

Recognizing that some things are meant to be, a Denver-based couple trades in their traditional style for a contemporary home they just couldn't resist.

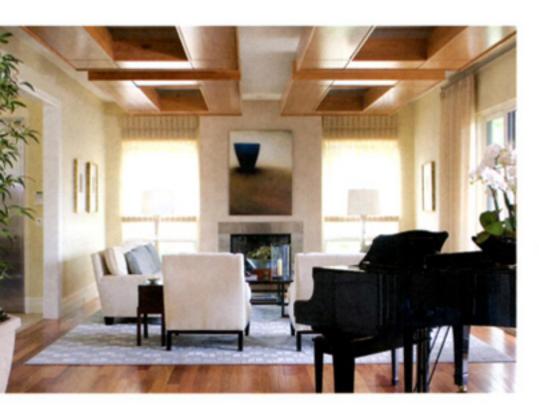


TWO YEARS AGO, LIANE CLASEN AND HER HUSBAND ROBERT happened upon a house that had been built on spec but appeared tailor-made for them: a perfect kitchen, an open floor plan well-suited for entertaining, enough yard space for a rose garden, and amenities that felt completely and utterly theirs. It was kismet.

The Clasens, Southern Californians who once favored a more traditional aesthetic, moved into the contemporary four-bedroom house in Denver's Cherry Creek North neighborhood last summer. With interior design help from the West Coast, they've made this house a home with sleek furnishings, soft textures and a bit of sparkle.

BY ELISABETH SULLIVAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY MINTON REDFIELD



CH&L: So this is your first contemporary home. What attracted you to it?

Liane Clasen: We fell in love with it at first sight. We were just out for a walk early one morning and we walked by this house and said, 'That's it.' And then when we saw the interiors, it was a double 'that's it.' We knew right away.

A major selling point for us was that my husband is CEO of an entertainment media company, and after we looked around the whole house, we went down in the basement and it had a home theater. We love to be able to invite people over to see the movies that his company is making and then follow that up with a dinner.

It was meant to be.

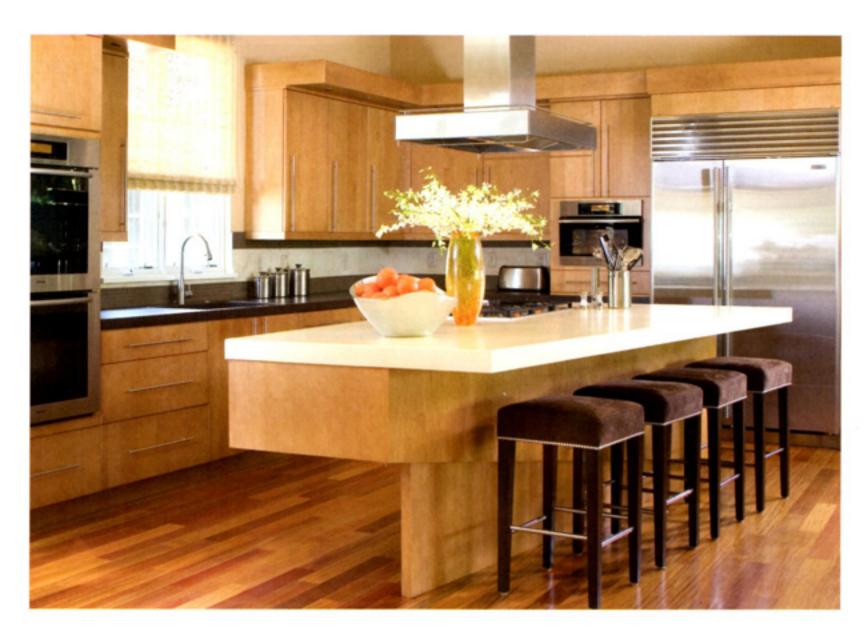
Absolutely. It was so meant to be that I asked for the closing date to be February 14th. We had the closing on Valentine's Day and had a big celebration here with red heart-shaped balloons, chocolates and a bottle of champagne, so it was perfect.

Did you start from scratch with furnishings to match your newly contemporary tastes?

We did. It was really part of the appeal because we'd worked with an interior designer in California, Jan Turner Hering, over the years, and it was an opportunity to do another project with



50



her. In terms of the style and scale of furnishings, what we had just wouldn't work. This is a very soft version of contemporary. There's a lot of texture, a lot of wood and almost, maybe to sound clichéd, a Zen-like feel to it.

