

# Level Unlocked

HOW LIGHT, LEVITY AND MODERNITY TRANSFORMED BOULDER'S DECK HOUSE



When Scott Rodwin was approached about remodeling this 1970s Boulder-area home, he was struck by two things. First, he was baffled at the original home's layout and its lack of incorporation of its spectacular natural surroundings. Second, he couldn't help but feel that this lot posed a truly unique opportunity from both a design and lifestyle perspective.

"The homeowners called us to look at this home before they purchased it," says Scott, principal at Rodwin Architecture and CEO of Silycastle Construction. "The home was on a wonderful, but challengingly steep lot. We let them know that we saw special potential in the property."

The project called for a total transformation of the existing structure, and not just in terms of updating the original pink stucco abode. The team also needed to consider how to fully integrate the home's design to maximize its connection with its gorgeous foothills surroundings.

"The original house was a puzzle," says Scott. "It had incomparable views looking south over all of Boulder



ARTICLE BY LISA VAN HORNE  
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and to the Flatirons and beyond, but the existing house had almost no windows or outdoor living spaces. Our first step was to open up the new house as much as possible to capture these sights."

A design/build project executed by Rodwin Architecture and Silycastle Construction, the end result is a 4,200 sq. ft. home that encapsulates the light and splendor of its setting. It is known as the Deck House given the seamless indoor/outdoor lifestyle that it facilitates from every area of the home via its expansive windows and five decks— one of which is a sprawling roof deck.

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“In adding so many windows and doors we also created the opportunity to make this house passive solar,” says Scott, “so we designed overhangs and metal brise soleil across the entire south face of the house. This all contributes to the home’s strong sustainable design aspect.”

This theme of bright levity is evident not just in the natural light spilling into all of the areas of the home, but also in its newly airy, spacious interior.

“On the inside, the challenge was that the hill climbs 30 feet from the front to the rear of the house,” says Scott. “We reconfigured the house to create a delightfully winding staircase that opens to daylight and views at every turn.”

The team also transitioned the originally dark, segmented interior to give it more flowing circulation that Scott notes is akin to a waterfall. This is achieved in part by the two-story, light-filled foyer that multiple rooms look through and benefit from in terms of both sunlight and beautiful sights.

An undeniable sense of luxury permeates throughout the home through its many beautiful design details. The custom mahogany front door provides an elegant

contemporary touch. The central stone fireplace helps to delineate the kitchen, dining and living areas in the open concept floorplan, while niches carved into the foyer walls help the homeowners display their sculptural art collection. The primary bathroom—part of the penthouse primary suite—returns to the motif of light and levity with its ethereal style and beach-inspired palette.

This sophistication is complemented by a playful personality, as the home includes many hidden elements designed to create a sense of magic and wonder. The central reading nook includes a secret door leading to a more private enclave. A laundry chute is hidden behind a framed painting, and a small wet bar is just out of view behind a stylish barn door.

Overall, it is a home that Scott feels now takes full advantage of its special hillside perch, both inside and out.

“One of my favorite aspects of the home is that, when you are in it, it feels like it is floating above the tree canopy of the town,” says Scott. “As you look out to the Flatirons, Boulder looks like it’s covered in a green forest, making you feel like you are hovering above the city.”