



ARCHITECT SCOTT RODWIN designed Robin and Jennifer Johnsons' open main floor for ideal daylight, views and easy access to the yard. The kitchen, dining and great rooms flow seamlessly together for gatherings around the custom concrete fireplace and walnut entertainment area.

This modern home was designed to showcase the artist-owner's paintings, but it's also a work of art all on its own.

PHOTOS BY ALIVESTUDIOS.COM

TEXT BY [LISA MARSHALL](#)

Resources

Architect: Scott Rodwin, Rodwin Architecture, 1245 Pearl St., Suite 202, Boulder, 303-413-8556, www.rodwinarch.com

General Contractor: Brandon David, Skycastle Construction, www.skycastleconstruction.com

Concrete Tile Fireplace: Concrete Visions, 2415 Donella Court, Suite 120, Fort Collins, 970-221-1130, www.concrete-visions.com

Front Door: Quality Doors and Trim, 1700 S. 120th St., Lafayette, 303-828-2624

Lights: Splashlight Studio, 3207 Walnut St., Boulder, 303-449-3999, www.splashlightstudio.com

Kitchen Table/Coffee Table: Revampt, 2601 E. 3rd Ave., Denver, 720-536-5464, www.revamptgoods.com

Couch: American Leather, www.americanleather.com

Artwork: Jennifer Stanley Johnson, www.jsj-art.com

A CONTEMPORARY CANVAS

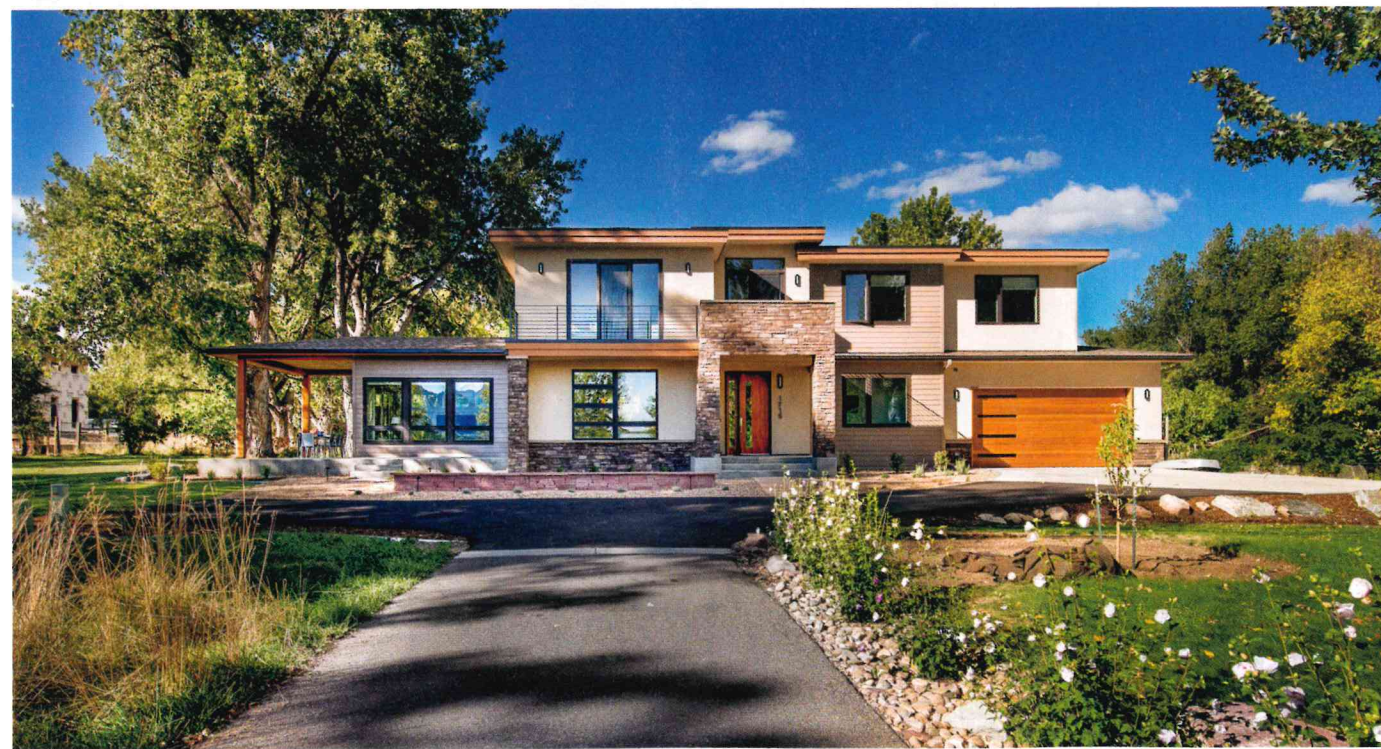


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» The home is set deep on a private lot and warmly glows at twilight. The design balances the owners' desire for expansive views south to the Flatirons and optimal passive solar.

« Natural building materials help the exterior blend with the landscape.

Push open the front door of Jennifer and Robin Johnson's new home and you feel as if you've stumbled upon a gallery of modern French art. Vivid splashes of rose-colored brushstrokes immediately catch your eye, drawing you to an oversized acrylic named "Secret Garden" for the French flower beds that inspired it. Around the corner, deep turquoise hues transport you to Gorges du Loup, a river valley near Nice, France, where the couple used to take their two boys to swim. On another wall hangs an abstract rendering of Renoir's French Riviera garden.

