

33825 MEADOW CREEK DRIVE.
LISTED FOR \$4.495M BY CHRIS PAOLI,
COLORADO GROUP REALTY.

MOUNTAIN CONTEMPORARY

Luxury on the Rise in Steamboat Springs, Colorado – Why Texans Are Taking Notice

By Brianna Randall

Steamboat Springs is a mountain town at the intersection of authentic and modern. Just shy of 13,000 residents, its alluring landscape draws in cowboys who ranch the rolling sagebrush valleys along with Olympians who revel in skiing the area's world-class powder, and Texans are beginning to take notice of the value this charming Western destination has to offer.

Although it's known as a premier recreation destination with plenty of write-home-about amenities, Steamboat radiates a more inviting, laid-back feel than the flashier resorts to the east along the I-70 corridor. The neighbors are friendly, the skies are sunny, and the shops and restaurants—while increasingly high-end and gourmet—remain grounded in western heritage. It is a place that emanates a relaxed 'home on the range' feeling, yet is also a destination, currently experiencing the coming-of-age-like transition from small ski town, to luxury resort community, offering buyers from Texas a whole lot more than just cool, Colorado weather.

Architectural trends are also changing, with Steamboat's newest builds embracing a mix of contemporary and traditional styles of design. Elk, deer and moose frolic next to luxury residences boasting swooping, gabled architecture, custom geometric light fixtures, and floor-to-ceiling windows that boast some of the best mountain views in Colorado.

Leslie Dapper, lead designer at Rumor Design + Re-design, reports that many Steamboat Springs pri-



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mary and second homeowners from Texas are moving away from traditional rustic looks—heavy on the dark woods and ornate fixtures—in favor of more contemporary design features.

"We continue to get requests for a 'mountain-contemporary' style of design for both new construction and remodels," says Dapper. "All of our current redesign projects involve updating with cleaner, simpler materials."

According to Chris Paoli, owner of Colorado Group Realty, this trend is partly because as Steamboat Springs evolves to offer a "more complete destination experience" it draws in homebuyers who are interested in more modern architecture.

"From the culinary scene to the streetscapes downtown, we are appealing to a broader pool of buyers from markets on the forefront of the latest design trends—Dallas, Houston, Miami, or New York," says Paoli.

Paoli points to one of the homes he's listing at Steamboat's Alpine Mountain Ranch & Club as an example of how people are embracing a more contemporary style.

This five-bedroom, six-bathroom home is the Club's most recently completed home, and includes an open layout, sophisticated lighting, custom craftsmanship details, and energy efficient construction. The lofted 30-foot ceilings in the great room and kitchen give the feeling of living outside with no interior walls to block the view. The large, two-sided



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ARCHITECTURE BLENDS WITH
NATURAL BEAUTY IN ONE OF
COLORADO'S MOST CHARMING
WESTERN DESTINATIONS,
DRAWING TEXAS BUYERS.



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PHOTO BY: DAVID DIETRICH

natural gas fireplace connects the main floor spaces, and draws the eye as a centerpiece with its blue-grey rolled steel siding and travertine tiles.

"The residence's design style focuses on the natural surroundings," said Paoli. "Large walls of windows bring in the mountain views, while the interior's clean lines and softer surfaces embrace a truly contemporary design."

Yet even with modern architecture and interior design, it still feels undoubtedly like a mountain home, tucked against evergreens on the north side while offering stunning views of the Flat Tops Wilderness and the champagne-powder-packed peaks of the nearby Steamboat Ski Resort to the south.

It makes sense that the home would want to showcase the many outdoor amenities at the 1,216-acre Alpine Mountain Ranch & Club through its floor-to-ceiling windows. Club homeowners enjoy 900 acres of open space, including a stocked fishing lake, equestrian center with rolling pastures, five miles of trails, and even a backcountry retreat. The amenities don't stop at the gate, either—community members have access to private, gold-medal trout fishing along the Yampa River, membership opportunities at the slope-side, five-star Alpine Mountain Summit Club at One Steamboat Place, as well as access to neighboring Catamount golf course via a cart path that connects the two properties.

Recognizing Steamboat's emerging trend from traditional to contemporary design, the architectural guidelines at Alpine Mountain Ranch & Club give its owners the choice between traditional, transitional, or contemporary designs when they develop one of the ranch's 63 five-acre lots.

"With direct flights from 15 cities to Steamboat, including Dallas and Houston, we envision the draw of Texas Buyers to this extraordinary Resort community to only grow," said Dapper.

"Simple and sleek, rustic but minimal—apt descriptions of the emerging trend in 'mountain-contemporary' architecture as well as the spirit of the town it's helping to define, and the new genre of Buyer being drawn to this community." ■

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