

GETTING CERTIFIED

2 ECO-FRIENDLY INSULSTAR INSULATION from NCFI and installed by InsulVail (insulvail.com) is a closed-cell, spray-in-place polyurethane insulation system that is made from renewable agricultural resources and uses an eco-friendly blowing agent with zero ozone-depletion potential. With a high R-value—R-6.4 per inch—it saves an estimated 40% on energy bills. insulstar.com

3 A 7-kW PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM designed by Conundrum Energy satisfies approximately 50% of the home's energy requirements while it is occupied. Multiple photovoltaic panels are attached to the sunny south side of the home; the roof angles were carefully designed to maximize the collection of solar rays. conundrumenergy.com

4 RESCUED SANDSTONE, mined from an area surrounding the Telluride airport that would have been blasted and hauled away to the landfill in order to expand the safety area around the runways, was harvested by Telluride Stone and used as landscaping boulders and masonry stone, which helps to cool the house during the day and retain its heat at night. telluridestone.com

6 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ENVIRO STAIN by Sansin protects the exterior logs without the use of harsh or flammable solvents. Its one-coat formula repels condensed water while allowing water vapor to escape. By allowing the wood to “breathe” naturally, the stain prevents moisture from getting trapped inside the logs and causing decay. sansin.com

7 RECYCLED RUBBER AND PRE-CONSUMER PLASTIC make Seneca Cedar Shake Tiles by EcoStar eco-friendly and resistant to hail and water from rain, ice and snow. The tiles have the look and feel of true wood shakes with the added bonus of a Class-A fire rating and a 50-year warranty. ecostar.carlisle.com

8. MEGAN GILMAN, an energy consultant from Active Energies, joined our team to help us achieve ENERGY STAR®, Built Green® Colorado and LEED® for Homes certifications. activeenergies.com

“ENERGY STAR is the easiest way to ensure that your heating and cooling bills will be significantly lower than average,” says Gilman. energystar.gov

“BUILT GREEN allows the homeowner and builder to choose green building strategies that will be beneficial for them, while ensuring that the basics, like energy efficiency, are covered.” builtgreen.org

LEED FOR HOMES requires homes to meet the highest green-building and performance standards, from site selection and durability planning to water efficiency and waste documentation. usgbc.org

9 RUSTED CORRUGATED METAL ROOFING by Recla Metals adds character to the exterior with the look of an old, rusty tin roof. Made from recycled materials, it is durable, fully recyclable, safe for the environment and has a very long life span. reclametals.com

1 DURABLE CONCRETE PAVERS by Belgard allow water to permeate and directly enter the ground, reducing the negative effects of runoff on local watersheds. Stronger than ordinary concrete, these small high-density pavers resist cracking as well as damage from freeze/thaw and salts. And if a paver ever does break or crack, it's easy to replace just one. belgard.biz

5 SALVAGED LODGEPOLE PINE LOGS, rescued from bark beetle-ravaged forests, were used by Montana-based Custom Log Homes to create the home's handcrafted log frame. To minimize waste, each log was hand peeled and the shavings were recycled or used for compost. customlog.com

11 TRIPLE-PANE WINDOWS by Loewen were selected for their optimal thermal performance. The efficiency of the home was maximized by increasing the amount of wall area relative to the window area, while still allowing plenty of natural light—and mountain views—to come inside. loewen.com

10 BEETLE-KILL WOOD SIDING was sourced locally by Specialty Wood Products (swp.net). Vail Valley-based Vintage Woods “bathed” the wood in natural products to enhance its natural characteristics and discolor it as nature would over many years. To protect against moisture damage, the siding was sealed with a low- or no-VOC product on all sides. vintagewoods.net

BUILDING A GREEN DREAM HOME

PROJECT MANAGER DAVID HUFFMAN has been building in the mountains for years, so he has plenty of experience when it comes to dealing with the challenges that come with building a home at 9,000 feet. But the pursuit of LEED® certification took him into uncharted territory. “The biggest challenge was educating and communicating with suppliers and contract laborers; people who may not have built ‘green’ before,” he says. “But we achieved our goal, which was to demonstrate that you can have a green energy-efficient home without compromising on quality, finishes or lifestyle.”

For a guide to the exterior's products and pros, please turn to page 84.

PHOTO BY JEFF SCHROGGINS

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FIRE-RETARDANT ASPEN TREES, which have a watery sap that doesn't burn readily, were planted not just for their beauty but also because they will protect the home from forest fires. "Spruce trees' flammable resin literally makes them torches, so it's important not to place them too close to the house and to keep them in groups of three or fewer," says Altgelt.



PHOTO BY JEFF SCROGGINS

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WATER CONSERVATION is maximized by planting low-water plants, minimizing turf, and by capturing as much moisture from rain or snow melt as possible, using it to water plants and recharge the ground water before releasing it. A special place was even designed to hold snow pushed off of the street by snow plows.

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SOD WAS LIMITED to a small portion of the backyard "where we consciously used it because it's a play area; a quiet place for the eye to rest, like a pool of water," says landscape designer Tom Altgelt. "Everywhere else we used perennials and ground cover or a drought-resistant native short-grass meadow that integrates the backyard with its natural high-country surroundings."

ALTGELT & ASSOCIATES

112. "When it comes to landscape design, going 'green' means recognizing that the building site has been disturbed and then attempting to beautifully reharmonize it with its surroundings, this time with us in the picture," says landscape designer Tom Altgelt of Altgelt & Associates (*altgelt.com*), who designed the home's outdoor spaces as a progression of experiences:

"AS YOU APPROACH the site, great vertical rocks signal to you. The home's architecture is quite dramatic and vertical, so I mirrored that with monolithic pillars of stone and vertical evergreen blue spruces.

THE ENTRANCE is marked by monumental rocks that take their cues from the house, grounding it in the landscape. As you pass between them, you cross the threshold onto the property; there's a sense of arrival. The berms that screen the house from the outside now embrace you.

THE FOYER offers a view straight through the house to the rear courtyard and mountains beyond. We needed something really powerful there, thus the tall vertical rocks and firepit. One of those rocks has a bowl-like form where water can reflect. So you see rocks and fire, water and plants.

THE BACKYARD was designed like a series of rooms: each threshold—a bridge, a path—leads to another space. Trees, especially evergreens, rocks and simultaneously blooming plants are situated in groups of three, like a triangle. The resonance among them creates harmony."