

Cool New
Restaurants

Must-Do,
Trail Runs

Refreshing
Fruit Beers

WINTER PARK

POWER OF DESIGN

*A SNUG GETAWAY
THAT LIVES LARGE*

Plus
Take Me
to The River
*Easy Summer
Raft Trips*

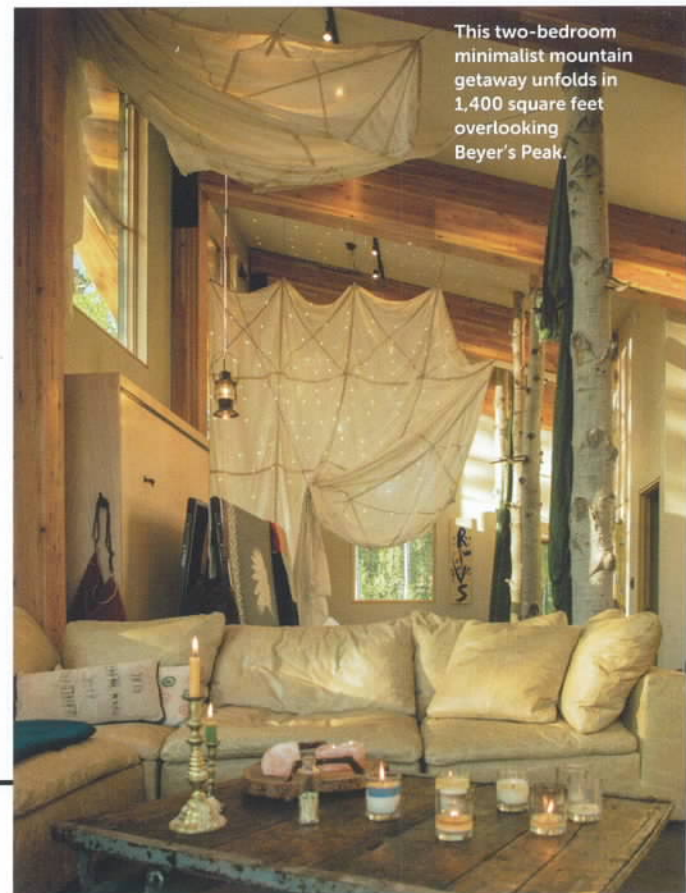




Two yoga instructors with a minimalist bent build a mountain home that's ready to become whatever they need it to be.

Cara McDonald

Photographs by Greg Hoover



This two-bedroom minimalist mountain getaway unfolds in 1,400 square feet overlooking Beyer's Peak.

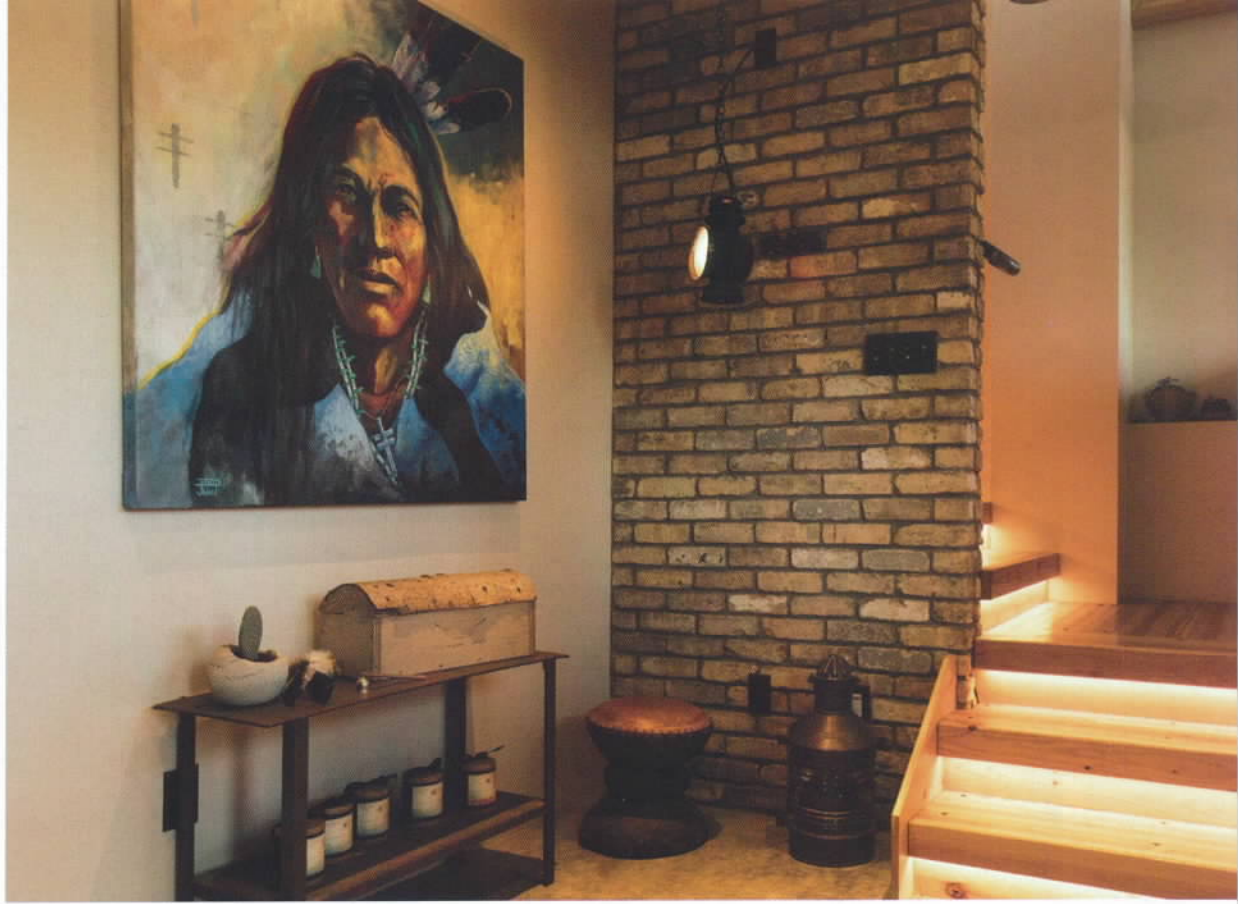
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AKE A SPIN THROUGH THE GRAND County single-family listings on MLS or look at the minimum build requirements in our local neighborhoods and try to find a home under 2,000 square feet. It's not an easy task. So when Kendra Vanderipe and Greg Tiemeier set out to create a minimalist mountain getaway, they decided to start from scratch with their values and vision in tact.

