

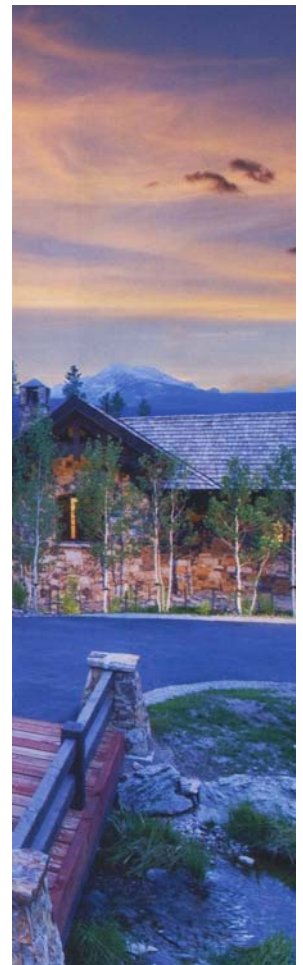
Three Shadows Ranch

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Architect Jon Gunson designed this 8,574-square-foot Silverthorne home to complement the surrounding environment, from its building materials to its interior design and landscaping.

Traversing the Blue River and winding through earthen hues of gold, brown and red, the long entry to the Shapiro home in Pioneer Creek Ranch, north of Silverthorne, introduces visitors to the theme that runs throughout the house: integration and harmony with its surroundings.



MERGING LANDSCAPE with LIFE

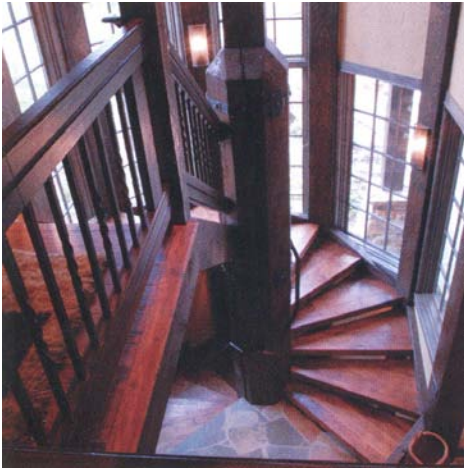
The 8,574-square-foot home, called Three Shadows Ranch, is built on a hillside opposite the Gore Range with Colorado Highway 9 running along the valley floor between. Components of the home stand out along the drive: stone, timber, water, riverbed, and of course, amazing views. Rockridge Building Company project manager says he can see the colors of the seasons in the home, illuminated in the home's timber siding.

"It's a Jon Gunson design," he says, referring to the architect who has been designing homes in Breckenridge for more than 30 years under the company name Custom Mountain Architects. "His designs go into a next level of detail compared to even what would be considered a very prestigious mountain home."

THE HOME IS FULL OF SIMPLE TOUCHES THAT, WHEN PUT TOGETHER, PRESENT AN ELEGANT, BUT LIVABLE SPACE.

Jon Gunson's designs start with long conversations with the owners, and Gunson remains involved throughout the project. In a complicated and detailed design process, that is invaluable.

The home employs 200 custom beams to accent ceilings and create a more intimate feeling in rooms.



One's first introduction is the water feature, over which a car bridge was built. Visitors cross the bridge, park, and then wander over a footbridge to approach the front door. Immediately inside, one is faced with a perfectly-framed view of the Gore Range's jagged peaks.

All the rooms on the west side are meant to capture a different view. It's not a coincidence. It's the way Jon laid the house out.

In the space between the foyer and the well-positioned living area are components of the landscape: dry-stacked stone walls with hand-scraped antique oak flooring and hand-scraped spruce siding topped by distressed Douglas Fir trusses and beams.

In the great room, it's Gunson's design that makes the vast area feel divided into a comfortable, smaller kitchen, breakfast nook, dining room and living area with adjacent wine room and bar. The master bedroom is accessed by crossing another bridge over the water feature and again entertaining dramatic views of the Gore Range.

The downstairs includes two bedrooms and an exercise room, all adjacent to a recreation room that contains a similar picture window framing the outside views - this time including a pond built onto a ledge that blocks the highway below and creates a picturesque view.

