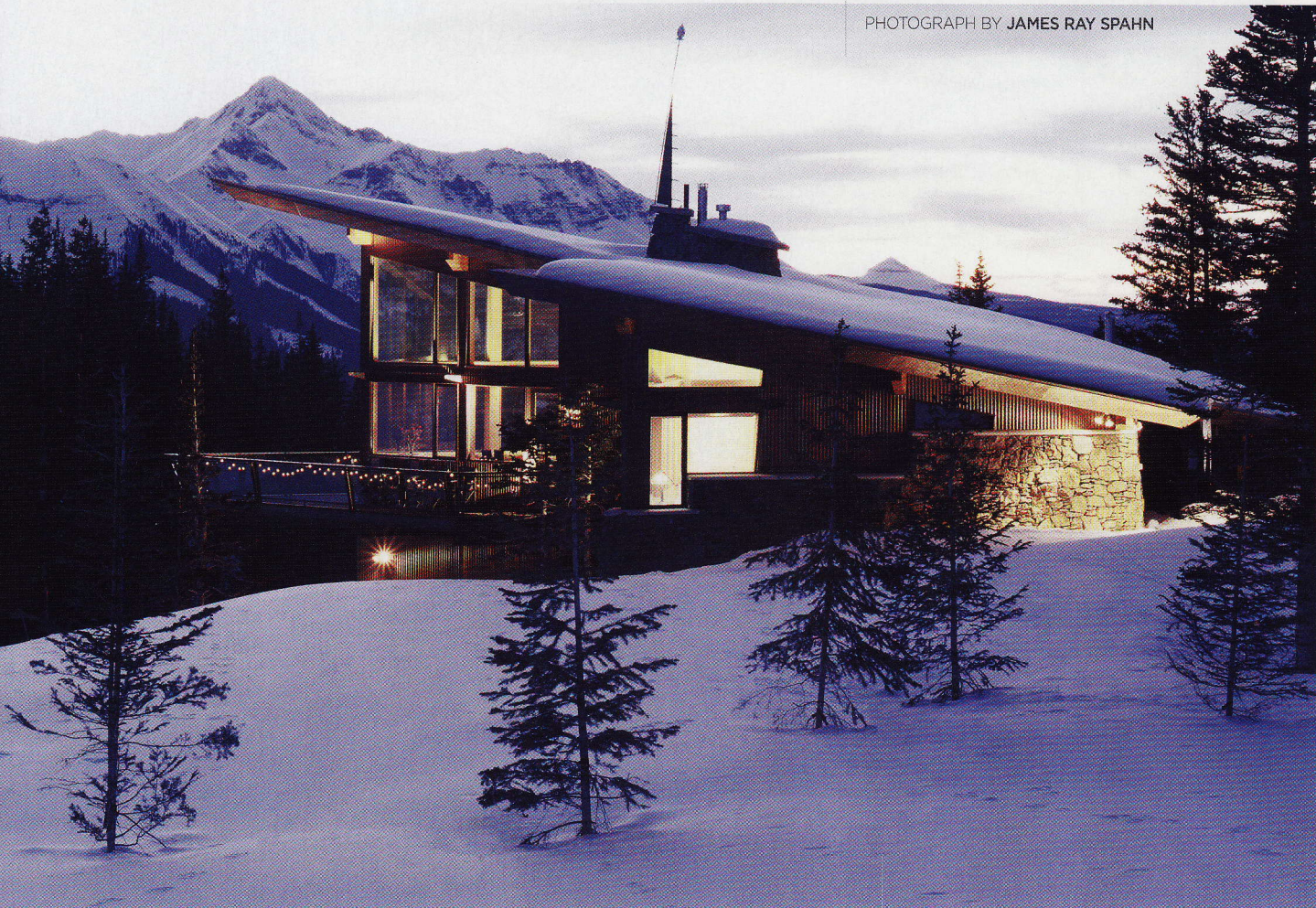


PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES RAY SPAHN



## 39 Off The Grid

### When former homeowners Chuck and Jacquie

Burr wanted to build a custom home in Telluride not just any location would do. They chose a lot in the middle of a national forest in Gold King Basin, with an elevation of 11,300 feet. Because of its location within a protected environment, the home had to fit in with its surrounding environment and be “off the grid,” meaning independent of any electric and water outlets and phone lines. To accomplish this, Burr contacted architect Eric Doud, who has extensive experience in the field—he has built three of the highest homes in the U.S.

Taking inspiration from Frank Lloyd Wright and the surrounding mountain peaks, the team built the home on a triangular grid, with 60- and 120-degree angles permeating throughout. The roof pitch was carefully planned so it shades the house from intense sunlight in the summer, while in the winter the sun’s rays heat the home. The team used un-painted and un-galvanized corrugated metal on the exterior, a common material found on buildings in Gold King Basin during its successful mining days. Stone on the exterior was collected in the basin.

The most challenging part of the building process was the logistics—building materials had to be brought to the site on a snowcat; the crew transported via snowmobile. For Doud, it was important to build a home for the long term, one that “didn’t call a lot of attention to itself, and would be appreciated and accepted. In respect to such a powerful location, the term ‘house site’ cannot be used in the traditional sense. Placed at the very limit of timberline, this location is extreme and the home becomes the ultimate definition of shelter.” □

*For information on renting this home please visit [GoldKingRetreat.com](http://GoldKingRetreat.com)*

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