"We're very much minimalists," says Vanderipe. "My belief is that I think we don't 'have' stuff so much as our stuff tends to 'have' us." The pair wanted a flexible space that could be for just them or

hold a family reunion or yoga class, and that flowed into the outdoors.

A parcel in the Winter Park Highlands proved the perfect setting—not just for the inspiring Beyer's Peak views, but for the neighborhood's relatively laid-back home owner's association (i.e. less-restrictive square-footage requirements). The resulting 1,400-square-foot home has simple lines, a one-car garage and only two bedrooms, but comfortably sleeps eight and feels much bigger.



The commercial restaurant equipment was refurbished and can handle cooking for a crowd.



The master bath is partitioned so it can also serve as a public powder room.



The kitchen's center island can be wheeled apart for more space and the wood stove swivels for added flexibility.

Vanderipe, who has a design background, had previously designed her yoga studio in Denver called The River. It's where the couple met when Tiemeier, an attorney, was completing certification as a yoga instructor. "A lot of what I put in that studio we did in the house," she says. The couple tapped Scott Munn of Munn Architecture and Steve Jensen of Mountain Top Builders to see the vision to fruition. Though there was some occasional head scratching regarding their small scale, the team provided down-to-earth counsel and invaluable problem solving, particularly in making the home energy efficient.

They also problem solved for flexibility, such as creating a master bath that's partitioned to allow for it to serve as both a master bath and public powder room. Another fix: Munn found a wood stove for the living area that swivels, so it can be turned to heat whatever area is being used at the moment.

As for the interior, Vanderipe and Tiemeier rolled up their sleeves for much of the work. "Greg and I became an amazing design team," she says. "He built murphy beds, kitchen elements, poured concrete."

The heart of the home is on the second floor, a sunny, windowed living space and open kitchen. The shed roof gives the space an airy feel, while elements such as aspen log supports and recycled military parachutes help define seating areas or sleeping areas—the living room hides two murphy beds that drop down to accommodate guests, and the parachutes tent off the beds in privacy.

The kitchen is an exercise in

utility and creativity. In the sink area, Vanderipe used refurbished restaurant-supply equipment. The stove can cook six pizzas at a go, and a huge steel two-basin sink with a hose makes it easy to wash up after a crowd. "We have a dishwasher, but I don't know why," laughs Vanderipe. "It's fun to do dishes, because the sink has a big window to look out of." Tiemeier used thrift store file cabinets to build the structure of the island, where they store food and dishes. And most of these structures are on wheels, so the kitchen can be wheeled apart for a family reunion, yoga session or whatever the future brings.

Vanderipe is already cooking up plans, including refurbishing an old Airstream to add extra living space, and then maybe building a small log cabin so they can host meditation, yoga and wellness retreats. "We have a big vision and a lot of projects ahead," Vanderipe says. Proof that small spaces can be mighty inspiring. **WP**

