

A photograph of a modern kitchen interior. In the foreground, a large, light-colored wooden island with a thick, light-colored marble countertop is prominent. A clear glass vase filled with water and a bouquet of yellow and white flowers sits on the island. Behind the island, the kitchen features a light-colored marble backsplash and a stainless steel sink with a modern faucet. Above the backsplash, there are two open wooden shelves holding various dishes, including blue and white mugs and white plates. To the left, a stainless steel oven and a range hood are visible. The kitchen cabinets are a light, neutral color. The floor is made of dark wood.

1,555 square foot CONDO

ONE OF VAIL'S ORIGINAL
CONDO UNITS FAST-
FORWARDS INTO THE 21ST
CENTURY, TRADING ITS
CRAMPED, GREEN-
CARPET-CLAD ROOMS
FOR BRIGHT OPEN
SPACES THAT MAXIMIZE
SPACE—AND STYLE



The kitchen serves as the central hub of this family retreat. Gray lacquered cabinets, a Carrara marble countertop and a movable, raw wood dining table create a stylish study in contrasts. The vintage “Les Arc” chairs by Charlotte Perriand were designed for the Les Arcs ski area in France in 1970. Open shelving—practical for a casual kitchen—eliminates the need for another set of wall cabinets. With their budget in mind, the homeowners opted for a local custom cabinetmaker over more expensive imports.

STORY BY **KATE BAILEY** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **KIMBERLY GAVIN**



AMERICA'S MOUNTAIN RESORTS HAVE SURE GROWN UP.

In the 1960s and '70s, Vail was a small ski village in the Colorado high country, offering basic amenities and lodging for residents and visitors who came for the snow. Today, it's a four-season playground for the international jet set. Modern creature comforts are now the name of the game, but many of the town's original condominium complexes are still playing catch-up.

That was certainly the case for this 1970s ski condo. When its owners hired architect Mike Foster of Triumph West Development to transform their dim and dated little space, they had a big project—and a golden opportunity—on their hands. “It was a time warp,” Foster

recalls. “It looked like it hadn’t been touched since the day it was built. Not even a wall had been painted.”

But achieving the owners’ vision of a contemporary cabin would require much more than a few cans of paint. “This needed to be a place where the family could spend time together,” explains architect and project interior designer Paola Aboumrad, principal of New York City- and Mexico-based Interiores 0503. Specifically, the 1,555-square-foot unit would have to be reconfigured to accommodate three bedrooms and bathrooms, plus a spacious kitchen and multipurpose living area with plenty of room for playing and socializing. >>

ARCHITECTURE BY TRIUMPH WEST DEVELOPMENT INTERIOR DESIGN BY INTERIORES 0503
CONSTRUCTION BY BECK BUILDING COMPANY



FACING PAGE: In the thoughtfully designed entryway, a simple narrow bench covered with a goat hide provides a cozy spot to take off boots.
THIS PAGE, TOP: The living room's low-profile Flexform sofa leaves plenty of space for an ottoman covered in bright blue cowhide, swiveling television console and B&B Italia chair covered with luxe sheepskin.
THIS PAGE, BOTTOM: Reclaimed wood paneling clads the fireplace wall, providing a rustic counterpoint to the condo's contemporary finishes and furnishings. The leather club chair is from Restoration Hardware.

“THE DETAILS FLOW FROM ROOM TO ROOM, WHICH MAKES IT FEEL LIKE ONE COHESIVE SPACE.”

PAOLA ABOUMRAD



THE DESIGN TEAM BEGAN BY KNOCKING DOWN WALLS AND LETTING NATURAL LIGHT FILTER IN.

“The biggest challenge was carving out a third sleeping area,” Foster recalls. “We had to move a hallway 12 feet to the north, which required removing a column, but that allowed us to create a space for a third bathroom as well.”

Once the bright, open layout was established, it was time to look for space-saving solutions that would maximize the condo’s living area while providing ample room for storage. “Every inch counted,” says Foster, who worked with Forrest Watson of Beck Building Company to create custom details that offer functionality and style, from built-in cabinets in each bedroom to sliding barn-style doors that take the place

of traditional hinged doors.

To update the condo’s outmoded 1970s décor, Aboumrads deftly combined muted gray tones with bright colors, and rustic touches with modern elements. She also relied on a bit of design magic to make the most of the condo’s tiny footprint. “Using similar materials and color throughout the home creates the illusion of more square footage,” she explains. “The details flow from room to room, which makes it feel like one cohesive space.”

Aboumrads’s design decisions were carefully calibrated to produce luxurious yet livable interiors. “I don’t like aggressive spaces,” she says. >>



LEFT: A dark-blue velvet headboard punctuates the master bedroom's palette of gray fabrics and finishes, while a reclaimed wood barn door offers a rugged contrast to the contemporary design scheme. Leather-detailed bookshelves and a simple cotton Madeline Weinrib rug keep the look casual but chic. BELOW: To create enough space for the bathtub, the architect designed a glass wall system that separates the toilet and shower. Gray wood-grain tile offers the look of wood flooring.



"Rooms should be soothing, but also have plenty of character." Nowhere is this style more evident than in the great room, where Aboumrad layered rustic materials, contemporary furnishings and exotic touches to create an effortless look. "The pieces we chose—an Italian blue cowhide ottoman, vintage Moroccan Berber rugs, Madeline Weinrib carpets, a B&B Italia chair covered in lambswool, and custom-made blue lacquered console—are fresh and modern, but still speak to the mountain culture," she says.

