

# Clear VISION

After many months of product research, wrangling with code officials, meetings, more meetings, and sheer grit, the VISION House Aspen is ready for prime time. Who says luxury living can't be green?

BY MATT POWER >> PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRICK COULIE

You have to hand it to Gerry Hazelbaker and Stace McGee, the builder and architect of this year's VISION House. They've fought the good fight all the way through this challenging project—always willing to look back, if you will, to their original intent—to build a luxury home with outstanding “green” credentials. Have they achieved that goal? You be the judge. Behind the walls of its stunning alpine design, this home has dozens of energy-saving and water-saving bells and whistles. From the spray-in foam insulation, to the locally quarried stone to geothermal heating and cooling to water saving fixtures and faucets, this is not your typical luxury home. It's made for people with high expectations who also care about their resource footprint—a market niche that



has only recently come of age. Let's hope that Paradigm Construction's VISION House example will convince other high-end builders—and buyers—that first-class luxury and ecological responsibility can coexist.

The VISION House exterior features reclaimed beetle kill siding, solar hot water panels from Stiebel Eltron, locally quarried stone supplied by Telluride Stone Works, and super-efficient Kolbe and Kolbe windows and doors. Nanawall sliding wall systems create a seamless connection between interior and exterior spaces. The rear elevation (above) includes recessed low-voltage LED lighting for dramatic effect.





This outdoor kitchen overlooking the Rocky Mountains features Energy Star appliances from KitchenAid.

“The fact of the matter is that in almost any other area of the country this aggressive a group of green building measures and processes would be unaffordable.”  
 —J. Stace McGee, Environmental Dynamics



A secluded soaking tub designed by Pared Down Design peers out at the peaks of both Snowmass and Aspen mountains through energy efficient Kolbe and Kolbe windows. Wood floors throughout the home (below) are reclaimed FSC-certified oak from Renick Millworks.







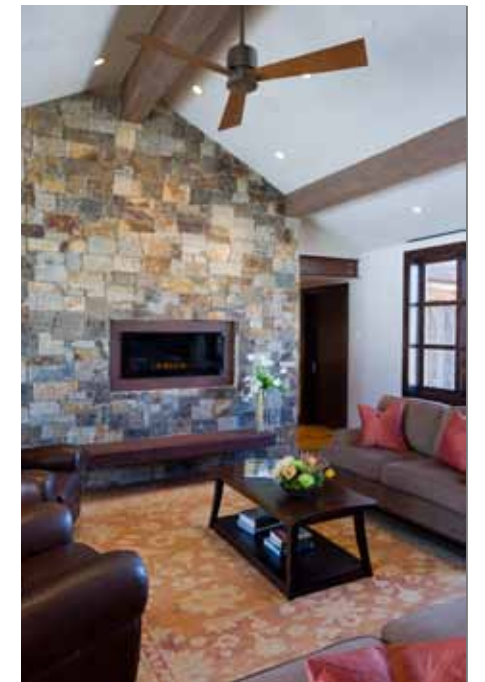
Local rock from Telluride Stone Company meets custom metalwork from Bridger Steel in the home's warm central living area. The house features closed combustion fireplaces to maximize efficiency while maintaining a high level of indoor air quality. These same materials (facing page) are accented with plaster walls by American Clay.



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



“The ability to manage energy use in this home is almost infinite. Everything—Uponor heating, Lite Touch lighting—ties into the RTI controller. But at the same time the interface is simplified so that clients can understand it easily.”

—Gerry Hazelbaker,  
Paradigm Construction





The luxurious guest bath blends the mountain feel of a leathered granite surface with the cool contemporary lines of the unusual lavatory bowls. High-efficiency Kohler faucets (right) add water-saving practicality to the company's unique sinks. In the master bath, the step-in custom tub (facing page) by Pared Down Design and walk-in shower both feature fixtures supplied by Kohler.







In the kitchen, solid FSC-certified alder cabinets were finished with fast-drying water-based stains. Energy Star-rated Jenn Air and Whirlpool appliances offer the homeowner a cooking (and cleanup) experience that is not only flexible, but also efficient in energy and water use.





“When we decided to build a green home of this caliber, we began an evolutionary process. The project became a learning experience for everyone involved.”

—Gerry Hazelbaker, Paradigm Construction

Although the end product is a house with all the beauty and amenities of other luxury homes in the region, we'd be remiss not to point out that the home contains dozens of energy-saving extras now hidden behind the walls (see the archival shots above). From radiant floor heating provided by Uponor, to the use of engineered TimberStrand lumber (from iLevel), to precise control of mechanicals through integrated “smart” networks, this is a home that makes the most of resources and technology.



