

LOCAL FIRM, INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

RKD Architects shortlisted in the London-based International Design and Architecture Awards

by KIMBERLY NICOLETTI

Nestled in the pines near Lake Tahoe, Valhalla's design grew from wedge-like slices of barrel vaults and angular stone forms.



RKD ARCHITECTS HAS earned its latest international recognition through The International Design Awards.

Generated from the London-based design et al magazine, The International Design and Architecture Awards chooses 10 cutting-edge homes in 16 categories, broken down by price range and special

classifications, such as city space, office, regeneration, ski chalet and beach house.

The committee hand-picked four homes built by RKD for its top 10 finalists.

“We want to reward the best in interior design, architecture and innovation from around the world,” according to the London-based website. “Our aim is to commend design, recognize

talent, create opportunities and quite simply to offer inspiration.”

Once the finalists are selected, voting is open internationally, through the internet. The winners will be announced at a banquet in London in September, which Jack Snow and Sally Brainerd, owners of RKD Architects, plan to attend.

“It was a bit of a surprise that they even reached out to us and asked us to submit,” Snow says.

“Then to be shortlisted in three categories, with four different projects was really amazing.”

He completed two of his projects, the Waterstone project, in Edwards, and the Rocky Mountain Home, in the Vail area, in the early 2000s. Waterstone is aptly named, as he designed it around water, connecting three “pods” by glass bridges. The Rocky Mountain Home features a



Village Center Condos

Find yourself in a world of dreams when you wake in this sumptuous Vail Village condo with sweeping views of snow-capped peaks. This 3BR, 3BA custom - designed home boasts exacting attention to detail, including handmade furniture in the master bedroom, toasty heated floors in the master bathroom and high, coffered ceilings throughout the living space. Dramatic touches like the kitchen's copper lighting design, and the great room's grand fireplace make this a most elegant retreat, indeed. Offered for \$4,545,000



Wildridge

Incomparable Contemporary! This lavish four bedroom home with five baths, is sun-drenched & surrounded by views of snowcapped peaks. With two master suites, the home's builders spared no expense in its creation. Custom European siding, a heated driveway & roof with a 20YR warranty come together to make this home not just beautiful, but efficient & eco-friendly. Mechanical blinds, a chef-quality kitchen & top-end fixtures make this one of the finest homes you'll see in this price range! Offered for \$1,575,000

Vail Mountain Lodge


The Vail Mountain Lodge and Spa Residence program consists of 2 and 3 bedroom residences. Owners are guaranteed a discounted rate on additional hotel rooms if more space is needed during your stay. You are purchasing three fixed deeded weeks in a specific residence along with three float weeks. Plus space available time. Pricing beginning at 220K. Daily room service from Terra Bistro and twice daily maid service. Athletic club along with 12 treatment room Spa. Vail Village properties just became affordable.

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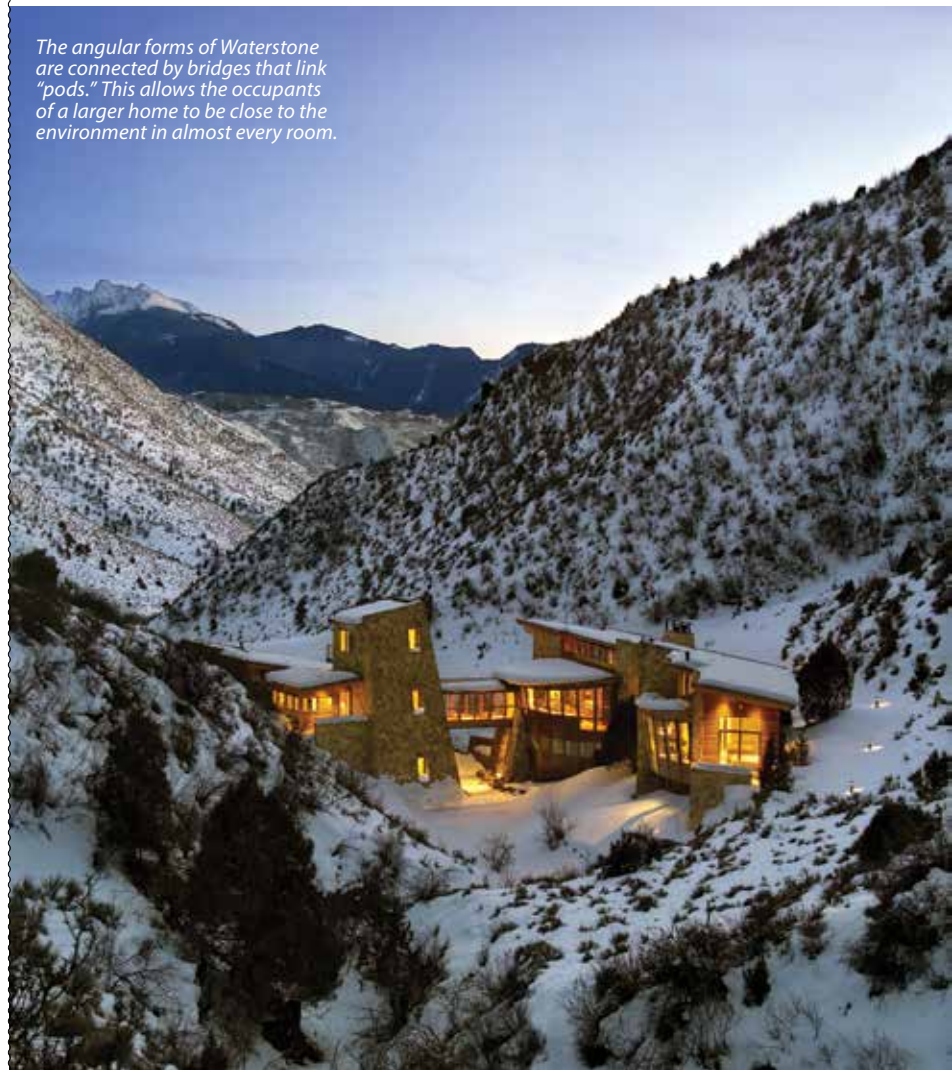
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The angular forms of Waterstone are connected by bridges that link "pods." This allows the occupants of a larger home to be close to the environment in almost every room.