With dozens of Jennifer's original paintings gracing crisp white walls bathed in natural light, it's easy for a visitor to overlook the understated beauty of the house itself. But that's just how they intended it. "In my mind, less is more," says Jennifer, whose family of four moved to Boulder in 2015 after living 13 years in France. "We didn't want the fabric of the home to be so overwhelming you didn't notice the art."

But in many ways, the home is a work of art, too. Set back on the grassy, daffodil-studded property, with towering cottonwoods and sweeping Flatirons views, the 3,333-square-foot, four-bedroom home manages to be at once elegant and unpretentious, green and affordable, ultramodern while warm and inviting.

The Johnsons worked with Boulder-based Rodwin Architecture and their builder, Skycastle Construction, to design it via Skype from 5,000 miles away and moved in just 18 months after setting eyes on the lot. "Our friends were like 'don't do it; so many things can go wrong building a house. You'll end up divorced!'" Jennifer recalls. "But we took a leap of faith."

Adds Robin: "Honestly, it was easy."

Fresh from France to Colorado

Jennifer was working as a communications director for a Fortune 500 company when she and Robin decided to leave their home in England, where he is from, and move to a small coastal village near the French Mediterranean coast.

"We wanted to experience life in another country and to raise our kids bilingual so we just picked up and went," says Jennifer, who is originally from Florida. While Robin continued his job as a pilot, she took time off to raise their two boys and nurture her love of painting.

From a backyard studio overlooking olive orchards and the Mediterranean Sea, she developed a unique style using layers of paint and bits of fabric to create textural, 3-D abstracts inspired by old photos, distant memories or her mind's eye. The couple recently hosted an Open Studios tour, during which 200 visitors saw her art and heard about her creative process. ▶

