



# THE FAMILY Stone

A DECIDEDLY ASIAN AESTHETIC WELCOMES THREE GENERATIONS  
AT THIS RED MOUNTAIN RETREAT.

BY SUE HOSTETLER PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID O. MARLOW

When touring Pat and John Cooper's spectacular, newly renovated Red Mountain home, an old adage springs to mind: "Where we love is home; home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts."

"Aspen—oh my goodness," begins matriarch Pat when describing the couple's long-standing affection for our little mountain town. "We have been coming to Aspen for 50 years. John's parents had a family home here, and we meet here for holidays and summer vacation. And now we have the third generation coming. It's a gathering place for all friends and family—that was the original love."

Though their main residence is in Bella Vista, a community just north of Bentonville, Arkansas, the Coopers—who develop retirement communities (including Bella Vista)—spend a great deal of

their time in Aspen. After owning several Valley properties through the years, the couple wanted more room and purchased their current home in 2004. Additions had been made to the original structure, built in 1970, by a number of previous owners, resulting in a functionally and architecturally confusing space. A substantial overhaul was required.

Pat, an avid traveler to Asia, was keen on adding an Eastern flair to the property. The couple turned to two locals to tackle the massive renovation: Gretchen Greenwood and Associates, an architecture firm that had remodeled a condominium for the couple, and respected interior designer Lynni Hutton. "Gretchen and I had done several projects together," says Hutton. "I admire her work ethic and sense of interior space and detail.

Pat and I were a good fit from the beginning, and I think we both feel like family now."

Perched high above town, the property was carved out of the stone that gives the remarkable Red Mountain its name and character, and it features panoramic views of all four ski areas. Contractor Ken Garvik was instrumental in the home's transformation, particularly in preserving the natural stone, while Greenwood and the Coopers completely rescripted the design of the home. "By reorganizing the floor plan and circulation inside and outside, and redoing the structural elements, windows and open walls, the building was transformed into a calmer yet more dramatic contemporary residence," explains Greenwood. Posts and beams were removed, and the interior was modified to create an open space infused



OPPOSITE PAGE: Pat and John Cooper's Red Mountain home; THIS PAGE: Glass walls showcase the breathtaking views.

PEAK IN + OUT AT HOME



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The living room is anchored by a massive stone fireplace; Asian-inspired pieces are thoughtfully placed throughout the house; Multiple seating areas in the kitchen give it a social feel; Pat Cooper



with light. “John worked with Gretchen and really drove the structural renovation,” says Pat. Sliding glass doors were added, bringing the cinematic view inside.

The home’s exterior is wrapped in a multi-level flagstone terrace, which provides a blissful entertainment space in the alpine setting. The amount of steel needed to support the decks was so great that construction ground to a halt when the Coopers couldn’t receive their massive order on time (everything of that size was reportedly going to China to build infrastructure for the 2008 Summer Olympics).

The new floor plan allows the grand, 13,000-square-foot, eight-bedroom home to feel more

intimate and cozy. Public rooms, including the kitchen, various seating areas and the dining room, are all on the south- and east-facing entry level. The master suite and several guest rooms are located on the other side of the residence, staggered along a hallway to the top floor. The lower level is dedicated to leisure activities, with a bar and billiards area, TV lounge and two more guest rooms. An elevator connects the three levels, concealed behind a wall covered with an oversize photograph of a 19th-century geisha; produced by the Maya Romanoff company, the blown-up reproduction is finished with tiny glass beads on the surface and adds a dash of bling to the otherwise understated surroundings. Another striking

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBIN PROCTOR (PAT COOPER)

## PEAK IN + OUT AT HOME

architectural detail: the immense pivoting door (that appears as a Shoji screen) to the stone-covered wine cellar.

There is an authentic Colorado ambience to the home, in both the purity of its design and its native organic materials. “We used all local people,” adds Pat. Handiwork by the stonemason and master carpenter is evident in the walnut floors and walls, the serene bronze and patinaed copper waterfall in the dining room and the divine, double-height stone fireplace that anchors the living room,

The pièce de résistance, however, is the home’s décor, which embodies effortless chic with the finest couture furnishings. The luxurious appointments are leavened with that singular comfortable and inviting Aspen vibe. “I tried to incorporate a palette that was for all seasons,” Hutton says. “I used a lot of textural neutrals with some sumptu-

ANOTHER STRIKING ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL: THE IMMENSE PIVOTING DOOR (THAT APPEARS AS A SHOJI SCREEN) TO THE STONE-COVERED WINE CELLAR.

ous hand-worked textiles for accents that took in the seasonal change of colors in the natural landscape.” The Coopers traveled to Los Angeles on extensive buying trips with Hutton, who was responsible for many of the interior furnishings, finishes, lighting and art. Hutton’s refined vision and attention to detail is evident in the pair of antique panels that adorn the interior cab of the elevator, underlining the home’s Asian aesthetic. The designer maintains, though, that the project “was a true collaboration. John, Pat and I spent many, many hours together working on this home.”

After getting to know the charming, seemingly ageless Coopers, it’s not surprising that the residence mirrors its owners—warm, contemporary and private. “Aspen and this home are our respite,” says Pat. “We have been very blessed.” **AP**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The home’s serene entryway; a bar and billiards area take center stage in the lower level; a glass-beaded photograph of a 19th-century geisha cleverly conceals the elevator; an understated yet elegant bedroom; the master bath





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:  
 A bar and billiards area take center stage in the lower level; A glass-beaded photograph of a 19th-century geisha cleverly conceals the elevator; The understated yet elegant master suite; Entryway to the house; The master bath



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBIN PROCTOR (GEISHA)