

ALAN TANKSLEY, INC.

January 2006

Greetings to Friends, Family and Clients,

I hope that 2006 has started off well for each of you; it certainly has for us, including the publication of two recent A.T.I. projects, one in House & Garden and another one in Metropolitan Home, each in their February issues. We have included a copy of each magazine with the articles marked. Please take a look. The pictures are great and I feel that both articles are well written.

Again, Happy New Year to each of you!

Yours,

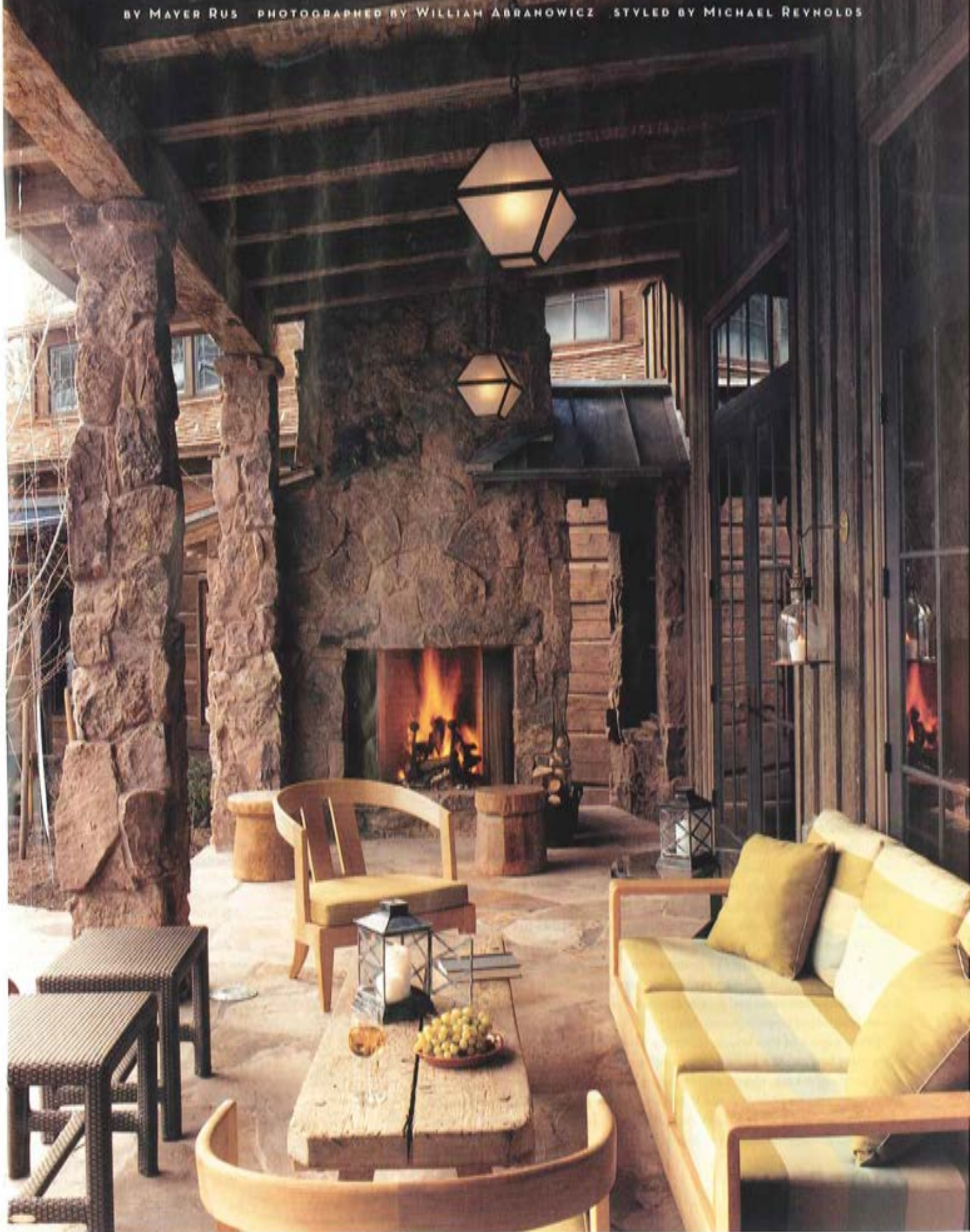
Alan Tanksley, Inc.

