape up on to the house: Along the roofs, carpets of sedum plants replace, in part, the green space that was taken away during building.

That total embrace of the outdoors extends to the family's way of life in Colorado. "We love our house, but we spend as much

time outside as possible," says Laurie. For now, the couple and sons Ben, 14, and Nat, 10, vacation in Steamboat throughout the year, skiing in winter and hiking, kayaking, or bicycling in summer and fall. "After every trip," says Dave, "Laurie and I look at each other and say, 'One of these days, we're going to stay for good.'" **DESIGN** Laurie Reed; Jeff Gerber, Gerber Berend Design Build, Steamboat Springs, CO; gbdesignbuild.com.

