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# 11 interior MATTERS

"Interior architecture should represent the soul of the home and relate to the personality of those who reside within it," says builder and developer Rick Hermes, who collaborated with South Carolina architect Tom Markalunas on designing this Edwards home. "For the hearth room shown here, a fireplace acts as a visual anchor to balance the glass perimeter windows and adds warmth to the space." Additional warmth is brought into the room through the reclaimed-wood ceiling and beams. "As an architect," Markalunas says, "you want to start with good bones for the house and set up the structure as a canvas for interesting materials." [resortconceptsco.com](http://resortconceptsco.com); [marchitecturegroup.com](http://marchitecturegroup.com)

# 12 WARM FRONT

Although the lines may be sleek, the tactile materials architects Rich Carr and Chris Touchette incorporated in a home they designed near Carbondale lend a feeling of warmth to the contemporary look. "We used stone, steel, wood, concrete, glass and plaster," Touchette says of the palette selected with the homeowner. "The resulting spaces are comfortably eclectic, sustainable and artistic." [ccyarchitects.com](http://ccyarchitects.com)

**How do you keep modern design inviting?** *RC:* We've always focused on creating original design solutions that embody contemporary lifestyles and speak to the richness, textures, and traditions of the place. *CT:* Mixing natural, unusual and familiar materials keep a modern living environment from feeling too sterile or cold.

**What elements are critical to good modern architecture?** *RC:* Thoughtful integration of site, place and family give great design its uniqueness, depth and dimension. This house features layered textures such as stone unearthed during excavation and Cor-Ten-steel siding. The beetle-kill siding is a regionally sourced material that reflects the owner's strong environmental ethic.

**Why do you think homeowners are embracing contemporary architecture?** *CT:* It is an extension of their lives. They are shedding clutter and looking for a direct connection to the natural world. *RC:* The desire for open, progressive spaces speaks to how people live now. I hope as we move forward, we can create new architecture grounded in the uniqueness of the landscape and region.

