



SOPRIS AVENUE HOUSE OFFERS MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

STORY BY BETH BUEHLER
PHOTOS BY JAMES RAY SPAHN

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hen guests step inside Travis and Sherri West's historic home on Sopris Avenue, they receive a surprise dose of elegance and see a continuous wave of warm French blue walls and draperies that provide a seamless flow through the main floor. After all, this 1905 home started out life as a miner's cabin in Irwin and is fairly unassuming from the outside, except for a splash of rust red on the front door, gingerbread white trim along the roofline and a small picket fence.

Like most Crested Butte homes of this vintage, what started out as the original space has been built onto and around as finances and materials allowed. The little cabin is now the middle of the home and its original character is not visible, as front and rear portions have been added over the years, explains architect Dan Murphy of Crested Butte. His firm worked closely with the Wests to develop a more open floor plan for what had become chopped-up space. He says, "It was not so much a vision for the space but an evolution."

The Wests enjoy restoring historic homes and were searching for a quaint and cozy home in town. "We wanted to be able to truly take a break from our busy-paced life at home in Austin, Texas. We love the ease of getting around town and enjoy the experience of small-town life," Sherri West says. "The lot size and large side yard sealed the deal."



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Sherri worked closely with interior designer Jan Showers of Dallas-based Jan Showers and Associates to help turn their ideas into reality. "I wanted it to feel as if you were walking into a cottage in Sweden. I wanted it to be comfortable and cozy with a touch of glamour," says Sherri.

With some golds and taupes used on the walls upstairs in the bunk room, a guest room and bath, and a return to the blues and grays in the master suite, the home has a soft and soothing feel and provides the perfect place to relax and unwind for the couple and their three children: Tyler, 25, Jackson, 14, and Georgia, 11, and more recently, a new granddaughter.

"The kids definitely influenced our choice in location," Sherri says. "We like for them to be independent and to take off to the park or for a bike ride on a whimsy."

While the front of the house remained much the same with careful restoration, the rear was raised up to make an attractive family room with a marble bar along one wall on the main floor and a large master suite directly above. The master bedroom walls, ceiling, bedding and furniture are all upholstered in a blue and white toile, creating a quiet sanctuary that is accessed through a lovely bathroom in cool tones of blue, gray and white and with two sinks, a clawfoot tub and a shower. A lamp, bowl and vases blown from yellow glass sing a cheerful note from a long bureau in the bedroom.

"We decidedly did not create a mountain house that you would see in Colorado but the rooms do look like they could be in a Swiss chalet with a definite touch of glamour. You might say chalet glamour," explains Jan Showers, author of *Glamorous Rooms*. "It is very small, so everything had to be scaled down because of the size of the rooms; scale is everything in any



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