

The Sandler Residence

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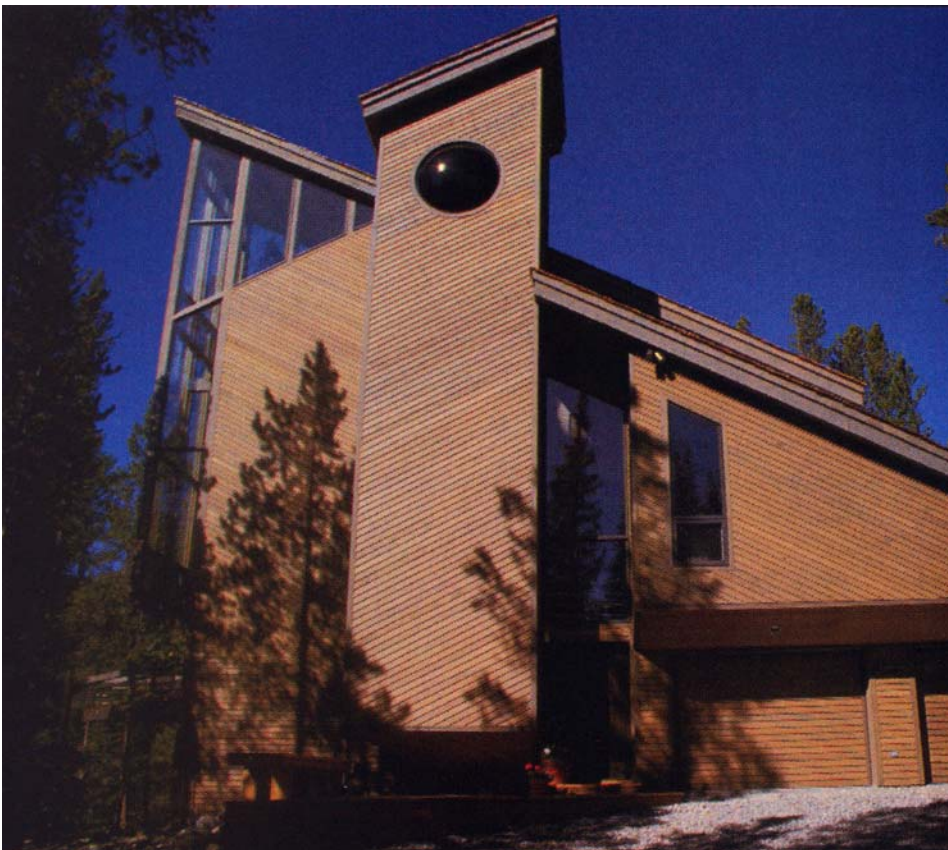
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This Breckenridge home designed by Jon Gunson and Keith Birchler received a 1985 architectural award from the Wood Organization of Denver (W.O.O.D., Inc.)

Termed a “geometric out-cropping with a bold, rocky look” by Breckenridge architect Jon Gunson, the vacation home he and Keith Birchler designed for Steve and Jean Sandler hugs a hillside that drops off sharply to beaver ponds below. Redwood decks provide a front-row viewing platform. The four-story mountain retreat is tucked away on ten secluded acres.

Red cedar lap siding and a cedar shake roof were chosen to soften the house’s angular lines. “We felt concrete or stucco would have carried the look to an extreme that we really didn’t want,” Gunson says. “So we chose indigenous cedar and stone that would blend with the natural environment. We have contrasting forms, but the materials themselves tie those forms back into the setting. The cedar was stained gray-green to blend with the colors of the lodgepole pine.”

“The Sandlers wanted the beauty and quality of wood to blend with the wooded mountain setting,” Gunson says. “With the cold climate we have up here most of the year, we incorporated as much wood as possible to add warmth to the house.”





The soaring lines and steeply pitched roof of Steve and Jean Sandler's Breckenridge home echo the angular shapes of its mountainous setting.

Another striking feature is the three-story spa with redwood walls, tile floor, and stone wall for solar collection.

Central to the home's design is an inlaid red oak mural that begins at the entryway and flows all the way up the stairway to the fourth-floor observatory. "We designed the mural to be actually inlaid in the plaster," Gunson says. "The wood was put on first, and the plaster was brought up next to it. This gives a nice sense of quality in that it's part of the house, part of the structure." A cedar-lined changing lounge near the entryway features hanging space for clothes, baskets for gear, and an air circulation system that dries out wet ski clothing overnight. Aromatic cedar adds a pleasant scent to the room...