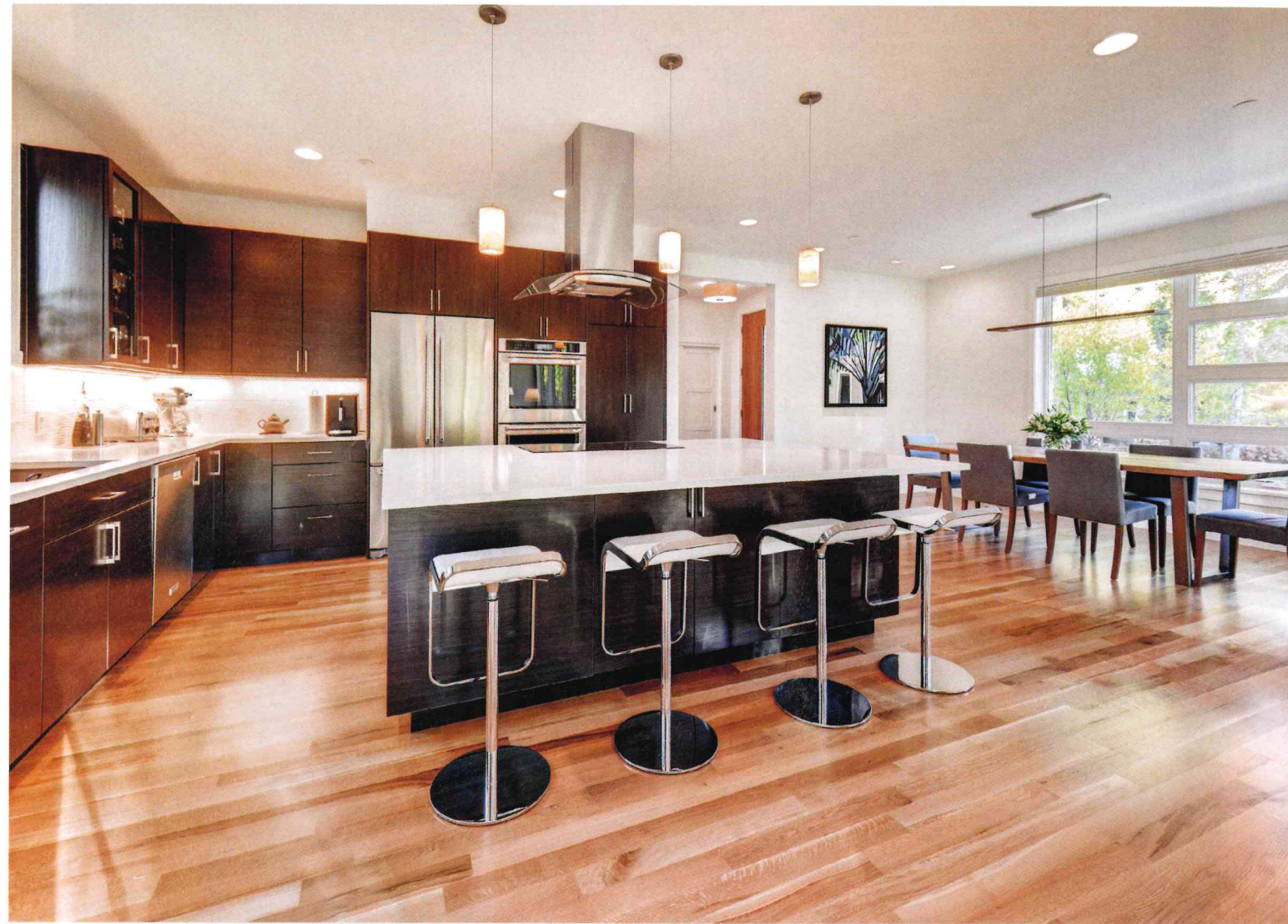
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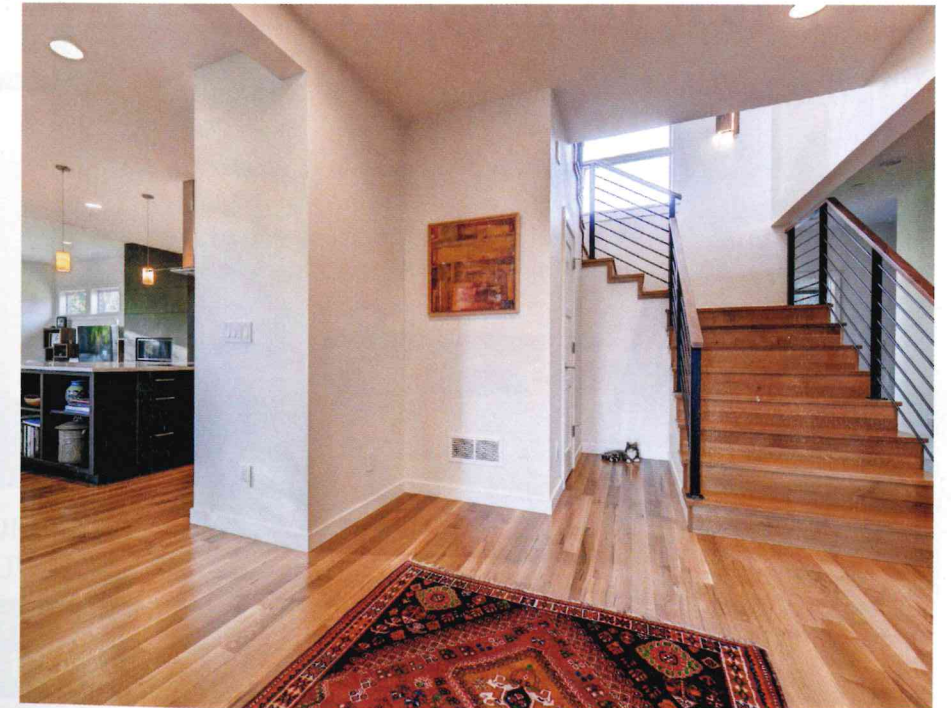


