



# TELLURIDE



Left: A dry-stacked stairway ascends to a bowed deck and recycled Douglas fir scissor trusses. Above: The split-level design allows for continuous views of surrounding peaks.

**J**ust off the edge of Telluride’s Sundance ski trail, 10 ski-boot-friendly steps wind through the trees. A skilled snow-slider could ski down them—and thus “ski in” to this Mountain Village residence—but a home like this should be approached more elegantly.

While slopeside from the back, the home’s steep lot and stunning views give it a decidedly more *mountainside* appearance from the streetside facade. That’s what attracted both the homeowner, Stewart Seeligson, and the architect, Gerald Ross, principal of G.R. Design Group, Architects, to build here. “Stewart knew the lot was steep,” Ross says, “and he wanted the house as high as he could get it for the views. Fortunately, the site location for a difficult lot is easy. Limitations by the site constraints dictate what is possible, and then I design accordingly. I picked up this concept while working with Edgar.” (Ross is referring to Edgar Tafel, who was Frank Lloyd Wright’s project architect and for whom Ross was a designer in New York City for three years. Wright was known for choosing geographically challenging sites.)

Ross used multiple split-levels, “as much window space as the design board would let us get away with,” and an open floor plan to leverage the site’s steepness into stunning views from nearly every room in the house. The dining room, living room, kitchen and entryway are all part of one split-level space, and recycled Doug Fir scissor trusses further dramatize the already jaw-dropping views of Mt. Emma, Dallas and Campbell Peaks.

The exterior materials of Telluride Gold (a stone indigenous to the area) and vertical rough-cut cedar siding combine with alder interior flooring to create the rustic elements of the home’s rustic-contemporary style. The contemporary is achieved by Ross’ combination of a large rounded deck at the home’s front and a contrasting yet congruent assembly of proportion and scaled geometry.

It all amounts to a unique home that maintains what Ross calls his signature: “We always design according to view,” he says. “And capture the most sunlight; it is so important to the human psyche.”

INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY WHIT RICHARDSON

PHOTO TOP LEFT GERALD ROSS

