

WESTERN Interiors

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Slifer Designs wanted to maintain the rustic roots of a Colorado condominium but modernize the overall feel of the home. In the living area, smaller, patterned furniture was traded for larger, softer pieces covered with lush fabrics. American Clay in Borrego Tan was used on the walls to create warmth.

BEFORE
AND AFTER



Style Update

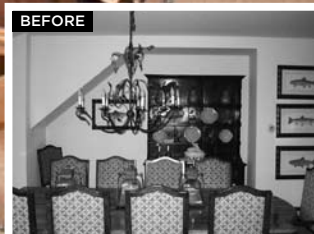
SLIFER DESIGNS gives a condominium in Bachelor Gulch, Colorado, an infusion of contemporary mountain spirit without losing the natural textures of the West

photography by TIM MURPHY
text by JENNIFER QUAIL

**BEFORE
AND AFTER**



left The addition of hanging pendant lights from Oggetti and accent lights built into recycled-wood crown molding brightens the windowless kitchen, as does the lighter-colored cabinetry from Genesis Innovations. Bar stools by John Hutton for Holly Hunt add glamour to the room. **below left** A dramatic multi-tiered horn chandelier from Ironies replaced a dated fixture. The custom dining table from Hudson Furniture is surrounded by chairs from Alfonso Marina and John Hutton for Holly Hunt.



“OUR GOAL WAS TO BREAK FROM TYPICAL MOUNTAIN DESIGN,” says Slifer Designs’ Tom Counter of a penthouse condominium he redesigned for a couple in Bachelor Gulch, Colorado. The interior architect says the home had great potential but was in need of softer lines and a better use of space. Without losing sight of the location, Counter and his colleagues updated the look and feel of the rooms and transformed the more traditional interior into one that was “eclectic, modern and sophisticated.” Throughout the space, natural materials that echo the mountainous exterior environment mix with contemporary elements, found items and the recycled materials Counter likes to use because they “have character the newer materials don’t.”

Counter began by reconfiguring the condominium’s main staircase, originally visible immediately upon coming in. The design team turned the staircase ninety degrees, creating a landing and “making the entry a very special place to arrive,” says Counter. The entry walls were then clad with local moss rock to mirror the existing fireplace. “The stonework is one of the things people expect in the mountains, even if you’re working on a contemporary design.”

Though he maintained the moss rock facade of the living room fireplace, Counter updated its look with a contemporary mantel and custom fireplace doors. Smaller, patterned pieces of furniture were replaced by Holly Hunt sofas upholstered in silk from Nancy Corzine and Formations ottomans covered in Holland & Sherry cashmere.

In the dining room, Counter was challenged by an off-center exterior window that was unbalancing the room. “We had to ask ourselves, What can we do to the interior to make the window feel more centered?” he says. Counter created a sense of alignment among the dining table, chandelier and window. “We couldn’t be exactly symmetrical,” he says, “but we tried



top In the master bedroom, fabrics from Le Crin, Creations Metaphores and Ann Gish create a luxurious setting.

below The tub area in the master bath took on a spa-like quality with a waterfall set amid a river stone backsplash from Ann Sacks.



to make the window look as though it really belonged where it was." An outdated chandelier and patterned chairs were traded for a multi-tiered horn chandelier from Ironies, a custom dining table from Hudson Furniture and lush fabrics from Great Plains, Castel and Donghia.

The kitchen needed a brighter palette and lighting tailored to overcome its lack of windows. Counter added accent lights built into new recycled-wood crown molding. The accent lights shine directly onto the new lighter-finished, glass-fronted cabinets. "We paid very close attention to lighting," he says. "We get a lot of sunshine, but we get very short days in midwinter." Cooler materials like a poured-concrete countertop and black granite farmhouse sink are warmed by barstools upholstered in creamy fabric from Pollack and pendant lamps in sunset hues from Oggetti.

In the master suite, soothing brown and blue tones complement the rich cherrywood of the antique sleigh bed from Tara Shaw Antiques. Luxury was the key for the room's fabrics—draperies from Le Crin and a coverlet from Ann Gish among the opulent yet soft touches.

The master bath was transformed into a virtual spa, complete with waterfall and adjustable colored lights. The river stones in the dramatic Ann Sacks backsplash in the tub area are mimicked by the very shape of the room, with the shower seat, tub deck and vanity countertop, all from Decorative Materials, forming one smoothly flowing line.

Counter says the interior updates have made the home feel more complete. "The space had a very unfinished feeling to it before," he notes. "The lines were harsh and disturbing, but we turned them into very positive shapes. We had a good opportunity here to do things better." +

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S L I F E R D E S I G N S



216 Main Street
Suite C-100
Edwards, Colorado 81632
970-926-8200
info@sliferdesigns.com
sliferdesigns.com