



# NORDIC NUANCES

SCANDINAVIAN DESIGN LENDS  
FRESH, UNDERSTATED BEAUTY TO  
A MOUNTAIN HOUSE IN ASPEN.

RENOVATION AND INTERIOR DESIGN BY DAVID EASTON  
RENOVATION ARCHITECTURE BY ERIC J. SMITH  
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**DAVID EASTON HAS DESIGNED A PORTFOLIO OF BLUE-CHIP HOUSES IN ASPEN, BUT NOTHING AS SWOONINGLY ROMANTIC AND ADORING OF SCANDINAVIAN STYLE** as this retreat on a dramatic slope on Red Mountain. “With their soft, cool colors and rich textures and patinas, I’ve always been drawn to Nordic houses, especially in the Swedish countryside,” says Easton. “They’re elegant and sophisticated, but in a humble way. It’s what I was after—that and a certain *gemütlich* quality: comfortable, cozy, inviting.”

Commissioned by a couple with three daughters, whose Connecticut house he had previously decorated,

the New York designer took a giant eraser to the Aspen manse, which was built in the 1970s and had become dated. When the dust settled on Easton’s collaboration with renovation architect Eric J. Smith, the only thing that remained of the original interior was the location of the rooms.

Easton added tall bay windows, one of his signatures, to give the spaces depth, shake up their geometry, play up town and mountain views and create intimate pockets for well-cushioned conversation. Oak and pine millwork—from boiseries to stair balusters with jigsawed profiles—was limed, submitted to a wire brush to pull up the grain, stained a muted pearl gray and finished with an antique glaze.

This being a tribute to Sweden, painted furniture



Different wood tones are unified in the hand-painted wallpaper.  
 OPENING PAGES (ENTRY): Antique Swedish console table and candleholders. Antique Italian mirror. Wall lanterns, Vaughan.  
 THIS PAGE: Custom wallpaper. Antique mirror and Swedish dining table, both Lief. Antique chairs in Chapas Textiles woven. Antique chandelier and girandole. Curtains in Kravet fabric with Samuel & Sons trim. Rug, Patterson, Flynn & Martin. Flowers by The Aspen Branch. OPPOSITE: Table, John Rosselli Antiques. Custom banquette in Brunschwig & Fils fabric. Custom pillows in antique fabrics. Antique chair. Antique rug, Beauvais Carpets.



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(and more painted furniture), flashes of crystal and a fondness for delicate, liling wall treatments abound. Above the dado in the dining room, where the ceiling was raised to expose support beams, is a hand-painted wallpaper with a rhythmic bird-on-a-branch motif precisely copied from a palace in Stockholm.

“The whole point is that nothing shouts,” Easton says. “The palette was kept to tans, blue grays, biscuit. What sparks of color there are come from the paintings, pillows and objects. A number of houses in Aspen are rather heavy, dark and Austrian in feeling. This is open, prettier and more feminine, if you will. If there’s an iron bed, it’s hammered iron so the thing seems like it’s got some age to it. The stone floors have a beaten look. Wood is crackled, bleached out. The worn surfaces keep everything from getting too grandiose.”

Among the original house’s deficiencies was a standard fireplace in the master bedroom that Easton rectified with a low, sober, Louis XVI–style limestone mantel below a round convex window. The new oculus is a detail he remembered from the house where he boarded as a postgraduate student at the Château de Fontainebleau, near Paris, in the 1960s. Ingeniously, the flue snakes around the window.

“Where normally you might hang a picture,” says Easton, “you’ve instead got a beautifully framed view of the stunning Colorado landscape.”

Other Easton additions to the house include an inglenook with wraparound seating in the double-height living room. “I designed the room for parties,” he says. “Twenty people can gather for drinks and not fill all the chairs. Social life is the subtext to everything in Aspen.” □

Subtle patterns keep a quiet living room interesting. Custom sofa in Travers fabric. Custom pillows in Virginia Di Sciascio Antique Textiles. Custom ottoman in antique textile and Rose Tarlow Melrose House velvet. Antique side tables. Custom tufted armchairs in Chapas Textiles woven. Antique table lamps and walnut chapel stools. Antique Italian chandelier. Curtains in Ranjit Ahuja fabric. Antique rug, Beauvais Carpets.





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A delicate floral on the curtain adds softness to a second-floor landing. **THIS PAGE:** Chairs, mirror, lantern and Swedish cabinet, all antiques. Curtains in Lee Jofa fabric. Rug, Beauvais Carpets. **OPPOSITE:** Custom bed. Bedskirt in Chelsea Editions fabric. Antique bench. Custom ottoman. Bergères, The Gables Antiques, in Travers fabric. Curtains in Ranjit Ahuja fabric. Antique lantern. Wallcovering, Shyam Ahuja. Rug, Beauvais. Mantel, Chesney's.