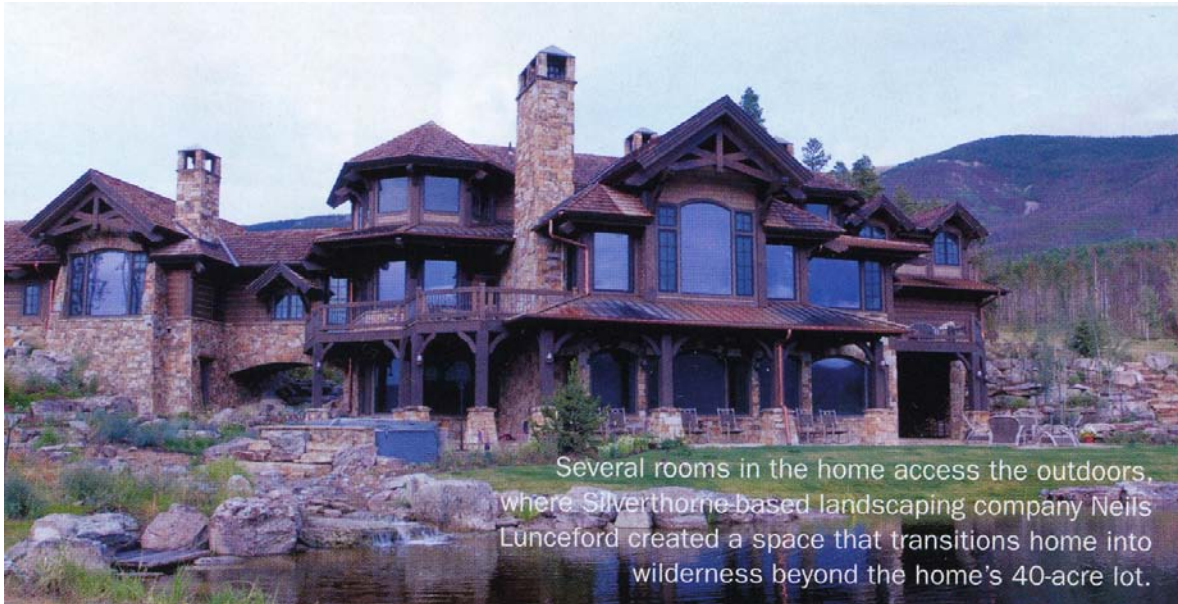
Though there are themes that run throughout the house - stone, siding, flooring, beams and a custom, antique wood stain - the home has several subtle, striking elements that help distinguish room from room.

A 24-inch by 24-inch, 34-foot octagonal beam holds the spiral stair adjacent to the front door.

In the library, a glance upward reveals intricate beam work: The beams run together to form a central point.

Throughout the home, the iron accents are shown off like pieces of art, such as the kitchen's iron hood. A copper trough sink in the kitchen helps bring out a country feeling, while retaining a sense of sophistication.





Several rooms in the home access the outdoors, where Silverthorne-based landscaping company Neils Lunceford created a space that transitions home into wilderness beyond the home's 40-acre lot.

Many houses are very rustic. The other extreme to be very manufactured, modern, clean and sophisticated. This house finds the middle ground.

A hot tub enclosure is positioned alongside a stream, providing a view of the pond and the jagged peaks to the west. The stream element runs from the front of the house to the pond in the rear. Another water feature runs into the pond on the south side of the home, just under the deck, which has the feeling of an outdoor dining room. It includes furniture made to look like aspen timber and an integrated grill cooking space.

Elegant and striking copper gutters, downspouts and flashing brings rustic sophistication from the inside out, as it integrates with the hand-scraped spruce siding and stacked stone used inside the home, as well as the natural-looking cedar shingle siding.

On the deck, the use of flagstone recalls the floor in the recreation room. And, looking up, 75 beams jut out with custom finish designs, supported by numerous custom-cut corbels.



It was more a creative, evolutionary process of making sure every part of every room fit together.



While designing the interior, the owners aimed for a seamless and sophisticated look that gave hints of a ranch feel.