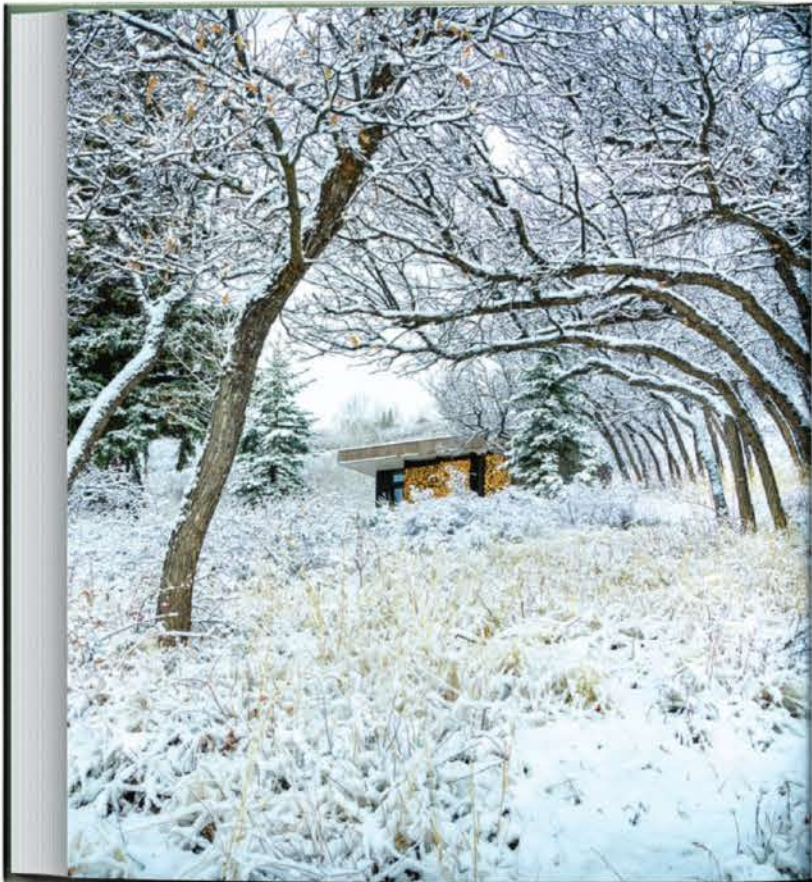


A NEW MONOGRAPH SHOWCASES CCY'S GUIDING
PRINCIPLE: DESIGNING HANDSOME AND RESPONSIBLE
HOMES THAT CONNECT PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Listening to Nature

STORY **IRENE RAWLINGS** PHOTOS **DRAPER WHITE**

Their family's multi-generational retreat near Morgedal, Norway, inspired this home. Vertical weathered-wood siding on the building's skin allows filtered light and gives the home a sculptural quality.



Introduction

This book is a conversation about design and the land. The houses inside these pages and the essays “Uncovering” and “Connecting” illustrate an approach, evolved over our many collective years of working and living in places of natural beauty, that embraces a derivation of modern architecture that is integral to its environment and honestly celebrates its connection to the land.

Our process begins with interviewing each site to uncover attributes which inform a more meaningful architecture and an optimal dialogue between the two, an exercise equal parts digging deep and attentive listening, with the process actively informing the finished work. This ethos reflects both our intention to create highly sophisticated designs, and who we are as a team: approachable, down-to-earth, and appreciative of our environment and community.

We live and practice in the Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado, home to the intellectual and artistic community of Aspen. Drawn to the community’s focus on the pursuit of mind, body, and spirit and the integration of the experience of nature, we strive to find architectural solutions reflective of that equilibrium; we place a high value on the irreplaceable physicality of each site, the visions of each client, and the combination of those to create the spirit of each place. The rigorous pursuit of design in a retreat-like natural setting encourages, for us, an invigorating and inspiring exploration of an alternative expression of contemporary architecture.

In addition to our residential work, our practice includes hotels, new communities, and one-of-a-kind commissions in places as scattered as New England, the Mongolian foothills, the California desert, and the Caribbean islands. Regardless of project or location, the process of uncovering and connecting is a constant. Sharpened by different ecologies and cultures, it is the foundation for architecture that creates more connection to place and, through that, a richer human experience.

