



Making it Mountains

Design inspiration from one young designer's favorite high-country homes.

BY ARA MCDONALD



CATHERINE LYKINS IS A COLORADO GIRL TO THE CORE—when she's not elbow deep in fabric swatches or paint splattered at work on a mural, she's off hiking or camping in her beloved mountains. Her design aesthetic is homegrown; she graduated from Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design with a fine arts degree in sustainable interior design. Lykins brings her youthful inspiration and playfulness to Frisco's Collective Design Works, where she's an associate designer. Here, she shares some of her favorite projects, as well as tips for how to get the look.

1. TYPE OF PROJECT: Construction
LOVED: I loved that this kitchen featured an integrated hidden pantry, the door is right next to the refrigerator. The light painted walls and white glass kitchen backsplash created a perfect backdrop for the contrast of the cabinetry and shelves to make them stand out.

WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL: The inspiration of the house was based off of the love of their love for arts and crafts. I think the shelves made this kitchen special and created a focal point. They are up lit and down lit to feature all the accessories they have accumulated over the years from their travels.

GET THE LOOK:

- Do: Go for contrasting materials this helps objects stand out.
- Do: Understand how you use your kitchen and what's important to you, this will make your kitchen both functional and beautiful.
- Tip: Don't be afraid of thinking outside the box by utilizing rail lighting. Rail lighting is a nice alternative to cans when you have sloped or high ceilings. Here you can see that we have a mix of decorative fixtures and spotlights that provide just the right amount of light.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Darren Edwards
BUILDER: Pinnacle Mountain Homes
HOMEOWNER: Vidor and Alyson Friedman

2. TYPE OF PROJECT: Construction
LOVED: "The architecture really made this house special. We featured a lot of angles that all met together to create a great room of their dreams. I loved that this whole house was an entertainer's dream and that we redefined the typical mountain modern house by featuring warm organic materials like the variety of wood selections and natural stone seen throughout the home.

WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL: The wine room is center stage as you enter the main level. It is encased in glass walls with a barnwood backdrop and layered lighting that displays all their favorite wine.

GET THE LOOK:

- Do: Pick a location for a wine room that is away from natural light and UV rays. Use LEDs that don't put off heat but provide that layered lighting look.
- Don't: You don't need a lot of space to create the wine room of your dreams. All you need is a small area of your home, an idea in your head, and the right wine racks to store all the bottles.

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BUILDER: Pinnacle Mountain Homes
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3.

TYPE OF PROJECT: Furnishings & Decorative Lighting

LOVED: We curated everything in this space based off the rug, the client stumbled upon it and it was love at first sight. It was then our turn to create an entire space with the rug as the focal point.

WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL: All the colors relate back to the rug and it was a really important piece for the client.

HOW TO GET THE LOOK:

- Do add sconces and decorative lighting to your kitchen! Layered lighting adds a sophisticated look while providing task lighting for the counter below.
- Don't be afraid of open shelving, especially in the kitchen! This gives more of an opportunity to stage with accessories that are meaningful to you and reflect your personality.
- Tip: We pulled our scheme of colors from the rug, this is one of the easiest ways to bring a whole room of furnishings together, a good rug will always ground the space!

PHOTOGRAPHER: Kimberly Gavin
BUILDER: Maryland Creek Ranch
HOMEOWNER: Deepi Hyare and Andy Clark
ADDITIONAL THANKS TO: Emily Conley, Senior Designer at CDG

4.

TYPE OF PROJECT: Construction & Furnishings

LOVED: We help to push our client's boundaries while making sure they still love what they are selecting. This piece does exactly that, it brings attention as well as a fun aspect to the room.

WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL: The house was very eclectic, and each room was different from the rest, but all the rooms were tied together by the reclaimed barnwood from a family members old barn.

HOW TO GET THE LOOK:

- Do: If you want the art to be the focus of the room, try to keep the other material selections fairly neutral so the art can be the focal point.
- Don't be afraid to push boundaries with art selections; this llama is definitely a conversation starter, and everyone seems to love it.
- Tip: When using warm woods find colors that work well and compliment the room as a whole, rather than take away from the beauty of the wood.
- Challenges: Finding the right size piece is always a challenge. Always go bigger if the piece will fit.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Pete VonDeLinde
ARCHITECT: Plaad (Based out of Minnesota)
BUILDER: Pinnacle Mountain Homes
HOMEOWNER: Jason and Jesse Nickelson
ADDITIONAL THANKS TO: Emily Conley, Senior Designer at CDG



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5.

TYPE OF PROJECT: Furnishings & Decorative Lighting

LOVED: My favorite was the bedding because it fit really well with the “glamping” vibe the owner wanted. The duvet cover features small embroidered campfires, tents, and animals. We finished off that look by pairing it with Swiss Cross pillows, plaid pillows, pops of red, and outdoorsy pillows.

WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL: The mural! This is the first one I have done in a house and it turned out great. The clients and I went back and forth about what we can add to have some interest on the wall behind the couch, so we decided on the modern monochrome mountain mural. I sourced the paint colors and the family spent the weekend painting and bonding.

HOW TO GET THE LOOK:

- Do mix in wood tones, it will help your spaces feel warmer.
- Don't be scared of creating layered looks by mixing and matching pillows, fabrics and colors, the more the merrier, especially in a bunk room.
- Tips: When building built in bunk beds, it's best to plan in advance and do a little bit of space planning to ensure everything fits and is proportional to the overall scale of the room.

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ADDITIONAL THANKS TO:
 Emily Conley, Senior Designer at CDG

6.

TYPE OF PROJECT: Furnishings & Decorative Lighting

LOVED: The distinctive hair-on-hide rug became the focal point and helped tie this room together. It features gold speckles which bring out the gold on the bed frame, nightstand hardware, and lamp which helps to add an interesting contrast to this bedroom.

WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL: When choosing nightstands, I gravitate towards looks that are unique and make a statement in the room.

The teal nightstand is one of my favorites and definitely catches your eye. The color works perfectly paired with the teal pillows and throw. Since this was a guest bedroom, we were able to have fun, play with color selections and think a little more out of the box.

HOW TO GET THE LOOK:

- Do mix and match geometric patterns.
- Don't be afraid of trying bold colors!

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