

PEAK IN + OUT



Chic Retreat

Aspen homeowner Jamie Tisch designs a mountain interpretation of a modern family sanctuary.

BY SUE HOSTETLER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT MILLMAN

Few things in life remain the same, so we tend to treasure those that endure, such as the beauty and spirit of a beloved mountain town or a great friendship....





Rich textures and fabrics liven the living room.



Jamie Tisch with her children, Zachary, Holden and Elizabeth, in their favorite gathering space, the kitchen

Jamie Tisch is lucky enough to have both in her life: a long-term affection for Aspen and a close friendship with business partner and fellow Hollywood mom Elizabeth Wiatt. “Elizabeth and I have been friends since we both moved to LA in the early ’90s,” Tisch recalls. “We met through our boyfriends and hit it off immediately. We had a lot in common, including our love of Aspen.” (Both women went on to marry said boyfriends: Jamie to successful film producer Steve Tisch and Elizabeth to former William Morris honcho Jim Wiatt.)

Last year the duo opened Fashionology, an interactive fashion design boutique in Beverly Hills with an online store, aimed at aspiring tween clothing designers. Shoppers can design their own garments (think hoodies, tanks and fleece pants) by using touch screens to customize and embellish threads with cool accents such as blingy charms, rhinestones and graphics.

Tisch fell in love with Aspen in the ’90s, when she spent a couple of ski seasons here after graduating from the University of Alabama. After marrying, she and her now ex-husband rented during the summers while searching for their own perfect mountain retreat. “I knew that I wanted to be in town for convenience,” she says, citing the importance of freedom and safety for her three young children to cruise around on their own. In the spring of 2002 the couple found

an idyllic property—though in disrepair—and set about transforming the house into a comfortable and fresh family home. Her ambitious goal was to renovate and move in by early summer, so within days of closing she brought in the big guns: respected local architect Bill Poss and contractor Marty Schlumberger. “The three of us worked for endless hours over a few days and immediately began to execute,” says Tisch. Poss self-deprecatingly adds, “When you’re working with a client that has great taste, innate direction and knows what she wants, it’s easy to get things done quickly.”

Tisch, who could feasibly hire any interior designer in the world, chose instead to trust her own instincts, which enabled her to expedite decisions and move things along at lightning speed. She ordered tile, marble, the sleek stainless steel Boffi kitchen and bathrooms, Poliform closets and walnut for the hardwood floors. The final product is visually sophisticated yet relaxed; it authentically embodies that simple, elegant Aspen aesthetic. Rich fabrics and textures utilize a neutral palette of taupe, chocolate brown and slate gray, layering the space and echoing the glorious natural surroundings. “I knew that I wanted a contemporary home,” Tisch describes, “but I didn’t want it to feel like a Soho loft displaced in the mountains. I wanted it to have a calm feeling.”



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP BELOW: The home exudes an effortless chic, evident in a stylish sitting room; a world-class contemporary-art collection complements the interiors, including Adam Fuss' *For Allegra* (MIDDLE), from Aspen's Baldwin Gallery, and a Jeff Koons (ON TABLE); Lucite backlit mirrors take center stage in the master bath. OPPOSITE PAGE: Art by Robert Mapplethorpe and a warm palette of taupe, chocolate brown, black and slate gray offer tranquil respite in the master bedroom.



And it certainly does. An immediate sense of freedom and leisure can be felt when walking through the front door; though super luxe, this is clearly a home serious about kids, fun and mountain activities—a perfect interpretation of a modern family sanctuary. Just like Tisch, the home exudes an effortless chic.

Tisch combed her favorite dealers, galleries and design stores—places such as Paris Underground Antiques here in Aspen and the Marchè aux puces in Paris—for the perfect mix of gracious furnishings. Highlights include a low-slung stone and metal Prouvé table in the living room and a pair of vintage Lucite backlit mirrors in the master bath. A burst of color and whimsy play up the girls' bedroom, with a pink wall the shade of a luscious Ladurée macaroon, *bien sûr*. A cohesive collection of thoughtfully selected, world-class contemporary art is sprinkled throughout the multilevel space to complement the interior design. Two of her favorite pieces are

a Robert Mapplethorpe leaf photograph from the Baldwin Gallery and a Starn brothers' Buddha, in the media room.

For a woman who has spent the past decade dedicated to raising three children (Elizabeth, 11, and twins Holden and Zachary, 9) and tirelessly fundraising for charitable causes like the Women's Cancer Research Fund, this might just be Tisch's time to professionally shine. One can almost hear the faint strains of Aretha Franklin singing "Sisters Are Doing It for Themselves" when chatting with Tisch. Like good friend Tory Burch, Tisch and other high-profile women are redefining life after divorce. No longer content with being stay-at-home moms or charity benefit staples, they are parlaying their well-heeled style and fashion acumen into serious business.

Tisch's and Wiatt's daughters, who love to sew, inspired Fashionology. "We thought it would be fun to create something that we could enjoy with them," says Tisch. Fashionology.com, the

company's website, has recently been upgraded and is the first immersive, experiential online store where children can design and make their own clothes. "It's tween fashion's answer to user-generated content," Tisch adds, sounding like a seasoned digital media entrepreneur (the duo also cleverly integrated fashionology.com with social networking sites like Twitter).

As the business grows—plans are already underway for rapid nationwide expansion—Tisch escapes to Aspen to recharge with family and friends. "My favorite thing about Aspen is the variety that it offers," says Tisch. "Whether it's people or activities, you won't run out of interesting characters to meet or fun things to do. I especially enjoy having people over for dinner. My kids love to help me prepare. Our concoctions are not always edible, but we always have fun," she laughs. If, as they say, every home tells a story, then this one is about friendship, joy and style. And most importantly, it has a happy ending. 🌿