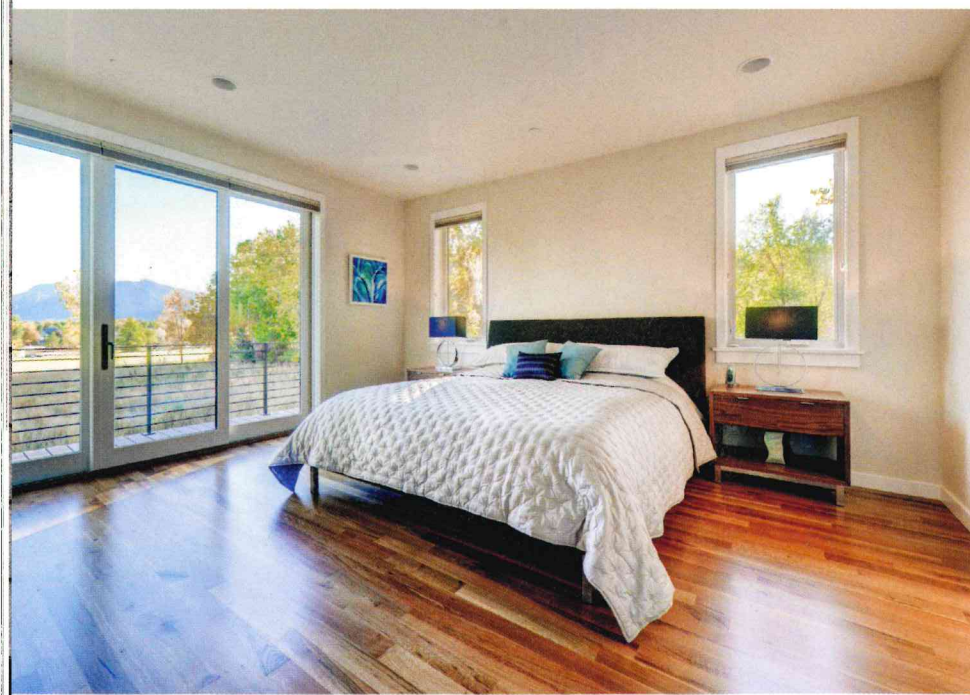
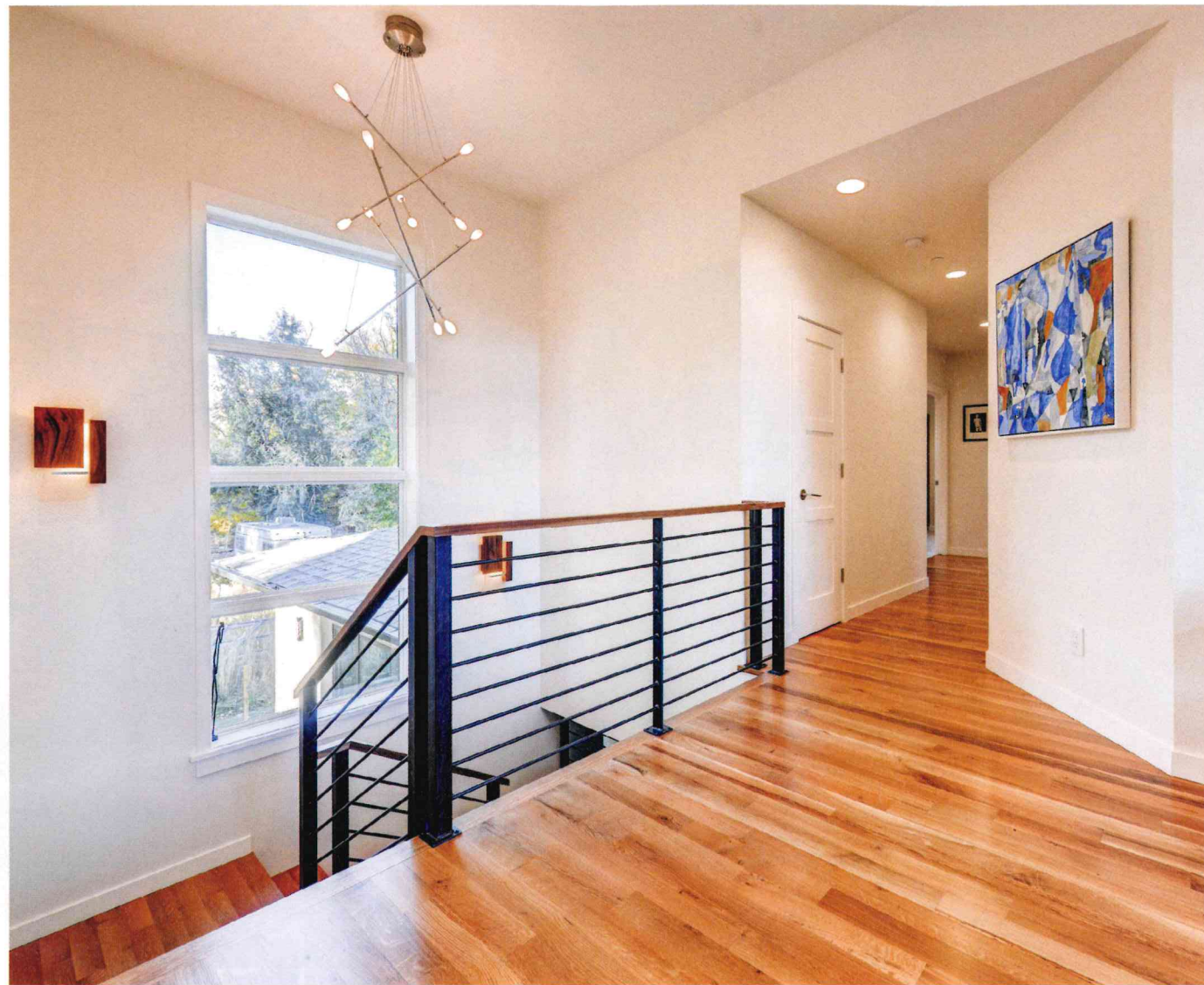
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» The oversized island with a sleek induction cooktop begs guests to gather around. The custom reclaimed-oak dining table is by Revamp in Cherry Creek. The appliances are by KitchenAid.

