



ESCAPE ARTIST

Designer **BETH
ANN SHEPHERD**
*breaks from dark
and distressed
while decking
out a Park City
mountain retreat*

BY BRAD MEE PHOTOS BY SCOT ZIMMERMAN



Shepherd upholstered the living room's wing chairs with a spice-colored fabric to accentuate their modern shape and personality. Dressed in ostrich upholstery and large ring pulls, a custom armoire fills a nearby alcove with ultra-chic style. Opposite page: Hand-blown to look like vintage milk jugs, custom glass orbs hang from a bronze-finished steel plate to create the dining area's one-of-a-kind chandelier.



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any mountain residents seem to have a fondness for all decorative things dark and distressed, but these clients of designer Beth Ann Shepherd—owners of a residence in The Montage Deer Valley—are definitely not among them. When the pair turned to L.A.-based Shepherd to help them escape the expected during the redo of their Park City getaway, they knew she was just what they needed.

"These clients wanted to embrace the rugged beauty and majesty of the mountains, but they definitely did not want anything predictable or dark," says Shepherd. Sophisticated, modern and less-is-more is how the couple described their dream décor. "No problem," responded Shepherd, who passionately embraces this design direction. "In high-end design, heavy and dark are dated. People now define luxury as light, bright and flowing." These qualities just begin to describe the condo's interior, which Shepherd and her team termed throughout its creation as "The First Modern at The Montage."



Walls
SWAN WHITE
Dunn Edwards



Trim
WHITETAIL
Sherwin Williams



The dining room's white birch communal table seats 10 and separates the living and family rooms. The contemporary dining chairs swivel and are upholstered in worn, camel-colored leather. Opposite: A low-profile sectional provides casual seating for the family room without impeding on the natural light and views that flow inside.



A sofa paired with two chairs helps define the living room's slightly formal flavor while shapely furnishings that include silver-leafed floor lamps by Arteriors and a custom cocktail table foster the space's contemporary style.





Shepherd custom designed the family room's glass-topped coffee table to allow full view of the luxurious, tone-on-tone wool rug on which it sits.

"Our designs are timeless, yet timely. Whether we're designing a traditional or contemporary interior, it's all about creating it in a new way."

The project began with certain parameters. The owners were eager to enjoy the revamped residence without the prolonged delays of an extensive remodel, so existing wood floors, moldings and granite countertops remained intact. "The interior didn't require a total overhaul," says Shepherd. "If you know how to adapt furnishings to a space, you don't have to remove the countertops." And she should know. Shepherd's firm, Dressed Design, provides concept-to-completion design services, custom furnishings and staging for on-the-market, high-end luxury homes. In each situation, Shepherd's approach remains constant: "Our designs are timeless, yet timely. Whether we're designing a traditional or contemporary interior, it's all about creating it in a new way," she says. Her outside-the-box approach resonates throughout this Montage residence.

From the moment one steps inside, the condo imparts an upbeat vibe. Mountain views flood the open floor plan unfettered by overworked decorating and oversized furnishings. Instead, a white backdrop, clean lines and low-profile forms define the fashion-forward décor. "We wanted people to notice the views, not the furniture. We did, however, want them to enjoy the furniture," says Shepherd, who created custom pieces to shape the interior's sophisticated, modern style as well as define its living areas.

One of the designer's primary challenges was breaking the open, 40-by-30-foot living space into back-to-back family, dining and living areas that flow into each other and also appear spacious and distinctively separate. She began by focusing on the center of the room, where a large structural column interrupts the open space. Rather than battling the permanent pillar, Shepherd embraced it, using the beam to support a 38-inch-wide white birch table that "floats" between it and the wall. "You don't even notice the



WHY IT WORKS

Wish your home could have the light, modern vibe of this Park City pad? It can if you adopt a few of Beth Ann Shepherd's savvy design ideas.

Fluidity throughout the condo is fostered by the repetition of elements and treatments. Spice-toned accents—inspired by veining in the granite—recur in fabrics, accessories and art; faux fur and skins enrich bedding, benches, pillows and door panels; clean-lined, low-profile forms repeat room to room.

Texture rules; prints are secondary. "The look is fabulous and equally as detailed as a highly decorated, print-dominated traditional approach. The details are just more subtle," says Shepherd.

Comfort and convenience thrive. The dining room's swivel chairs, family room's modern recliners and casual sectional, and the living room's modern wing chairs are among the pieces that focus on feel and function as much as great looks.

Brown, the conventional color for many Park City pads, takes a backseat to fresh white and pops of lively color.

A mix of wood tones presents a fresh, rather than formulaic, single-stain look.

Savvy lighting design illuminates the interior without dominating it. Custom fixtures, lamps and sconces add style without blocking the views with bulky forms or look-at-me shades.

Understated draperies frame the views with softness and tailored style. "The draperies are very neutral in color," says Shepherd. Decoratively, they don't do the talking.

Rugs define separate sitting areas, and sizes are chosen to help dictate how the rooms will live.

Entire beds—not just the headboards—are upholstered. "Upholstering the rails and footboards adds perceived luxury and finishes the bed forms beautifully," says Shepherd.

Design details straight from the '70s (like door knocker-like ring hardware, fur throws and oversized lamps) add character without being cliché. "They add instant attitude," says Shepherd.



GET IN TOUCH

For **Beth Ann Shepherd**, texture trumps all. "In modern design today, texture is the leader, and prints are the accessory," she says. From faux furs and reptile skins to New Zealand wool and subtly grained woods, this home's material palette demonstrates the power of her texture-driven design.





Above: An 80-inch-tall winged headboard adds dramatic scale and luxury to the master suite's décor, while armless chairs—upholstered in ivory chenille—create a stylish seating area adding comfort without bulk. Right: The Montage Deer Valley is located just five minutes from Park City's Main Street.



column," says Shepherd. "Once an obstacle, now it's nearly invisible." The designer placed a large mirror at the table's end to reflect light and double the visual impact of a custom chandelier made of hand-blown glass "milk jugs" that float like bubbles above the birch slab.

The communal dining table comfortably seats 10 and stylishly separates the hip living and family room areas sitting just inches away. Modern, somewhat formal furnishings enrich the former while more relaxed, comfort-forward pieces furnish the latter. Each piece, from the living room's spice-toned armchairs to the family room's expansive sectional, contributes to the interior's modern vibe while helping create optimal traffic flow and enhance the million-dollar views.

The same holds true in the home's more private spaces, where luxurious details and chic furnishings enrich sleeping quarters for 16. They include the condo's five bedrooms, one of which is a closet the designer converted into a bunkroom. "As in most mountain homes, we needed to comfortably accommodate as many people as possible," says Shepherd, who creates floor plans based on her clients' lifestyles.

"It's about space engineering; it gives these owners a million ways to live in their home," Shepherd says. It's also about forward-thinking design. "The owners will be able to walk into this same space 10 years from now and still feel like the design is relevant and current," she adds. And according to this talented pro, that's the lasting reward of embracing timeless, yet timely, design. **USD**