



*The new-build at 332 Mill Creek Circle is a contemporary masterpiece.*

# MOUNTAIN CONTEMPORARY

*Mill Creek Circle home presents a rare Vail lifestyle opportunity*

by KIMBERLY NICOLETTI • photos by RON RUSCIO

THERE'S A NEW KID ON the block in Vail — one that carries a prestigious history. Mill Creek Estate, completed in 2020, sits on the same land that President Gerald Ford often gathered with movers and shakers like Nelson Rockefeller and Seven-Summit mountaineer Dick Bass in the 1970s, as Ford's secret service agents resided in neighboring homes.

And President Ford isn't the only one who had impeccable taste when it came to choosing a location in Vail. Just about every founder of Vail set up residence in Mill Creek Circle — right next

to Vail Mountain and Vail Village — in the early days. Now, it's not only rare to see a property for sale on Mill Creek Circle, it's also unheard of to find a brand new, contemporary masterpiece. The exclusive neighborhood holds fewer than 20 homes, which are usually passed on in family trusts, so it's extremely difficult to purchase in the location.

Until now.

#### **Location, location**

Developer Michael English spent three years in negotiations to acquire the 0.31 acre, partially due to the fact that it included

a 1970s pool, which three homeowners shared. After purchasing the lot, he contracted the finest architects and craftsmen in the valley to build the seven-bedroom, 8,168-square-foot home at 332 Mill Creek Circle.

"The location doesn't get much better in Vail," English says. "Overall, Mill Creek Circle is a little gem off the beaten path. It's as quiet as a gated community, but it's not gated."

The four-story home is literally a stone's throw from Gondola One, and it's right next to Vail Village's fine dining, boutiques and ski shops.

#### **Living on top**

Glass walls surround the top-level living room, with its vaulted ceiling and a cozy, L-shaped sofa facing the fireplace. Right next to the living room, a sleek wine bar seats four, and the adjacent, fully acclimated wine room, which is also made for entertaining, holds nearly 400 bottles.

A large glass wall in the living room opens into an approximately 10-foot, fresh air expanse. Indoor living seamlessly blends with outdoor living, from the sounds of the rushing Mill Creek below, to the views of dedicated open space and the Gore Range.



Outside, welcoming chairs surround a rectangular, stainless steel fireplace. The enormous top deck overlooks not only the Gore Range, but also Pepi's Face, Lindsey's run and what used to be President Ford run. The Diamond Spa soothes tired muscles and relaxes the mind, as flames dance in the built-in, stainless steel firepit on one end, and a waterfall appears to flow right off the edge on the other side.

Inside, guests wake up to a view of the gondola as it rises up Vail Mountain; English installed a strategically placed 8-foot-long, 2-foot high awning window revealing the inspiring view in the bedroom.

**Main level living**


The entry-level master suite, bathroom and closet feature an oxygenation system, which can be set to sea level — or any elevation — to easily and




Dining and great room



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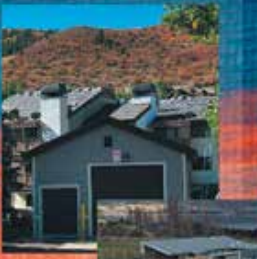



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progressively adjust to Vail's elevation. With every comfort in mind, English also added sound-deadening materials throughout the ceiling, floor and walls to make the bedroom extra quiet.

The master bathroom — one of 11 baths throughout the home — provides every luxury. The Euro-glass shower doubles as a steam room and contains 11 shower heads and floating stone benches. The freestanding, handcrafted tub comes from MTI, as do the sinks. Nearly every fixture throughout the house is from Fantini Rubinetti, an Italian company that hires artists to design its modern fixtures.

"The whole house has an Italian flair," English says, adding that when he was researching products for the home at showrooms in New York City, "Fantini jumped out. No one's used it in the mountains."