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Colorado’s Roaring Fork Valley, framed by a row of the state’s famed fourteeners and bisected by the powerful Roaring Fork River, is home to CCY. The Basalt-based architectural firm, founded in 1971, is celebrating its 50th year. In the past half-century, the firm has expanded from just four architects to 40 employees—but the firm’s collaborative method of working out solutions to architectural challenges remains the same.

We caught up with early principals John Cottle and Rich Carr, and two of the firm’s more recent principals,

Todd Kennedy and Alex Klumb, in CCY’s contemporary open-plan offices. There are no private offices—even for the partners. “We work side by side, partners and interns alike,” says Carr. “We gather the opinions of others in >>

*The landscape of the American West is diverse and powerful. The projects in the book **Connection: CCY Architects** all began with a reverence of place. Expansive views of distant mountains are balanced with purposefully intimate spaces, creating pause and allowing the setting to be experienced in a new way.*

PHOTO COURTESY CCY ARCHITECTS/MONACELLI PRESS



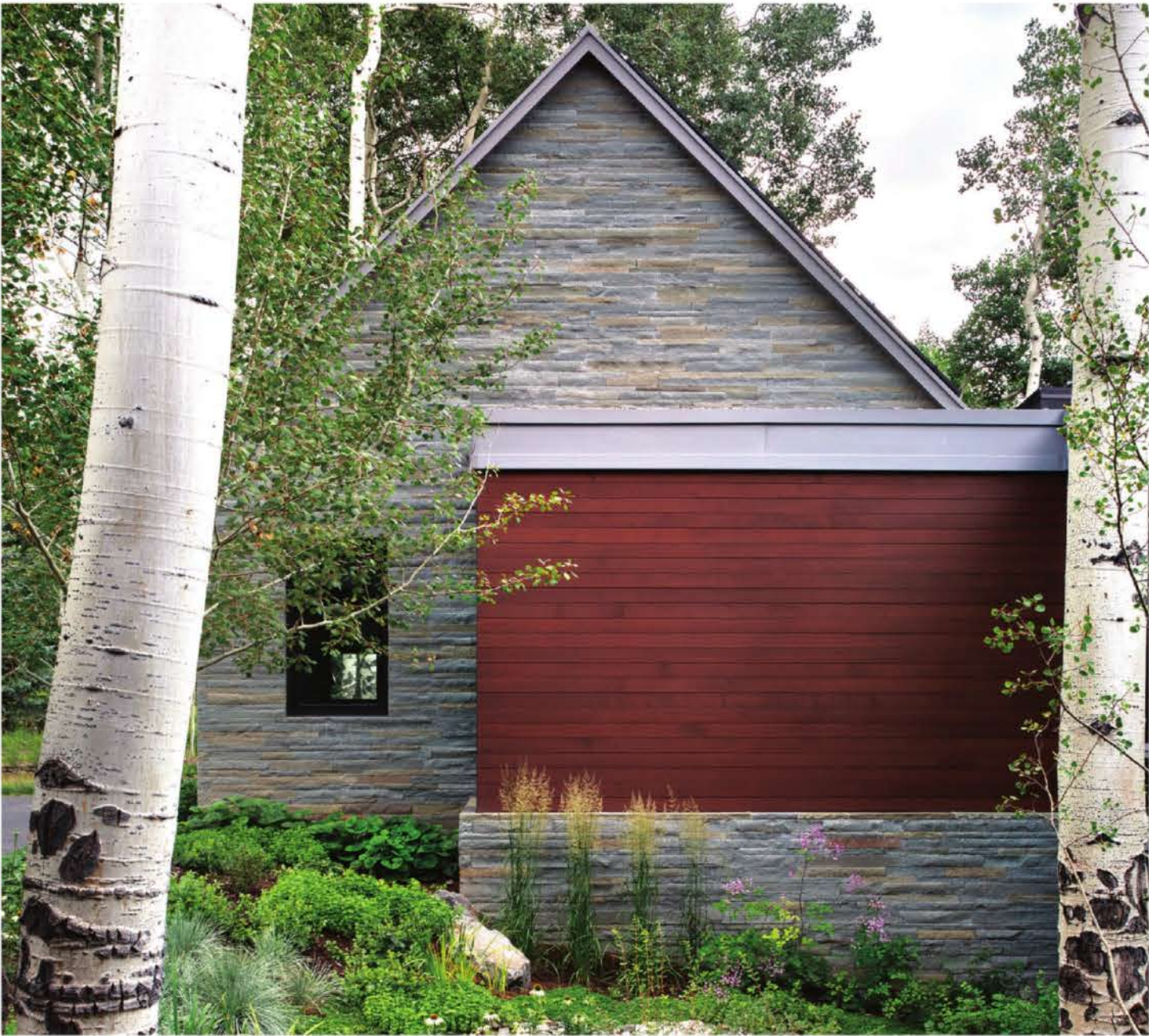
The homeowners wanted a sophisticated, single-level home that would allow them to enjoy indoor-outdoor living. The plan features separate pavilions that follow the site’s curving topography . >>