# family summit

A tightly knit East Coast clan comes together in a Colorado home designed for the enjoyment of sports, nature, and the company of good friends



From their mountain retreat, Lisa and Stephen Lebovitz have immediate access to the ski slopes, this page. ■ On the porch, opposite page, Sutherland's Olympia chairs, a Pool Side sofa by John Hutton, Soho stools from Janus et Cie's Dedon collection, iHo2 hanging hurricane lanterns from Lars Bolander, NYC, and teak stools from Interieurs, NYC, contrast the modern and the rustic. Sofa in Perennials' Grand Canal Stripe, Holly Hunt, NYC.





For the family room, far left, Alan Tanksley, Inc., created the Billiard bench, covered in Holly Hunt's Stingray leather in Coral Reef, and the mica Billiard light fixture. ■ Andrew Lebovitz, above, takes a shortcut to the kitchen via a ladderway. ■ Abby and Matthew Lebovitz and friend Andrew, left, enjoy the Chocolate-baize-topped pool table, also by Alan Tanksley, Inc. ■ Beams of reclaimed barn timber and a chandelier by Stephen McKay Inc., NYC, lend grand scale to the family room, opposite page. A Luther Quintana sofa, upholstered in Rogers & Goffigon's Wales in Macadamia, and a 19th-century French horn table face vintage René Gabriel chairs from Jourdan Antiques, NYC. The custom Chunky Strid carpet is from Creative Matters, Toronto. The coffee table, in bronze, glass, and charred wood, is by Ingrid Donat, from the Barry Friedman Gallery, NYC.

**a**

n archetypal American home tends to evolve at a slower pace than social customs. Although rituals of family life have changed dramatically in the past century, many houses still conform to a traditional hierarchy of domestic space. The living room, where guests are ostensibly received, has

pride of place at the center of the house—regardless of how often guests actually call. Informal socializing and entertainment (think television) take place in the family room, which is discreetly located near the kitchen or in the basement.

Standard-issue communal spaces, however, did not work for the family of Lisa and Stephen Lebovitz. When the couple built a retreat in Colorado, they gave the humble family room a makeover and a promotion to the privileged spot normally reserved for the living room. The Lebovitzes' family room is not just a conventional living room that happens to have a billiard table. It rejects antiquated ideas and proposes a new kind of communal space attuned to the realities of contemporary family life.

"Every aspect of this house, from the smallest design detail to the master plan, goes back to the Lebovitz family," says designer Alan Tanksley. "They are a very tight-knit, sports-active family. They love to ski, swim, bike, and hike. They also love to cook and entertain. They use the house all year round, so the indoor/outdoor connections had to work in every season. The design had to fulfill many different mandates." ▶





# NUTS & BOLTS

"WE IMAGINED A FICTION WHERE THE HOME DEVELOPED AROUND THE STONE RUINS OF AN OLD FARMHOUSE," SAYS SUSAN BRIDGEWATER, ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT MANAGER. IT TOOK SEVERAL TEAMS OF ARTISANS AND SPECIALISTS TO MAKE THE NEWLY BUILT FAMILY COMPOUND APPEAR AS IF IT HAD GROWN OVER TIME. "WE WERE SURROUNDED BY CRAFTSPEOPLE WHO WERE PASSIONATE ABOUT DETAILS," TANKSLEY SAYS.

## HIGH BEAMS

MASSIVE PINE, CHERRY, AND BIRCH BEAMS RECLAIMED FROM OLD ONTARIO BARNES WERE SHIPPED TO THE SITE, WHERE CRAFTSMEN FROM RENAISSANCE WORKS IN CARBONDALE, COLORADO, CUT THEM INTO NEW BEAMS, MADE TRUSSES AND GABLES, AND SHAPED THEM TO FORM THE KITCHEN'S UNIQUE CURVED, FIXED WINDOW FRAMES.

## SETTING STONE

MASONS FROM THE CALLEGOS CORPORATION IN VAIL CONSTRUCTED WALLS, SOFFITS, AND CHIMNEYS IN COLORADO MOSS ROCK, WHICH IS LICHEN-COVERED SANDSTONE. THE KITCHEN FLOORS ARE IN SEBASTIAN SANDSTONE, FROM ARKANSAS, CUT INTO SQUARES AND HONED SMOOTH. ON THE PATIO, THE SAME STONE, LEFT ROUGH, IS ARRANGED IN A RANDOM PATTERN AND CONCEALS A HYDRONIC SNOW-MELT SYSTEM.

