

denver life

# home+design

spring 2019

**FLORAL REPORT:**  
SEVEN GORGEOUS  
BOUQUETS  
FROM LOCAL  
DESIGNERS

## EASY, BREEZY STYLE

A Washington Park  
home gets a  
sophisticated refresh



PLEASE DISPLAY UNTIL 071019 \$6.95



dhomeanddesign.com

**DESIGN FOR ALL**  
FIVE OF THE YEAR'S  
MOST SPECTACULAR  
NEW DECOR BOOKS

**SOUND BITES**  
AUDIOPHILES, CHECK  
OUT THIS COOL  
LOCAL COMPANY

**RETRO CHIC**  
A MID-CENTURY  
HOME RECLAIMS  
ITS FORMER GLORY

**SUMMIT SKY**  
A MOUNTAIN RANCH  
COMMUNITY WITH A  
DIFFERENCE



## MEANWHILE, UP AT THE RANCH

Summit Sky is a mountain community with a difference: It offers high-end amenities—a fishing river, a lake, hiking trails, and a beautiful community center—not available most anywhere else.

It's hard, if not impossible, to compete with Mother Nature—so the developers of Summit Sky Ranch didn't even try. They let the magnificence of the surrounding Blue River Valley be front and center in the design of their mountain community.

"The first thing you notice when you come into the property," says Matt Mueller, development director of the 416-acre ranch in Summit County, "is the architecture. It has very clean, modern lines and has a more minimalist look than you've probably ever seen before in mountain homes. The whole point was that the buildings would be so simple they would be

secondary to the surrounding environment, which is so beautiful."

"The site is incredible," says Dan Craine of Craine Architecture, who designed the homes and community buildings. "There's all the aspens, the way the landscape moves, the wetlands. We really wanted variety but we also wanted the buildings to be modern and quiet and timeless, and to be integrated into the landscape."

The developers and Craine also worked hard to make sure everything looked consistent. "We wanted a strong aesthetic cohesion with the project," says Mueller, "to create an

TODD POWELL PHOTOGRAPHY

identity for the community unlike anything else in Summit County. We did smaller lots, and smaller, more energy-efficient homes, so people would get to know their neighbors. We wanted to create real synergy in the community, and architecture can do that. It's hard to hide in one of these homes because of all of the glass, and we also put a real emphasis on patios and decks."

The development team for the ranch—which includes 240 lots, a little over half of which have been sold—also included amenities to reinforce the feel of community. "Many of these developments in Summit County rely on nearby ski resorts, the Blue River, or the national forest for amenities," says Mueller. "In our community, our amenities are private and only for people who live here. For example, we have a seven-acre stretch of private fly fishing on the Blue; not many people can say that. We also have hiking trails and a 20-acre lake that we're reclaiming; we're putting in a sandy beach and a soon-to-be built boathouse, and adding a 20-foot duffy boat that putts around the lake, plus paddleboards and kayaks and canoes, with a big fire pit. And we have a huge new community center with a year-round pool and two hot tubs, and about 300 classes. We're also a dark sky community and are building an observatory, too."

The folks behind the ranch aim to

---

### *Mountain getaway*

The community center, called Aspen House, left, is the nexus of Summit Sky, whose homes, like the one below, are contemporary but not showy.



