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INTERIOR DESIGN / **THOMAS HAMEL, THOMAS HAMEL & ASSOCIATES**
ARCHITECTURE / **THOMAS CONYERS, THOMAS W. CONYERS, ARCHITECT, AIA**
HOME BUILDER / **DAVE GERBER, GERBER CONSTRUCTION**

GLOBAL APPEAL

WORLDLY DESIGN INFLUENCES UNITE TO CREATE A TELLURIDE COMPOUND'S SINGULAR STYLE.

WRITTEN BY **LINDA HAYES** / PHOTOGRAPHY BY **TREVOR TONDRO**

Over the course of his 20-year professional relationship with an international couple, designer Thomas Hamel has worked on six residences for them in locations ranging from London's Notting Hill district to Vero Beach, Florida. That experience would prove invaluable when a curve was thrown his way for their new vacation home in Telluride.

"They had done a lot of research around the Rockies to decide where the house should be located, and they selected Telluride for its low-key qualities," Hamel says. "Once they purchased the land, they called and asked me to begin discussions of how their house might look. But they didn't want pitched roofs or other clichés of Rocky Mountain homes." That set the designer and the wife on a global search for other types of mountain architecture, including styles found in Lebanon, Morocco and Japan. Finally, Bhutan's dzong fortresses—characterized by their massive masonry walls—struck the right note.

Over time, and with a jangle of architectural input—and an interlude spent coaxing approval from the local design-review board—a single-gable, reclaimed-timber structure, enclosed with steel windows and imposing gray limestone walls, was conceived. "It looks clean and simple, but simplicity is hard to achieve when incorporating all of the systems into a project," says architect Thomas Conyers, who brought the construction plans to fruition with builder Dave Gerber. "The open spans of the house required a large steel frame, into which the mechanical systems, lighting and finishes had to be integrated to maximize ceiling heights and maintain those clean, simple lines." A 3-D model, along with the expertise of mechanical engineer Mark Burggraaff and structural engineer Mike Thele, helped clarify the concept.

Designer Thomas Hamel furnished the entryway of this Telluride home simply, to keep the focus on the dramatic stairwell with gray limestone walls, wood treads and custom metal balusters. A Philip Wolfhagen painting is displayed above a console table that combines a custom tamarisk top from Gregorius Pineo and a makha tree root base by DAO. Hilliard's Thatched Dome pendant hangs over a woven Sardinian rug from the homeowners' collection.

To ensure a proper scale, Thomas Hamel & Associates designed several of the great room's furnishings, including a sofa upholstered with Kerry Joyce's Rigoletto velvet in Sienna Rose. The custom coffee table is by Jean de Merry, and the pair of antique Tibetan monk's trumpet floor lamps are from the Pat McGann Gallery in Los Angeles.

Opposite: "It's all about color and movement," Hamel says of the home's stylish bowling alley. A colorful antique rug from Southeast Asia coordinates with a pair of Gregorius Pineo's Paloma lounge chairs, which are upholstered with Nobilis' Mambo fabric. The carved-wood wall light fixture is from Hermon & Hermon in Melbourne, Australia.

Below: A Macedonian rug from the homeowners' collection dictated the color palette for the master bedroom's sitting area, where a custom Orleans Crescent sofa by Gregorius Pineo and André Arbus Art Deco lounge chairs surround an ottoman from Paul Ferrante. The pair of oval Irish mirrors—and the Georgian console tables beneath them—are antiques.

"WE KNEW THE FURNISHINGS WOULD ALL SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER WHEN THEY WERE ASSEMBLED—AND THEY DID."

–THOMAS HAMEL

Opposite: In the back kitchen, a custom wood-block table by Matt Downer Designs offers a stylish spot for food prep or intimate gatherings. Overhead is Mattaliano's Conique chandelier, and on the wall is one of Andy Warhol's iconic lithographs.

Below: Matt Downer Designs also built the table Thomas Hamel & Associates conceived for the front-of-the-house kitchen; its black leathered-granite top is split into three sections, each delineated by a steel strap detail. A live-edge walnut slab connects the table's two stone-clad legs. Surrounding it, Gervasoni's Gray 26 armchairs have removable covers in two colors: Naturale and Mare. Gregorius Pineo's Soto lantern hangs above.