Marmorino Venetian Plaster adds an elegance to the walls and ceilings throughout the home. The specialty plaster, which comes from Italy, is made from marble dust, which produces both the marbling and reflective effect of solid marble.

An open floor plan flows from the great room, dining room and kitchen.

In the kitchen, a combination of glass, walnut and high-gloss lacquer cabinets hide the refrigerator, freezer and pantries. The main, 5-foot kitchen island contains two faucets in its sink, while the elongated breakfast bar seats up to nine for a midday lunch at the base of the slopes. The range hood is discreetly wrapped in porcelain to match the main island countertop. A sidewall, made of walnut, encloses a flat screen TV, so everyone can catch the weather report before heading out on their mountain adventure.

The kitchen includes three sinks. One is a bar sink, positioned next to a Dacor WineStation, the first automated, temperature controlled, four-bottle wine dispensing and preservation

system for residential use, so everyone can enjoy their favorite wine, or taste a few, with the touch of a finger. And, for a strong morning start, English installed a coffee and cappuccino machine.

The adjacent dining room table seats 10 and features 16 feet of floor-to-ceiling diamond-matched granite hearth, which makes it look like one full piece, with the veins and grains flowing perfectly from side to side, floor to ceiling. English chose Porcelanosa porcelain tiles for flooring; the company has built a reputation as a thought-leader in the industry.

Just outside the dining and great room, a 10-foot door opens onto an expansive deck. A fully-equipped barbecue awaits an outdoor party, next to the dry-stacked fireplace and cozy seating.

In total, Mill Creek Estate provides about 2,700 square feet of elevated, snow melted patio space within its four levels. Heaters are suspended from outdoor ceilings for extra warmth during shoulder seasons, and the four firepits on the decks are sure to keep people toasty as well. Glass railings allow uninterrupted views of skiers coming down the mountain, or green grassy runs and open space in the summer. Mature aspens and pines add privacy to the outdoor living lifestyle.

#### **From the front door**

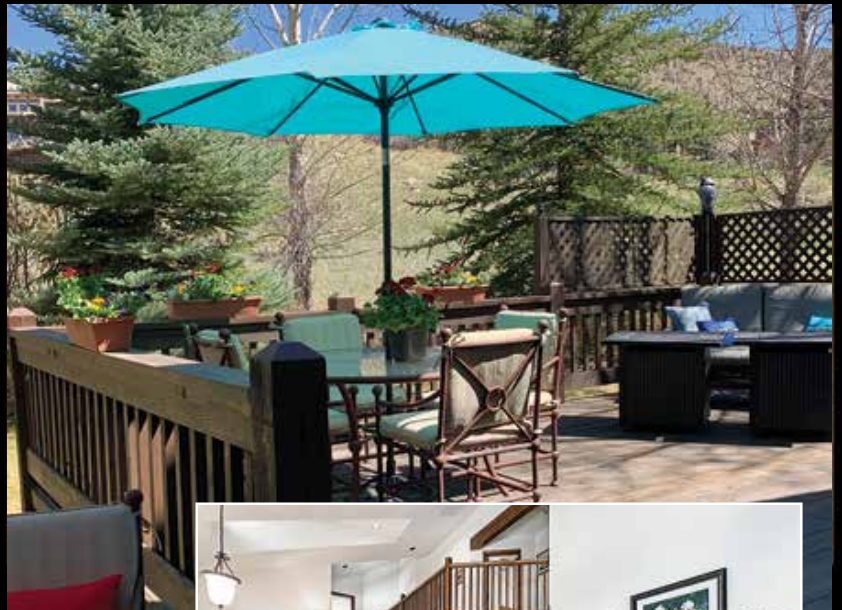
Before guests even enter Mill Creek Estate, long, stainless steel firepits on each side of the entry path provide a fiery wow factor. Four stories of glass windows accentuate the effect upon entry.

Floating staircases are surrounded by glass walls and illuminated with diffuse light underneath the walnut treads. Alternatively, a four-story, stainless steel elevator, which opens on both sides, rises to each level.

