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DREAM TEAM

The 2015 Designer Showhouse collaboration blends 13 styles into one modern, bright and cohesive stunner of a space

BY MARIA MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAUL J. GARCIA







A striking roofline lends a modern silhouette to this Cory-Merrill neighborhood home.



When it comes to pitching in for a charity, the old adage, “too many cooks spoil the broth” simply doesn’t hold up.

In fact, for everyone from the architect to the builder of the *Denver Life Magazine* Designer Showhouse, open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily June 1-14, this was a nearly seamless project.

The 2015 Showhouse, a collaboration between the magazine and Caliber Construction, is a 4,800-plus-square-foot home in Denver’s Cory-Merrill neighborhood. A \$15 admission fee will go straight to Habitat for Humanity (see story on page 36), a project all those involved were excited to support.

Brad Liber, president of Caliber Construction, says he was amazed at the level of cooperation among all of those who put countless hours into the effort, including around a dozen interior designers.

“It’s done and staged, and it’s better than I ever could have expected,” he says. “It turned out more stunning than what I expected, and it really opened my eyes to what designers can really do.”

Coordinating 13 design firms with 13 different styles, schedules and visions for each space was a challenge to say the least, says lead designer Caylin Engle, founder of CBE Interiors, and lead designer

with Caliber Construction.

“Luckily, they are all very talented and things went smoothly,” she says. “It was so fun seeing each space come together.”

And, while every project brings a set of challenges, Engle adds, with this one, it was essential that she could make decisions quickly on site, and keep the overall aesthetic of the home in mind.

“Viewing each room as its own space while keeping continuity throughout the entire home; that was key,” she says.

Architect Don Goerig, of Goerig Design, agrees with Liber and Engle that the cooperation between builder, architect and designers helped this project go smoothly. And it helps, he adds, that proceeds from the home tour will go to Habitat for Humanity.

“The home is somewhat modern, but like all great modern houses, it has warmth,” he says. “There are areas where you would want to sit and relax.”

What helps bring that warmth

is wood, which visitors will see on walls and in unexpected places. And the house is bright—light is essential to a modern home, Goerig says.

“It’s just been a great experience, doing this house,” he adds.

Modern construction—from materials to function—is a large focus of Caliber, Liber says.

“It’s not a cold, contemporary finish,” he says. “We bring in warm elements.”

Best, he says, is that there is a sense of continuity throughout the home—something some showhouses overlook.

“All the rooms tie together,” he says. “It feels like one house, and not just a bunch of rooms.”

Keeping those rooms uncluttered was the job of Josh Stewart, technology adviser for Xssentials, a technology integration firm.

On a house like this, Stewart first focuses on convenience.

“It’s not so much ‘Will my house think for itself?’ as it is ‘Will it respond to my phone?’” he says.

One of the first steps Stewart took in this project was to get rid of the myriad light switches that clutter many homes; the clusters of three-way switches often are confusing and unsightly.

“In the garage, you hit a switch that says ‘home’ and it will turn on all the lights in the room you use most,” he says.

Homeowners can customize those preferences and choose to have a master switch in the bedroom that shuts down interior lights and turns on outdoor lights at night.

The house also has a great WiFi and sound system, he adds.

We asked the cast of talented designers to weigh in on their inspiration for the space they worked in, to share some of the elements in the room that will catch visitors’ eyes and, finally, to answer the question everyone wants to know: How can the average person take inspiration for their own home decor? It’s time to take the tour.





Large, original art and subtle pops of bright color add spark to the home's neutral dining and great rooms. See next page for details.



MAKE A STATEMENT

THE ROOMS: The dining and great rooms

THE DESIGNER: Pamela Kelker, Castles Interiors / 303.989.0801 / castlesinteriors.com

HER INSPIRATION: The contemporary architecture of the home and its simplicity. Kelker wanted the décor to feel casual, dressy and comfortable all at the same time. She used neutrals with pops of colors in orange and yellow, softening it a bit with the use of gray and taupe shades in the great room draperies and both rugs.

AWE-INSPIRING FEATURES: She painted the inset of the transom windows a contrasting black, creating the backdrop for three very large custom pieces of art—making that entire space a focal point and bold statement.

PRO TIP: Do something fun—use different dining chair styles and upholster them all in the same fabric. You have continuity that way, but you've added a twist.

RESOURCES:

- Furniture: Town, townstudio.com
- Rugs: Floor Coverings by CPA, cpacarpets.com
- Accessories: Castles Home Décor, 3000 E. Third Ave., castleshomedecor.com
- Art: Pam Kelker
- Paint: Guiry's/Benjamin Moore Pashmina AF-100, guirys.com