A pair of custom hardwood front doors open onto the entrance hall, where a wide wood staircase—with walls crafted of the same square-cut gray limestone used for the exterior—leads up to the home's main living spaces. "A great wash of light" shines down and through its metal balustrade, Hamel says, "luring people up one level to the 'wow' views." There, in a great room framed by glass walls on two sides and towering, reclaimed-wood ceilings, the designer's singular sense of space and proportion come into play. "The biggest trick in a room like that is bringing it down to human scale and making it feel comfortable and inviting," he says.

Working with a color palette inspired by the surrounding landscape—the gold of autumn aspens and the "shades of aubergine and cinnabar visible on the mountainsides before they are covered in snow," he describes—Hamel arranged sofas and armchairs upholstered in velvets, wools, linens and leathers around a custom coffee table with a reverse-mirror-painted inset top inspired by the mythological tree of life. An antique French Art Deco-style rug hangs over the monumental stone fireplace, and above it all, pendant lights float like lanterns. "We looked to sculptor Alexander Calder's mobile installations as a way of adding softness and lightness to the fixtures and had them custom-made in Brooklyn," Hamel says. "They looked enormous in the studio but worked beautifully when we installed them."

Just steps from the great room is an entire wing of the home dedicated to what Hamel calls the "front-of-the-house" kitchen, where the wife can cook casually or entertain around a large leathered-granite table with a live-edge timber base. "We chose a table rather than an island and added low chairs so it felt more like a gathering place than a dining area," Hamel explains. A "back kitchen" occupies an adjacent space, and nearby is the formal dining room, where the designer installed a custom extendable table with a mappa-burl veneer top. Rich leather-upholstered walls and a pair of ebonized-metal chandeliers with hand-spun Murano glass shades add to the room's gravitas.

Above: Hamel furnished the media room with Gregorius Pineo's Castellammare lounge chairs, upholstered with Clarence House's textural Poodle fabric, and RH's Fulham leather sofas. The custom rug is from TibetSydney in Sydney, and the lamps are from Reform Gallery in Los Angeles. Thomas Hamel & Associates designed the coffee and side tables.

Opposite: The terrace seating area features a sofa and chair from RH's Marbella Teak collection and Stone Yard's modern Ovoid cocktail table. Sutherland Furniture's Great Lakes extension table and matching chairs form an outdoor dining space.

The master bathroom's floor-to-ceiling window wall creates the feeling of alfresco bathing in a vintage copper tub by Urban Archaeology. The other walls and the floor are clad with two shades of Silver Drop marble, and the custom cabinetry features textural front panels of carved and chiseled crown-cut American walnut.

The cooking spaces reflect the wife's tastes, but Hamel customized the master suite to address the husband's refined sensibilities and love of Georgian antiques. The designer specified limed-oak paneling for the walls, shopped in London for an antique marble fireplace surround and found the antique mahogany four-poster bed in Sydney. He placed a vintage copper tub in the adjacent master bathroom, which connects to a private outdoor terrace via a door in a floor-to-ceiling wall of glass. For the couple and their frequent guests, Hamel furnished an expansive first-floor entertaining space, which includes a posh bowling alley outfitted with Gregorius Pineo lounge chairs and a carved-wood wall sculpture that doubles as a light fixture.

The project, which took more than five years to complete, was so extensive that the team set up a warehouse in nearby Montrose to store all the furnishings Hamel accumulated from around the world. "Lots of conversation and detail went into the selection of every piece in this house," the designer says. "It was a labor of love for the carpenters, craftspeople and engineers. We knew the furnishings would all speak to one another when they were assembled—and they did."

A light-filled guest bedroom features an Anthropologie four-poster bed dressed in linens from Kneedler Fauchère. Thomas Hamel & Associates designed the sofa, which is upholstered with Knoll's Diamond Days fabric in Amethyst; the purple seat fabric is by Harlequin. The woven-rattan armchair is by Mixx Projects. Rose Tarlow's bronze Bird lamp and Ironies' Jaeger chandelier provide illumination.