the office ... bounce ideas off each other and learn from each other.”

Although most of the firm’s residential and commercial projects are in the Rocky Mountain West, they work all over the U.S. and world, including China, Mexico and the Caribbean. Ten of CCY’s award-winning residential projects are showcased in *Connection: CCY Architects*, a 300-plus-pages coffee table book. The book includes

two chapters on the firm’s design approach, with sketches and architectural drawings that enhance the beautiful photography (\$60, Monacelli Press). >>

Stone, steel, glass and wood are the defining elements of this thoroughly modern home, designed specifically to preserve the beautiful, mature aspen grove on the site. A gable roof speaks to one of the community’s more traditional design requirements.



“Design enhances or creates place. We are good listeners, so for a residence in a natural landscape, for instance, we listen to our clients and to the natural aspects of the site.”



The office, seen from ranch road.

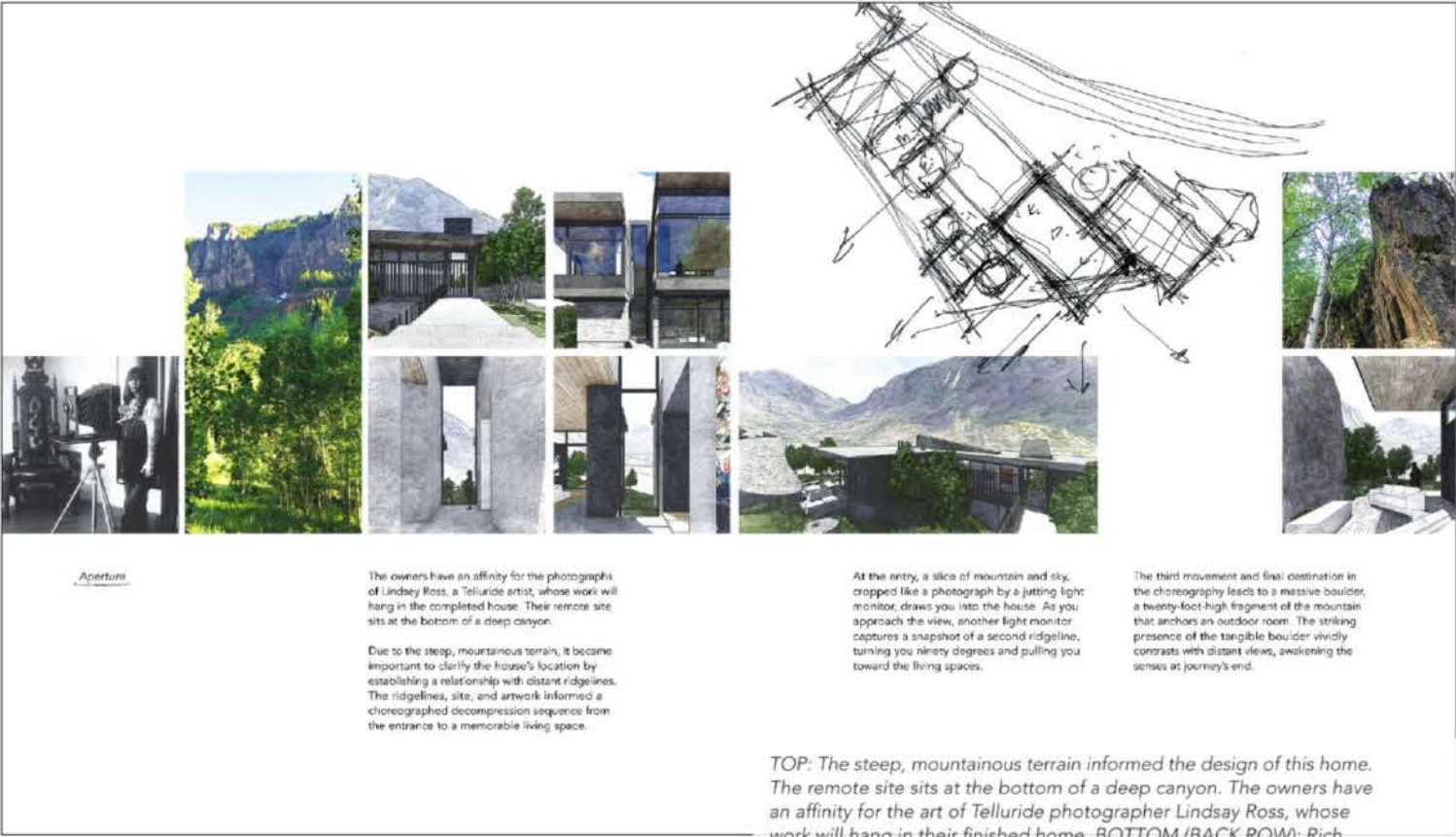
HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE INTERACTION BETWEEN DESIGN AND PLACE?