## THE VISION HOUSE PRODUCT LIST

### Building Shell and Exterior

- > Flyash concrete mix
- > Below-grade insulation: ICFs: BuildBlock [www.buildblock.com](http://www.buildblock.com)
- > Rigid Insulation: Pinkwrap: Owens Corning [www.owenscorning.com](http://www.owenscorning.com)
- > Low-E windows: Kolbe and Kolbe [www.kolbe-kolbe.com](http://www.kolbe-kolbe.com)
- > Specialty entryways and window walls: NanaWall [www.nanawall.com](http://www.nanawall.com)
- > InsulStar spray-in foam: NCFI [www.ncfi.com](http://www.ncfi.com)
- > Timberstrand engineered framing system: iLevel [www.ilevel.com](http://www.ilevel.com)
- > Steel standing seam roofing: Bridger Steel [www.bridgersteel.com](http://www.bridgersteel.com)
- > Local stone veneer: Telluride Stone [www.telluridestone.com](http://www.telluridestone.com)
- > Ice and water shield (roof): Grace [www.graceathome.com](http://www.graceathome.com)
- > Concrete roof tile: MonierLifetile [www.monierlifetile.com](http://www.monierlifetile.com)
- > Local aggregate for radon mitigation system

### HVAC Systems

- > GeoExchange system with ground source heat pumps: Water Furnace [www.waterfurnace.com](http://www.waterfurnace.com)
- > Solar thermal hot water: Stiebel Eltron [www.stiebel-eltron-usa.com](http://www.stiebel-eltron-usa.com)
- > Solar PV: Sunsense [www.sunsensesolar.com](http://www.sunsensesolar.com)
- > Hydronic flooring system: Uponor [www.uponor-usa.com](http://www.uponor-usa.com)
- > Climate control network system: Uponor [www.uponor-usa.com](http://www.uponor-usa.com)
- > Whole house controller: RTI [www.rticorp.com](http://www.rticorp.com)
- > Energy recovery ventilators: RenewAire [www.renewaire.com](http://www.renewaire.com)
- > Whisper Quiet bathroom fans: Panasonic [www.panasonic.com](http://www.panasonic.com)
- > MERV13 air filters

### Water Saving

- > Dual-flush toilets: Kohler [www.kohler.com](http://www.kohler.com)
- > High-efficiency irrigation system
- > Low flow lavatory faucets: Kohler [www.kohler.com](http://www.kohler.com)
- > Domestic hot water recirculation loop

### IAQ Related

- > Earthen plaster: American Clay [www.americanclay.com](http://www.americanclay.com)
- > Radiant floor heating: Uponor [www.uponor-usa.com](http://www.uponor-usa.com)
- > Low-VOC paint: Sherwin-Williams [www.sherwin-williams.com](http://www.sherwin-williams.com)
- > Central vacuum system: Electrolux [www.electrolux.com](http://www.electrolux.com)

### Lighting and Appliances

- > Appliances: Whirlpool, Jenn-Air, KitchenAid, Gladiator Garageworks [www.insideadvantage.com](http://www.insideadvantage.com)
- > InSinkErator: food waste disposer [www.insinkerator.com](http://www.insinkerator.com)
- > LED lighting
- > Lighting controls: Lite Touch [www.litetouch.com](http://www.litetouch.com)

### Other Recycled or Renewable Materials

- > Magnesium Oxide Backer Board: Jet Products [www.jet-board.com](http://www.jet-board.com)
- > Smart strand carpet: Mohawk [www.mohawkflooring.com](http://www.mohawkflooring.com)
- > FSC cabinetry, trim, doors [www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org)
- > Reclaimed FSC oak flooring: Renick Millworks [www.renickmillworks.com](http://www.renickmillworks.com)
- > Rebar and structural beams
- > Leather decorative tile: Ecodomo [www.ecodomo.com](http://www.ecodomo.com)

### Local Products—Manufactured within 500 Miles

- > Wall board: American Gypsum [www.americangypsum.com](http://www.americangypsum.com)
- > Earthen plaster: American Clay [www.americanclay.com](http://www.americanclay.com)
- > Beetle kill siding
- > Foundation aggregate
- > Concrete for foundation, footers, patios, & sub floors
- > Stone siding, patios, Interiors

