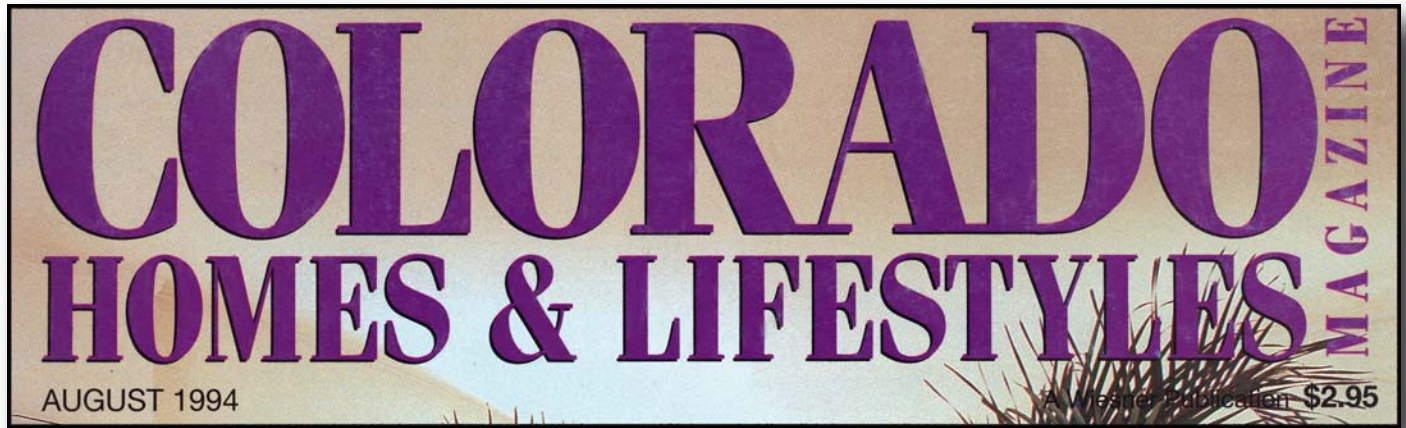


The Contino Residence

featured in:



In Good Company



Home-away-from-home comfort rises to the level of art in this house built for entertaining

1994
Home of the Year
HONOR AWARD



From the ground up, the entire home was designed with visitors in mind. "We have lots of house guests," says Karyn Contino. "We built this house as much for the guests as for us."

But when it comes to making guests feel at home, Sal and Karyn's main resource is plain old personal experience from 14 years spent in Breckenridge. "We lived in lots of different houses, gathering ideas about what makes a house really livable," Karyn says.

In the end, those years of trial and error boiled down to a single criterion: "We wanted comfortable," says Karyn.



Karyn did not want more than three inches of any window covered. She wanted to be able to see out every window, because every window in the house has an incredible view. The home's windows were carefully positioned to take advantage of views of the beaver ponds along Indian Creek, surrounding meadows and forest and the majestic Ten Mile Range. But the same open floor plan that invites easy traffic around the kitchen bar creates a spectacular indoor view as well. The home's main living spaces are separated more often by log railings than walls, "So when you open the front door, you see this incredible panorama of the entire house-or what you think is the entire house,"-a panorama that includes a home office, kitchen, living room, dining room and the mountain range beyond.

And then there's the staircase. One curved log holds up the whole staircase-and the bannister is another single curved log.

Other comfort considerations were more general: rugged stone floors with radiant heating to keep toes toasty on cold mountain mornings.



The kitchen's signature piece is a massive red island, right, which houses custom bins to store fruit the couple uses to prepare fresh juices daily. The rustic piece blends beautifully with custom cabinets of vintage wormwood oak. And guests are welcome to belly up to the Wild West bar, below, complete with saloon-style footrail.