RICH CARR: Design enhances or creates place. We are good listeners, so for a residence in a natural landscape, for instance, we listen to our clients and to the natural aspects of the site.

ALEX KLUMB: Each solution is 100-percent unique because it is so thoroughly informed by the place. The

Aperture house (page 182) was challenging because the site was steep with a massive (20-foot-high) boulder sitting in the middle of the building envelope. (Spoiler alert: The boulder was incorporated into the design of the home.) >>

LEFT: The building site is a meadow that was part of a working ranch. Below it, a small river can be heard but not seen. The owners wanted the house to appear as small as possible. **RIGHT:** The ranch office, seen from the road.



The owners have an affinity for the photographs of Lindsey Ross, a Telluride artist, whose work will hang in the completed house. Their remote site sits at the bottom of a deep canyon.

Due to the steep, mountainous terrain, it became important to clarify the house's location by establishing a relationship with distant ridgelines. The ridgelines, site, and artwork informed a choreographed decompression sequence from the entrance to a memorable living space.

At the entry, a slice of mountain and sky, cropped like a photograph by a jutting light monitor, draws you into the house. As you approach the view, another light monitor captures a snapshot of a second ridgeline, turning you ninety degrees and pulling you toward the living spaces.

The third movement and final destination in the choreography leads to a massive boulder, a twenty-foot-high fragment of the mountain that anchors an outdoor room. The striking presence of the tangible boulder vividly contrasts with distant views, awakening the senses at journey's end.

TOP: The steep, mountainous terrain informed the design of this home. The remote site sits at the bottom of a deep canyon. The owners have an affinity for the art of Telluride photographer Lindsay Ross, whose work will hang in their finished home. BOTTOM (BACK ROW): Rich Carr, Alex Klumb, (FRONT ROW): Todd Kennedy, John Cottle. >>



YOUR BOOK TALKS ABOUT "INTERVIEWING THE SITE." COULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS PROCESS?

TODD KENNEDY: It comes down to spending time on the property and really digging deep ... to see how the land changes from day to day and from season to season ... where the sun comes up in the morning [and] how it might light up a hillside in the evening.

JOHN COTTLE: Just to add a little—when we were designing the Meadow house (page 128), the architectural solution was not readily apparent. There were big views, but as we walked the land, we could hear a nearby river. It was a magical moment and helped us create a truly unique solution.

WHAT IS CCY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE?

JOHN COTTLE: We will continue to raise the bar. Our firm had a focus on sustainability even back in the 1970s. Now, it is even more important to embrace smart design that is energy efficient, sustainable and generational ... enriching, durable and responsible homes that can be handed down to the children and grandchildren. ☺

The homeowners purchased an 1880s Victorian because of its proximity to the Aspen Music Festival site. The perforated aluminum siding (inspired by player-piano rolls) allows filtered light during the day. At night, the home glows like a lantern.

ccyarchitects.com



MOUNTAIN LIVING

HOLIDAY
HOMES,
MOUNTAIN
STYLE

BEHIND
THE TRAIL
MAPS

HOME
OF THE
YEAR

SUSTAINABLE ASPEN LUXE