

# Winter Blues

*In Deer Valley, designer Tori McBrien and her clients use fresh colors, shimmering surfaces and high-voltage details to transform a slope-side family retreat.*

BY BRAD MEE PHOTOS BY SCOT ZIMMERMAN

**T**he storyline is hardly new: An out-of-state couple buys a resort home in Deer Valley, inspired by world-famous ski snow and spectacular year-round scenery. But their take on slope-side living couldn't be more novel. Rather than surrounding themselves with dark woods, heavy textures and warm earth-tones, these new homeowners opted for a fresher, more colorful approach to mountain style.

"Make it light, bright and open," says designer Tori McBrien, recalling the simple directives her clients expressed about their new Montage Residence. The couple resides in St. Louis where a love for color imbues the family's primary home. "It was a big driving force," McBrien says. "I wanted the mountain residence to feel like home for them, so we used their St. Louis décor as a starting point."

The couple's new mountain retreat provided some challenges and countless opportunities. Rich cherry doors and millwork subdued the open interior, as did dark granite countertops and a traditional mountain décor. A "lock-off" wall that separated and secured the third bedroom suite from the rest of the one-level, three bedroom dwelling also cramped its interior. "We ripped out the wall to make one big unit from two smaller ones," explains McBrien who eliminated the lock-off wall and an adjoining pantry to accommodate a newly expanded kitchen. She painted all of the cherry wood white, replaced dark granite with





The living area is an inviting and high-style anchor of the home's great room. A Global Views sunburst light fixture and Philip Jeffries indigo wallpaper dress an eye-catching ceiling tray. Walls painted Sherwin Williams' Rhythmic Blue foster the interior's fresh, tranquil ambiance.



In the dining room, a slab of recycled pressed glass rests on two nickel-finished table bases. A pair of Muriel Chandeliers by Oly Studio reflect on a wall inset with mirrored panels. Stark outdoor fabric upholsters the bench and dining chairs.



The expanded kitchen is an extension of the nearby living and dining areas. New white-painted cabinets by Teerlink Cabinet replaced existing dark wood versions. The island—lowered to bar rather than counter height—features a waterfall-edge design topped with white quartz. Sapphire pendants by Niche Modern shine on mosaic tiles covering the backsplash and island base.

white quartz, swapped rustic hardware with polished nickel pieces, and enlivened the décor with a vibrant color palette, light-expanding treatments and fresh, updated furnishings.

Walnut floors, refinished and renewed with a dark stain, now run throughout the great room. Here, and elsewhere in the home, McBrien enlisted lively colors—mostly blues—to define and elevate the style of the spaces, all endowed with spectacular mountain views. A deep ceiling tray, dressed in navy sisal wallpaper, runs the length of the combined living and dining areas, crowning them with an uplifting, eye-catching detail. “The dark blue anchors the space from above,” McBrien explains. In the dining area, a large banquette upholstered in powder blue pops with striking, pattern-punched pillows that repeat on the living room sectional. “The pillows were our splurge,” McBrien admits with a laugh. Nearby, a hydrangea-blue leather ottoman hugs the fireplace, sapphire-colored pendants dangle above the kitchen island and water-toned geometrically patterned wallpaper animates the powder room’s walls. “The blues act like threads that tie the interior together,”





A black-and-gold color palette helps give the master bedroom a chic, sophisticated style. Custom built-ins frame the fireplace while a gold leaf anchors the room. A Jean Louis Chandelier by Currey & Co hangs from a wall-papered tray ceiling.

**BELOW:** A handsome chest enriches a vignette in the hallway leading to the master suite.



McBrien explains. At the same time, the neutrally toned furnishings and finishes prevent color from bullying the décor. McBrien says, “The wife loves bright colors but didn’t want them to overwhelm the interior.”

Additional interest and intrigue are provided by McBrien’s distinctive fixtures and finishes. She hung a pair of clustered-bubble-like chandeliers over the dining table, a shimmering sunburst light above the living area and a shell-and-crystal chandelier in the guest bathroom, to name a few of the illuminated head-turners. “I love statement-making light fixtures,” McBrien admits. She also adores tile. McBrien chose pearlescent mosaics to dress the kitchen backsplash as well as the wall beneath the kitchen’s island’s countertop. “The waterfall edges surround the tile,” says McBrien who theatrically illuminated the glistening treatment with concealed LED rope lights. This mosaic tile also adorns a fireplace once dressed in limestone and clads glass-shelved walls that frame the chimney on both sides. “Light just shimmers off the surfaces,” explains the designer who purposefully used these and other shining materials to reflect light and visually expand the interior. Mirror

To transform the guest bathroom, McBrien painted the existing vanity white and dressed the back wall with mosaic tile shimmering behind a pair of Eternity lighted mirrors. A Canter White Dolcetti flush mount chandelier amplifies the room's glamorous style.





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## BRIGHT IDEAS

1. Sapphire pendant lights by Niche Modern hang above the kitchen island.
2. This Montage Deer Valley residence enjoys breathtaking views and ski-in/ski-out access to the famous slopes.
3. Designer Tori McBrien, principal of McBrien Interiors
4. Zoffany's Prism Wallpaper, a lighted mirror and repainted vanity transformed the compelling powder room.
5. Shades of purple, ranging from pale lavender to deep plum, give the guest suite a luxe, regal vibe. Artisan mica mirroring accents the upholstered headboard by Vanguard. Fluted pendant light by Global Views.
6. Custom pillows help drive interior's compelling color and pattern palette.



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Built-in bunks by Teerlink Cabinet provide comfortable and stylish sleeping quarters for the children and guests. The left bunk and center steps provide hidden storage space while the right bunk houses a trundle bed beneath. Niches by each bed feature USB outlets and LED lighting. Custom carpet is by J.D. Staron.

**BELOW:** Ringed headboards allow light to flow through, fostering the bunk room's spacious feel.

panels surround the dining alcove and gleaming polished nickel bases support the table's recycled-glass top. Reflective wall coverings animate walls and metallic accents sparkle throughout.

McBrien also designed furnishings to foster the interior's open, light-filled ambiance. She insisted on a low profile for the living room's sectional—upholstered in a carefree indoor-outdoor fabric—to prevent it from blocking light and views emanating from the great room's broad windows. She lowered the kitchen island from bar- to counter-height and chose leggy chairs and stools rather than heavy, bulky versions that would weigh the décor down. In the bunk room, she created metal "headboards" with circular cutouts that allow light to flow freely through them. "We looked at everything as a way to make the home brighter, lighter and cheery," McBrien explains.

In the end, lively hues, easy comfort and upbeat style prevailed. Thanks to a talented designer and her color-loving clients, the family's mountain retreat feels just like home. ■

