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Accessories on a mountainside deck complement their surroundings.



Kevin Dietrich

A New OUTLOOK

Design tips for outdoor spaces

Nature's ever-changing moods and colors make living in Colorado exciting. Being inside your home shouldn't mean time away from appreciating the outdoors. Brandt Vanderbosch, founder of Vertical Arts Architecture, and his Steamboat Springs-based team share insights to bringing the outside indoors.

Create flow with doors

"To make your home feel more expansive and light-filled, opening wall systems create a seamless and uninterrupted flow from the inside out," says Vanderbosch. "Interior and exterior rooms should offer visual and spatial continuity with nature by integrating spaces, view corridors, and its environment."

Using large panes of glass, sliding or accordion, or pocket doors creates a flow between the interior and the exterior. "Large opening walls, keeping the floor levels in harmony with the terrain, and using floor materials that match the topography are great ways to blur the visual and physical barriers between the two areas," says interior designer Michele McCarthy.

Echo outdoor color pallet inside

"Connect the indoor room to the colors and shadows outside.

One way, is to take the style and size of the interior space and

reflect these proportionately into the adjoining landscape," says landscape architect Mitch Rewold. By using a similar material and color pallet inside and out, you can achieve a seamless flow, making the indoor and outdoor space feel more interconnected.

Outdoor furniture and shelter

When selecting furniture and trim for outdoor patios and decks, choose pieces and styles that complement your interior furnishings. "The outdoor space should be treated as the interior, giving thought to the textiles and structural materials, the lines of the furniture, accessories and lighting," McCarthy says. "By adding some personal touches and practical items such as soft seating, your outdoor space can function as a useful space throughout most of the year."



Courtesy Gibeon Photography

Thoughtful design creates a seamless flow from the outdoors to the interior.