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“THERE IS SHARED DNA IN ALL OF OUR PROJECTS, BUT THEY REALLY REPRESENT A DIVERSE BODY OF WORK.”

clean, modern look with simple concrete forms and an elevator shaft used to enter the home.

The Valhalla, in the Lake Tahoe area, was completed in 2011 and features dynamic shapes, with a curved roofline wedge-like forms.

His fourth shortlisted project, the Green Fin, backs a golf course in Edina, Minn., and is built with only the healthiest home materials — and even designs, in terms of grounding electromagnetic fields in concrete — in mind.

Since Snow and his wife, Brainerd, founded RKD in Vail in 1990, he has always

challenged himself to push beyond the habit of falling back into “styles.” He views architecture as “an overall sculpture shape that has to be rethought,” he says.

“Our work is always changing and evolving, so it is great that The International Design and Architecture Awards selected projects from across the spectrum of the designs that we have been creating,” Snow says. “There is shared DNA in all of our projects, but they really represent a diverse body of work.”

RKD’s work is now found all across the country, though



TOP: The interior of the great room of Green Fin was inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Wingspread.
 ABOVE: The dynamic curves and angular forms come together in the living area of Valhalla.

most of the portfolio remains in the resorts of the Rocky Mountains, Lake Tahoe, Nevada and Park City, Utah.

Of course, this isn't the first time RKD Architects has been recognized for its unique structures, which blend environmentally friendly concepts with cutting-edge design work. In October 2006, Architecture Digest featured an RKD project as part of its "Homes from

the World's Top Architects" story. Last year, several national magazines featured RKD projects, including Western Art and Architecture, which ran a cover story on the firm's work throughout the past 15 years.

"It is great that people in the national and regional markets are starting to notice and appreciate what we do," says Snow, adding: "I've got decades of ideas ahead of me." **VVA**



Vail

Simba Run 1407 | \$425,000 | Pristine!! 1 bedroom + loft has been completely remodeled with granite counters in kitchen & bath, tile floors, stainless steel appliances, new bathroom fixtures, new W/D! Fully furnished, non-rental unit, turnkey! All the amenities you could want including Vail's largest indoor swimming pool.



West Vail

Camelot Townhome #7 | \$495,000 | RARE CAMELOT TOWNHOME LISTING featuring 2 bedrooms and a den on the Vail bus route...with four parking spaces! Kitchen updated with stainless steel appliances, granite tile counters, new cabinets, etc. Exterior of building was recently remodeled. Low HOA fees, gas heat, plus a wood burning fireplace. Perfect residence for a first time buyer or front range skier.



Vail

2120 Vermont Road | \$2,595,000 | MOUNTAIN CONTEMPORARY single-family 4 bedroom/4+ bath home backing to National Forest! Thoughtful design with large windows, great views and beautiful flagstone patio for outdoor living! Main-Floor Master Suite and Gourmet kitchen!



Vail

1471 Aspen Grove | TIMELESS ELEGANCE in this 6 bedroom/den/rec room/6.5 bath home! Located high on a private ridge overlooking Vail with views to the Gore Range, Vail Mountain and Beaver Creek yet only minutes to skiing, shopping and dining! A great home for entertaining and family living!



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