

# QUIET BEAUTY

A HOUSTON COUPLE COMMISSIONS A GRACEFUL AND ELEGANT NEW RETREAT IN ASPEN, COLORADO, DESIGNED BY FELLOW TEXAN J. RANDALL POWERS.

A soft palette and linen upholstery create a peaceful atmosphere in the living room of a Colorado mountain retreat. The custom sofas in a Robert Kime linen stripe and cocktail table (*background*) are by Rose Tarlow Melrose House. The Cameron armchair (*left*) is in a Fortuny fabric, and the antique French chair (*right*) is in a Rogers & Goffigon linen. Cocktail table (*foreground*), Holly Hunt. Walls in Cornforth White, Farrow & Ball.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY J. RANDALL POWERS | ARCHITECTURE BY GRETCHEN GREENWOOD  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX KIM-BEE | PRODUCED BY CAROLYN ENGLEFIELD | WRITTEN BY ROB BRINKLEY



**J. RANDALL POWERS WAS GATHERING SAMPLES** in a bustling fabric showroom when he noticed that he was being watched. A well-dressed woman seemed to be tracking the Houston-based decorator as he was looking at swatches for a project. She reappeared at the next showroom, and the following one as well. "About a week later, I got a call," Powers says. "It was her. She and her husband were building a getaway house in Aspen, and my name had been brought up by several people. I went to her house, and it was one of the most beautiful I'd ever seen, an architectural masterpiece."

The woman clearly loved what she observed that day, because that phone call touched off a two-year adventure more than 1,000 miles from her home in Texas. After summering in Aspen for more than 30 years, she and her husband were craving a change and had commissioned a new house designed by the architect Gretchen Greenwood that would studiously avoid any mountain-house clichés—no antlers here, no stacked stone walls. Instead, they were aiming for an unfussy, European air. "It looks like a Belgian country house," says Powers of the end result. "There is nothing else like it in Aspen."

In Houston, the clients live with fine antiques and museum-quality art. For their vacation home, Powers gently coaxed them into a sleeker, more spare aesthetic to create interiors that are in tune with their new home's relaxed exterior.



The interiors were modeled on European country homes. The kitchen's barstools, in a Rose Tarlow Melrose House linen, and range hood are custom. Pendants, Formations. OPPOSITE, FROM TOP: In the dining room, the table is made of 17th-century chestnut floorboards on a Formations base; custom chairs slipcovered in a C&C Milano linen; pendant, Dennis & Leen. The table is set with Astier de Villatte dishes and Juliska glassware.



Powers found his inspiration for the design of the Aspen house right in front of him, in the personal style of his sophisticated client. “She’s quintessentially fabulous and very elegant,” he says. To tap into her innate glamour, he began by selecting several statement pieces to anchor the minimalist interior. He installed a 17th-century stone fireplace surround from France in the living room. In the dining room, he slyly created the illusion of an oval-shaped space by placing custom-made curved wooden cabinets in all four corners.

When it came to the furnishings, Powers had some good-natured fun. He persuaded his new muse “to branch out—go funkier, quirkier, and more modern.” One example? The dining room table is concocted from an iron base topped with slabs of well-worn chestnut wood that once served as floorboards.

The house’s easy aura is echoed everywhere, from the welcoming, plump sofas and chairs to windows draped with sheers to floors dressed with neutral rugs or left refreshingly bare. For the home’s palette, Powers took his cue from his client’s love of minty greens and pale blues, then punched it up with dashes of stronger color: raisiny browns, zippier greens, and pops of lavender.

The mission was accomplished. The three-story home is supremely comfortable but exudes élan, too. It is the scene of both family gatherings and frequent dinner parties. In fact, the tone was set the very first day that the couple arrived to see their newly decorated house. “At four in the afternoon, we opened the door, handed them glasses of rosé, and showed them all the details,” Powers says. “An hour later, they were hosting a cocktail party for 20 people. Catered!” Once she makes her mind up, this chic homeowner clearly trusts her instincts. □



In a daughter’s bedroom, the headboard is covered in a Pierre Frey quilted cotton. Custom sofa in a Sandra Jordan fabric. Table, Curated Kravet. Custom pendant, Brown. Bedside lamps, J. Randall Powers for Visual Comfort. OPPOSITE, FROM TOP: A family room links the kitchen with the garden; sofa in a Robert Kime fabric, Brunswick & Fils; armchair in a Penny Morrison print, Formations; antique Swedish table and English chair (right); rug, Stark; sconces, Ralph Lauren Home. A set of four Rose Tarlow Melrose House chairs covered in a Lee Jofa fabric overlooks the garden; floor lamp, Galerie des Lampes; French bistro table, W. Gardner Antiques; throw, Sandra Jordan. For more details, see Sourcebook.

JULY-AUGUST 2018

# VERANDA

*in full bloom*



NATURAL  
BEAUTY  
INDOORS  
& OUT