To make the most of the condo's "precious inches," Aboumrad opted for European furnishings with scaled-down proportions. "The Flexform sofa in the living room is one of the most comfortable on the market," she says, "but it also has a smaller profile and perfectly fits the space." Clever custom pieces such as the swiveling television console in the middle of the great room and the kitchen's movable dining table also save space without sacrificing style.

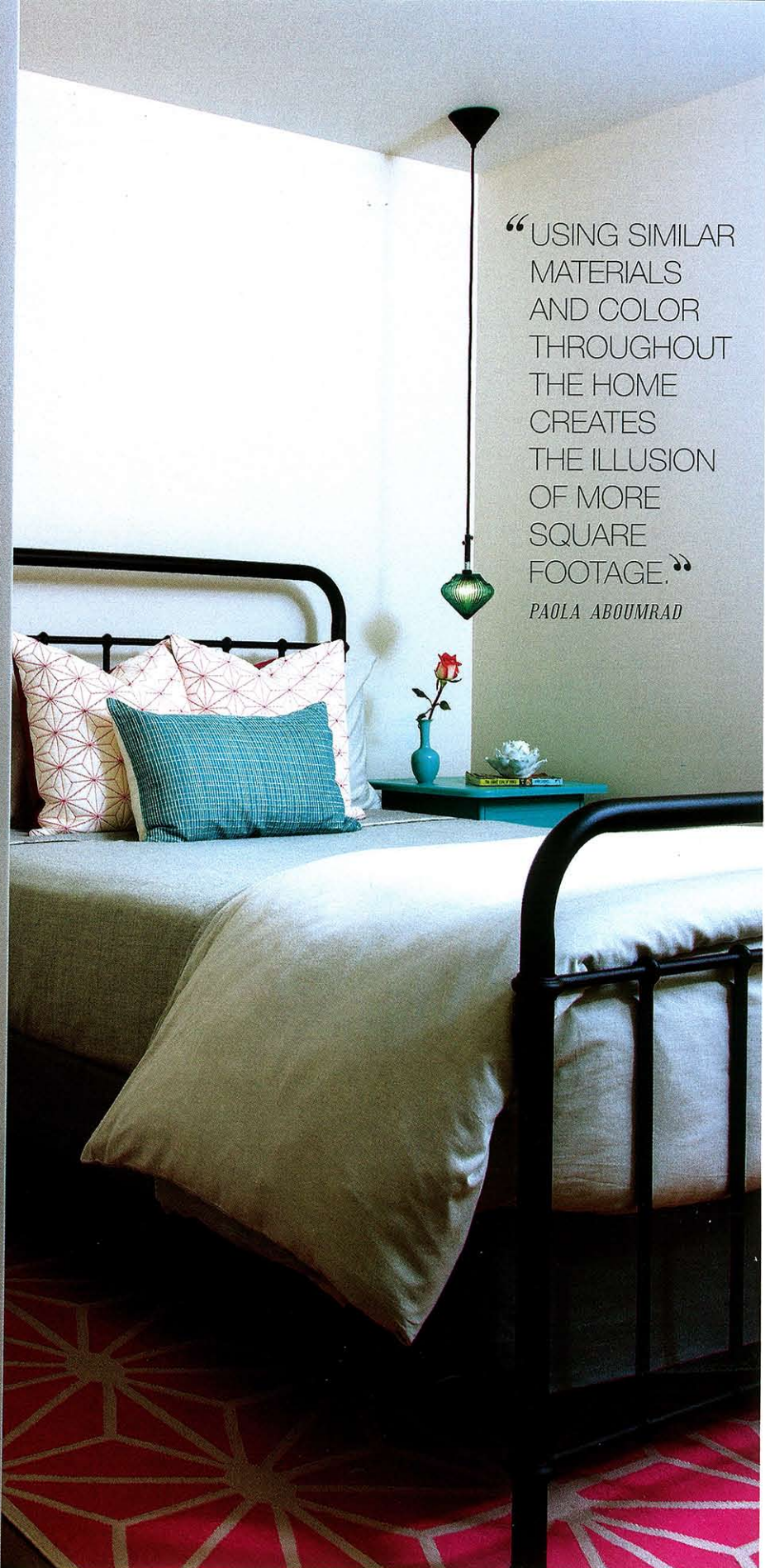
To replace the condo's original hunter-green carpeting and red floor tiles, Aboumrad selected reclaimed wood floors from Austria, artfully stained a gray hue and then textured and conditioned for a beautifully weathered effect. Integrated reclaimed wood paneling, which now clads the fireplace surround and sliding barn doors, provides a rustic contrast to the condo's more contemporary finishes, like the kitchen's Carrara marble countertop, high-gloss cabinetry and brushed-nickel hardware.

Coaxing this high level of design out of a basic, outdated ski condo is a stunning example of what can happen when a skilled design team merges their talents to tackle a challenging project. "Working with Paola was an incredible lesson for us," Watson says of the collaboration. "She presented innovative ideas for materials and architectural elements that we had never seen before. When I stand back and look at it, I'm blown away by the result." ○





FACING PAGE, FROM TOP:
A Laufen vanity in a dark finish adds a layer of subtle texture to the master bathroom. A secret passageway connects a secondary bedroom and bathroom via a built-in closet. "It helped us maximize the space while adding a little playfulness into the design," architect Mike Foster says. RIGHT: "We wanted to make the room very simple and romantic with pops of color," interior designer Paola Aboumrad says of this tiny sleeping nook. A pink Madeline Weinrib rug and Tom Dixon lamp are paired with pale gray bedding and turquoise accents for a feminine yet modern look.



"USING SIMILAR MATERIALS AND COLOR THROUGHOUT THE HOME CREATES THE ILLUSION OF MORE SQUARE FOOTAGE."

PAOLA ABOUMRAD