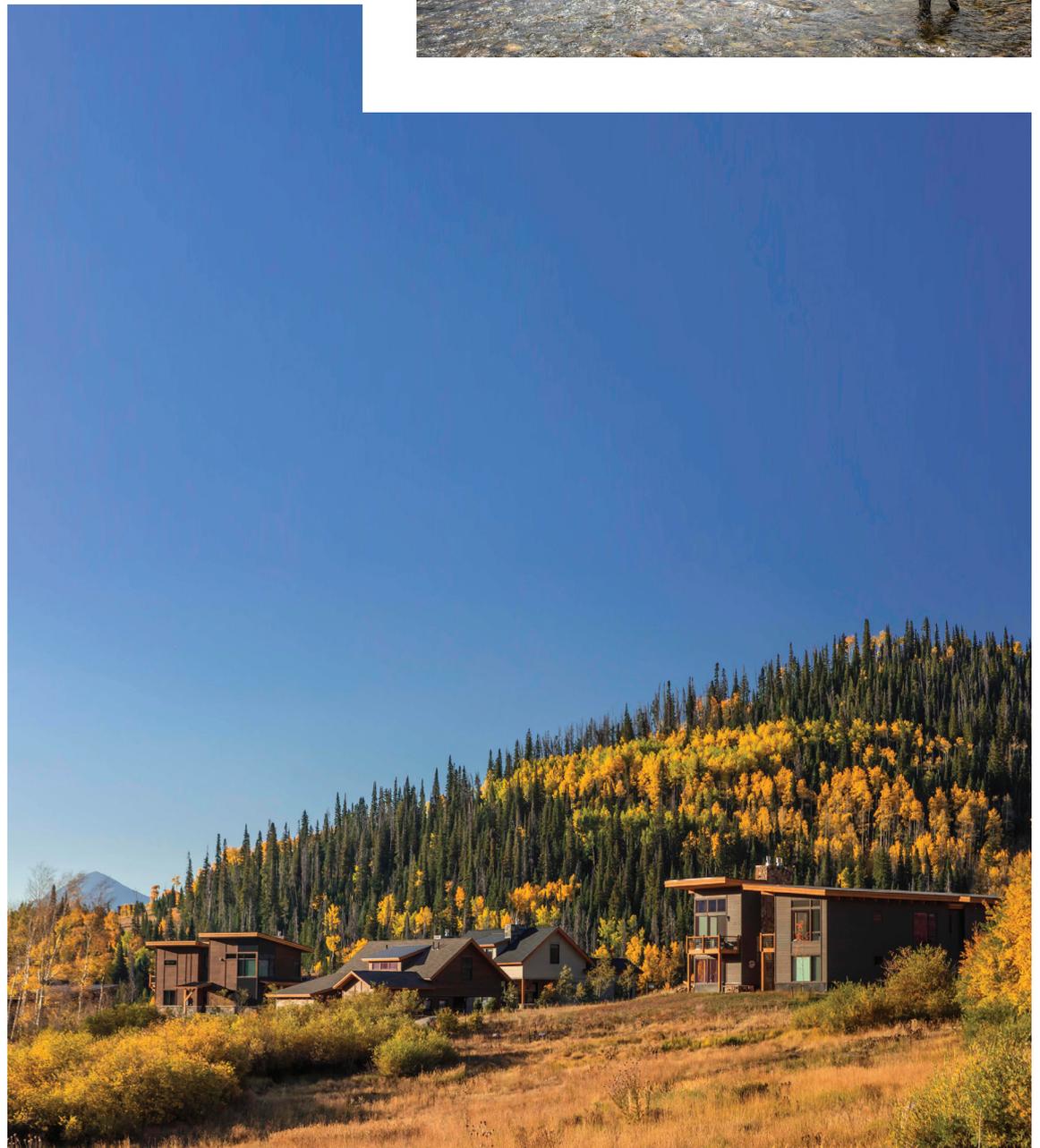
have it completed in the spring of 2022, with about 30 percent of the properties being used as first homes, 60 percent as second homes for folks who live on the Front Range, and about 10 percent as second or third homes for people from elsewhere in the U.S.

The houses, starting at 2,030 square feet, are all a bit different, and homebuyers are allowed to choose from multiple options for flooring, cabinets, countertops, lighting, and the like. “We used natural stain colors that complement the landscape,” says Craine, “for a warm, modern mountain look. The wood, stone and glass we used have an inherent warmth about them while still being clean.”

The best sales point of all: Craine liked the ranch so much that he bought a place there. “It’s everything I could imagine wanting if you want to feel connected to the mountains of Colorado.” +

### *Gone fishing*

Amenities at Summit Sky include miles of riverfront for fishing. The homes, below, are meant to almost disappear into the beautiful surroundings.



TODD POWELL PHOTOGRAPHY