The ground level includes a three-car garage with epoxy floors, air conditioning, heat and

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Gorgeous Mountain and Golf Course Views can be seen from all directions from windows flooded with natural light in this beautiful home. Soaring ceilings and knotty alder flooring enhance the main level open floor plan. The dining room, complete with a double fireplace, opens up onto a massive deck with views of the Sonnenalp golf course and Beaver Creek mountains. The master bedroom has a private deck, Arrowhead ski area views and a jetted tub for relaxing. Two spacious guest bedrooms and a separate office complete this inviting floor plan. A must see!

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a sound system. The ski lounge is located off of the garage, and it's much more than an area to store equipment. It's the perfect place to plop down on the comfy seating areas, take off boots and grab a drink at the wet bar while gazing into yet another gorgeous fireplace — one of five throughout the house. It also has 15 walnut ski lockers for friends and family members.

This level also hosts an office, a powder room and two bedrooms — both of which, like all bedrooms throughout the home, have their own bathroom.

Parking in Vail comes at a premium, but it's abundant at this property. In addition to the three-car garage, it offers two covered spots and another eight in the courtyard, for a total of 13.

**Downstairs**

Each of the three bedrooms on the lower level receives plenty of



Kitchen

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daylight; English assured this by carving out the east side and building big boulder retaining walls. The bunkroom sleeps up to six kids, with two bunks that have a queen bed on the bottom and a full bed above — all, of course, with charging stations.

The family room is the third room in the home with an oxygenated system; the wine room on the top level also includes an oxygenation system, so guests can enjoy their favorite Cabernet, while progressively adjusting to mountain elevation.

The family room is the perfect place to watch movies, with its custom-built sofas and bean bag chairs. English reinforced the doors between the family room and bedrooms with sound deadening doors, so late nighters won't disturb those who want to call it an early night.

An innovative glass wall separates the family room from the exercise gym; when the switch is on, the glass is clear, and when it's off, it's frosted for privacy. There's also a steam room, with glass tile and two tiered benches, next to the family room.

The wellness room, which can act as a yoga studio or a massage room for two, sits just off of the gym.

#### State-of-the-art

Mill Creek Estate has it all, including an innovative in-floor cooling system, and, of course, radiant floor heat. English also installed secondary heating and cooling systems.

The mechanical system is cutting edge; the home has a Sonance sound system throughout (including the outdoor patios, steam rooms, garage and ski room); it comes with high-level security; has shades built into the walls so there's no unsightly valences;

and it contains extra sound reduction materials. Savant's home automation delivers personalized features, making it simple to adjust lighting, sound, security and temperature whether you're at home or 2,500 miles away.

“In my opinion, it is the most sophisticated, high-tech house in Vail,” says Ron Byrne, owner of Ron Byrne & Associates Real Estate.

English has been a developer in the Vail Valley since 1991 and has trusted the same building professionals for over 20 years.

“They know the details and the level of sophistication and the level of creativity that's going to come out of it,” English says. “They know I'm going to push everybody to do their best to make it a very unique and special home.”


Special homes are his forte, as he has developed some of the most luxurious homes in the valley.

He worked closely with Berglund Architects to maximize the amount of square footage on the 0.31 acre.

“I was in their office so much, I had my own office there,” he says, jokingly. “They had a great eye for the style that I was trying to achieve on that site.”

“I'm a stickler for details. The floor plan has to work. So, when I design a house with architects, I'm always walking through it in my mind to make sure it flows. There's a reason why the bedrooms and family room and entrances (are located where they are).”

The fully furnished estate comes with elegant furnishings by Holly Hunt, Joseph Jeup, Le Corbusier, Minotti, Poltana Frau and Frette luxury linens, just to name a few.

“Throughout my entire career (35 years), I've been fortunate to see the most rare and lofty real estate pieces in Vail,” Byrne says. “I think this is the finest piece I've worked with. This is just the top of the top.” 

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