

MODERN LUXURY

ASPEN

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45th Anniversary Issue

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STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

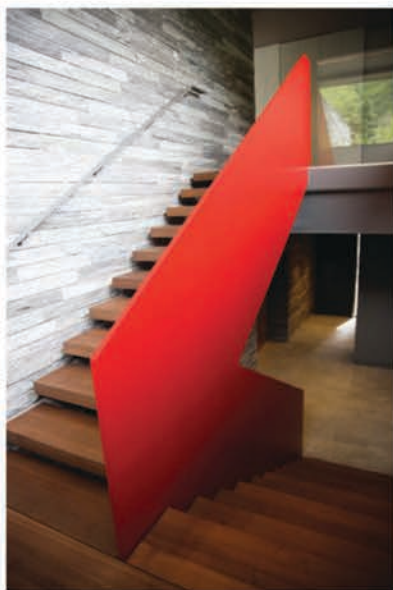
Form follows function, with a little flair on the side. These local mountain-home staircases (quite literally) step up the game, melding multiple levels of space with thoughtful design and progressive style.

By Hayden Gamble



Concrete Cascade

To continue with the concrete and oak in this Snowmass home, Basalt-based CCY Architects (ccyarchitects.com) constructed cascading concrete floors and stairs to connect the main living areas, guest wing and exterior spaces. The steps essentially pull the concrete flooring from the rest of the home—as it is the singular flooring material used throughout the project—and wrap it down the steps, creating a continuous flow throughout the entire project. Featured as an extension of the lower-level portion of the staircase, the wood bleacher seating doubles as extra cubby storage—and even triples as the perfect hangout nook to read a book or play games.



Statement Stairs

This three-story staircase, designed by the architectural firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (bcj.com), is a showstopping statement piece with its bold-red zigzag-shaped structure in an Independence Pass house. The bold cut of steel not only adds style to the steps, it also directs more light into the lower-level space. The steel was fabricated in two pieces, craned into place, welded together and then finished with primer to create a “smooth, uninterrupted finish,” says Ray Calabro, design principal of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson. The firm’s custom-designed steel handrail rests on the stone wall adjacent to the cantilevered wood stairs, connecting the upper level containing the living, dining, kitchen and master suite with the garage, kids’ bedrooms and mudroom.



The Centerpiece

Inspired by the work of Japanese self-taught architect Tadao Ando—who was awarded the highly esteemed Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1995—this floating staircase features a centerpiece three-story concrete block surrounded by winding wood steps. The concrete block was constructed to reflect the pattern of tatami mats, a traditional Japanese flooring material the project’s design firm, Aspen-based Rowland+Broughton Architecture (rowlandbroughton.com), researched and studied extensively. The lighting, which is lined along the sides and underneath the treads of the stairs, works to accentuate the “floating feeling” of the piece, says Sarah Broughton, co-principal of the firm.