You seem to have brought a bit of California with you, with the peaceful blue tones and serene sandy palette.

Yes, it's like the ocean coming in or something. But we also get a lot of blue sky in Colorado, so it works!

Let's talk about the kitchen because I think I could live in it. It's just beautiful

It's beautiful and it works. I don't know how else to say it. The layout is so well done. I love to cook and it's a great kitchen to cook in. The builder did all of the right appliances, the Sub-Zero fridge, a nice, big stainless-steel sink and the traditional windows over the sink so you can be working and hear the birds singing outside.

And it's got that huge center island. You can be there preparing something and still visit with friends and family. It's a good perching place. We eat most breakfasts and even a casual dinner there because it's just so easy.

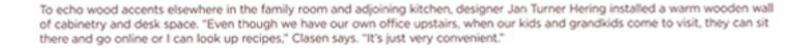
Finding a Place

CONTEMPORARY KITCHENS are designed with style and function in mind. They're sleek, they're minimalist and they work. In other words, the traditional kitchen's "everything drawer" has evolved into separate, designated drawers that hold everything from spices to stockpots. In place of lower-level cabinets—which inevitably force at-home chefs to get down on all fours and dig for the double boiler—many contemporary kitchens feature pull-out storage.

Denver-based homeowner Liane Clasen is a big fan of her drawer-heavy kitchen storage scheme. "Drawers are easy," she says. "In some ways, they're easier than cabinets because you just pull a drawer out and everything's there. Your pots and pans, your big serving pieces—they're easy to access and easy to see."







Tell me about that chandelier in the breakfast nook.

When we first saw it, we couldn't decide if we loved it or not because it has almost a '60s disco ball feel to it and we wondered if it rotated. But very quickly we decided that we loved it. It brings that corner to life. It's on a rheostat so you can make it bright and sparkly or turn it way down so it becomes almost like candlelight.

From an enviably efficient and stylish kitchen to clean-lined, cozy furnishings, this house really came together.

Actually, we compare it to my husband's business, where you could have a great script, a great director and great actors, and the magic doesn't happen. You can have the same thing with a house—a great lot, a great architect and a great builder—but it doesn't always come together. In this case, it felt like it really did. Whatever that magic is—that sort of chemistry that makes a house really work—this one has it.

DESIGN DETAILS

Architect
BROOKS BOND & ASSOCIATES

Denver, (303) 355-3429

Builder PARAGON HOMES Denver, (303) 629-9751

Interior Design
JAN TURNER HERING

Jan Turner Hering Interior Design, Corona Del Mar, CA, (949) 640-6512

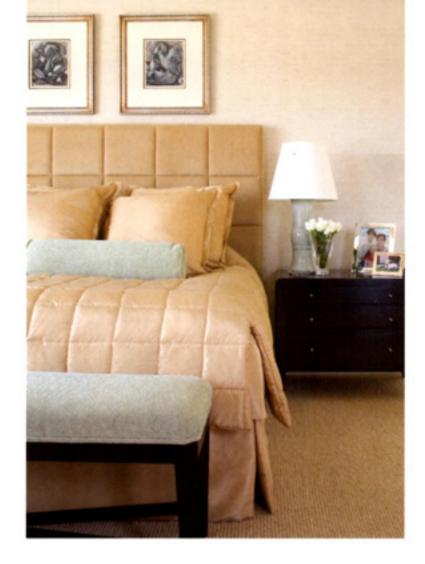
For more information about the products in this home, visit Colorado HomesMag.com (clockwise from top left)
When the party ends
and the guests depart,
Clasen and her husband
can retire to this cozy
refuge, where deep
armchairs beckon the
tired hosts to rest. "It's a
nice, quiet, serene
master bedroom,"
Clasen says.

The master bedroom uses the home's palette of beiges, creams and blues to great effect. Dreamy colors and soft textures ensure a peaceful night's sleep.

Lucky guests will find themselves ensconced in this guest room's luxurious fabrics and soothing symmetry.

With its sleek vanity, modern sconces and shiny vessel sink, the powder room is suggestive of a boutique hotel.







4

AT HOME WITH LOCAL CHEFS | STEMWARE TO MAKE YOUR TABLE SPARKLE HOT KITCHENS Where function meets fabulous radoHomesMag.com rEMBER.OCTOBER 2009