## HEAVY METAL

FORGED METALWORK LENDS A DISTINCTIVE HANDCRAFTED FEEL THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE. TANKSLEY DESIGNED THE SOLID IRON BALUSTRADE, ABOVE RIGHT, MANUFACTURED BY MYERS & CO. IN BASALT, COLORADO. MYERS ALSO HANDMADE THE LARGE DIVIDED WINDOW FRAME IN HAMMERED STEEL; IT SEPARATES THE STAIR HALL FROM THE FAMILY ROOM.

## FINISHING STROKES

A GREAT WESTERN PAINTING CREW FROM BASALT, COLORADO, DEVELOPED 30 FINISHES FOR THE SURFACES IN THE HOUSE, AND RETOUCHED MUCH OF THE WOODWORK AND PLANKING WITH BRUSHWORK THAT MIMICS THE CHARACTER OF AGING AND USE. WALL COLORS WERE LIKEWISE ANTIQUED. "THE PAINTERS WERE MASTER COLORISTS," TANKSLEY SAYS.



The kitchen, opposite page, is airy and elegant, yet, as the photos of Lisa Lebovitz and the kids making and enjoying pizza attest, very family-friendly. The space features countertops in Lava from Urban Archaeology, an Altar light by Kevin Reilly for Holly Hunt, which hangs above a custom dining table, and cabinets by Alan Tanksley, Inc. ■ The iron banister in the center hall stairway, this page, far left, was designed by Tanksley, Inc., and executed by Myers & Company Architectural Metals, in Colorado. ■ In the family room, Tanksley, below, sits at a French 1940s cerused oak game table in one of two clover-back chairs from Sutter Antiques, NYC.



In an age of instant gratification, many clients don't have the patience to create a house from the ground up. The Lebovitz house took three years to build, and the effort shows in its haute-couture fit. Tanksley worked with architect Robert Orr of New Haven, Connecticut, to ensure a seamless union of architecture, interiors, and landscape. Tanksley also shares credit with two designers from his office, Adrian Gilbey and Shawn Kronen.

"The massing of the house was very important. Some of the houses out here look overscaled," says Lisa Lebovitz. "Robert

designed our house to look as if it was built over time, with different additions constructed at different times. It feels like it has a history."

The patina of history extends inside the house. Tanksley and his clients selected materials and finishes that have an organic, richly textured quality. Walls, beams, trusses, and furnishings bear the marks of handcraftsmanship. An occasional burst of exuberant color punctuates the overall palette of warm, natural tones. ▷



Indeed, nature provided inspiration for both the interior and the architecture. "We love the fact that the house takes advantage of so many different views," says Lisa Lebovitz. "Each window frames a different vista—some are of the mountains, but some are more unexpected, like mossy rocks next to an aspen tree. We also love the quiet places in the house, like the master bedroom deck, which is the best spot to hear the creek."

The views and the quiet spots, of course, were meticulously planned. "We focused on emotional responses to how a house functions," says Tanksley. "Entering, exiting, gathering, retreating—all of these things had to be considered. There's a deliberate sense of discovery as you move through the house, from the very discreet entrance to the bridge that leads to the children's rooms. Adjacencies were very important to foster communication and interaction among the family."

The resolution of complex functional, aesthetic, and conceptual issues is perhaps best exemplified by the family room (a.k.a. living room) at the heart of the house. The room was planned as an open space with intimate areas for different activities to occur simultaneously. There are places to appreciate the views, places to read or play pool, and places to gather around the hearth. Contrary to popular belief, the elegance of the room is hardly diminished by the presence of such diversions as a DVD player and a gaming table.

"This family room really brings us together," says Lisa Lebovitz. "We didn't want the kind of house where the kids disappear into their rooms. In the family room, the kids can be together and still have their own space." □

A larch wood balcony strikes a regal note in the master bedroom, opposite page, where a silk coverlet in Spice, from Ann Gish's Ready-to-Bed line, covers a custom bed by Alan Tanksley, Inc. The stone fireplace is by Heat & Glo; the club chair, at left, is covered in Aurora in Terra Rose, by Larsen. The carpet is custom long-haired white alpaca, by Creative Matters. ■ The kids' rooms, outfitted with bunk beds by Alan Tanksley, Inc., and Aspen Design Works, are frisky and cool. Abby and Julia Lebovitz, above left, hang out with pals. Custom curtains were fabricated by Michael Tavano Design, NYC. ■ Julia flops, at left, on the room's Margherita carpet by Marni, for the Rug Company. ■ The boys' room, top, has a Hazel rug in Chocolate by Angela Adams. Cross pillows by Jonathan Adler play off the canvas curtains, made by Tanksley's team from a 1940s Boy Scout tent and dotted with vintage ski resort badges. See Shopping, last pages.