» A combination of clean white walls and rift- and quarter-sawn white oak flooring aesthetically tie the house together. ▶





★ LED light fixtures from Splashlight marry art and energy efficiency.

◀ The master bedroom has a private balcony and unobstructed Flatirons views. ▶

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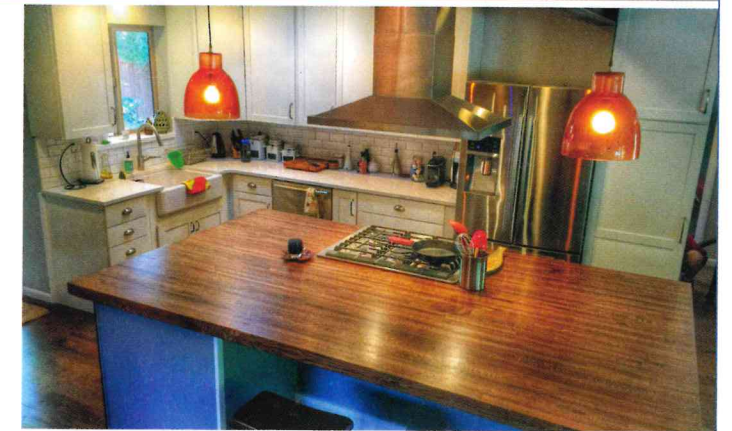
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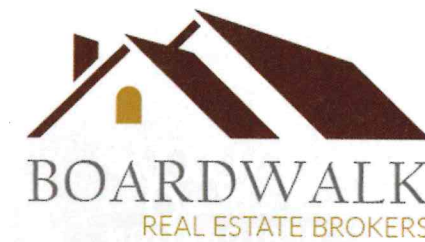


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