

# house trends®

downtown  
condo sports  
ravishing  
remodel

|| Tips and Tricks  
for a Lovable  
Laundry Room

|| Smart Home  
Design Choices in  
Willoughby Hills

|| Home Bar  
Offers a Warm  
Welcome



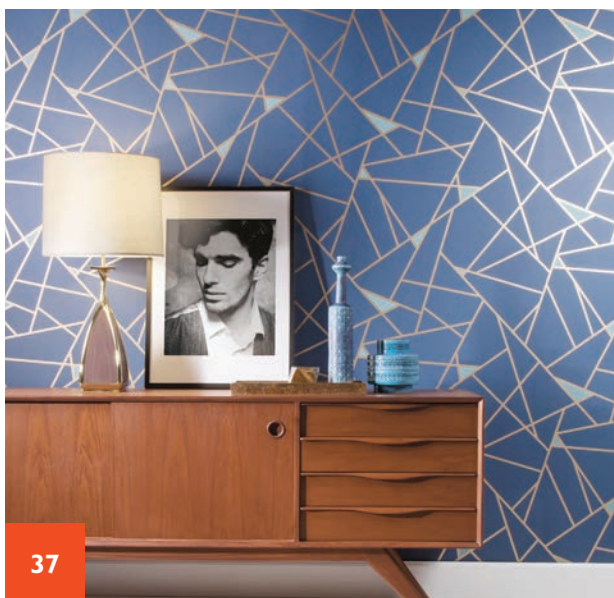
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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016 **H** CLEVELAND





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*Photo by Connie Kimsey*



# MOUNTAIN MODERN



## Smart-home technology plus smart environmental choices makes a brilliant Mountain Modern home

BY LAURI GROSS | *Photos by Scott Pease*

There is a particular home in Willoughby Hills that is full of surprises. When you expect angles, you find a curve. When you think glass should be clear, you see colors. When you think a ceiling is just something to sit atop the walls, your eye meanders up to a gleaming expanse of cedar overhead. When you think you know what a staircase looks like, you find a sweeping three-level artistic statement that happens to also serve as the conduit from one floor to another. ♦ The only people who find nothing surprising in this home are Jenn and Justin. The owners of this captivating statement of architecture and design officially known as Mountain Modern style, Jenn and Justin researched, planned and patiently waited for this exact home to materialize the way it existed in their imaginations for years. ➡









## Slow and steady

Jenn and Justin chose Otero Signature Homes as their builder. Justin said, “We did lot of research. We went to Parade of Homes. We looked at styles. We knew we wanted to build a Mountain Modern style and this was not prevalent in Northeast Ohio and we had to find a builder who could replicate that here. Otero nailed it and did a great job.”

Jenn added, “We looked through house magazines and online and we had our own portfolio of pictures. We compared each other’s and jointly picked out the styles we liked. We interviewed (Ted Otero’s) clients who had built with him. He had a great imagination and found creative ways to do things. He thinks outside the box.”

Justin explained, “We waited patiently and stayed in an apartment throughout our 20s to save until we could do it this way.” Justin advises others not to rush or compromise. During the build-

ing of this home, Justin said, he and Jenn often “slowed down to make sure to get the details right.”

Jenn and Justin bought the land in the summer of 2013 and spent a year thinking about design. Construction began in December of 2014 and the couple moved in October of 2015.

The home is environmentally friendly, beginning with the lot itself, which is located on a cul de sac on an infill lot that minimizes environmental impact. The landscaping features native plants to limit water and energy use and Otero used engineered trusses and sustainable lumber to construct the 3,815 square-foot home. Tight construction and enhanced insulation means the high-efficiency zoned heating and cooling systems perform at their best. The home also features low-e, argon-filled windows, Energy Star appliances and LED lighting. ➡

**1** The curb appeal of this Mountain Modern home features a serpentine wall of windows and an exterior constructed of stucco and stone, plus siding of a very dense wood known as ipe. **2** A serpentine maple stairway with open treads and balusters by Finelli Ironworks anchors the main level of this great room, which also features a cedar ceiling and cedar insets in the soaring stone wall that includes a TV and see-through fireplace. **3** An eye-catching light fixture dangles over the dining table, which is capable of seating up to eight people. **4** Sleek lines enhance the kitchen that features a combination of granite and quartz countertops and a waterfall effect over the top and sides of the island. **5** This covered back patio features a cedar ceiling, custom hot-tub and built-in grill with commercial space heater for year ‘round enjoyment.



6

## Smart and stylish

This is also a smart home with whole-home audio distribution, custom lighting controls, motorized window shades and smart climate controls. A self-described audiophile and videophile, Justin wanted a dream home theater in the basement, and the home's lower level features just that, in a state-of-the-art system optimized with special acoustic treatments.

Kaleigh Cody, one of Otero's interior designers, was also a key part of Jenn and Justin's team, as was Shane Horner of Horner Networks, an award-winning electronics design and integration company.

With the team assembled, the project came together and Jenn and Justin's home became more than the sum of its parts. There is a distinct look and feel to each room and each level but there is also undeniable cohesion and flow.

The space is marked by, well, space. The expanses of openness are their own design element. Stand practically anywhere in the house—except the bedrooms or baths—and you are rewarded with endless lines of sight, most notably through the sweeping serpentine staircase, a showpiece of talented Amish master craftsmen subcontracted by Otero. A minimum of interior walls leaves space uninterrupted. A collection of colorful vases, tastefully displayed in an arrangement of recessed niches, provides a focal point without adding any fuss. ➡

**6** A free-standing tub on a bed of stones adds to the Japanese aesthetic of this master bath. **7** River rock topped with glass forms the countertop in this bathroom, where the black granite sink appears to float. Blue LED lights and a pebbled back-splash complete the effect.













In the great room, a TV and see-through gas fireplace are built into a towering stone wall that spans two levels of the home and includes inset cedar panels that enhance the look. The impressive scale of the wall complements the entire main floor and provides cohesion for the design elements in this part of the house.

The wood and tile floors show off stunning area rugs as well as Jenn's design flair and preference for pops of color. The lack of wall-to-wall carpet is also good for Justin's allergies. Subtle wall colors make it impossible to miss Jenn's selection of bright, abstract artwork. The kitchen chairs, great room and basement sofas, basement bar stools and theater seating are all leather, further enhancing the clean look. The bedrooms are a continuation of sleek design choices that combine simple furniture lines with colorful area rugs and artwork. ➡➡



**8** A curvaceous red leather couch provides ample seating in the lower-level, and anchors the space which also includes a bar, wine cellar and billiards area. A whole-home audio distribution system and custom lighting controls make it even easier to enjoy this space. **9** A wine cellar and bar with red leather seating beckons guests to the lower-level retreat. The wine area is a separate temperature zone and naturally stays in the 60s: perfect for wine storage.





The spa-like bathrooms are full of their own surprises, including clever uses of river rock and colorful LED lights that create an illusion of floating granite and glass countertops.

Walls of windows—including the dramatic, curved front of the house that mirrors the curve of the stairs inside—continue the feast for the eyes from indoors to out. The curb appeal includes a matching of stone, stucco and wood siding with angles that make light dance and provide an irresistible welcome.

"It's one thing to do a curve," said Ted Otero, owner of Otero Signature Homes, and the 2017 president of the Home Builder's Association of Greater Cleveland. "It's another thing to do a serpentine wall. It made the windows, foundation, walls, etc. more challenging and it drove the entire design of the house."

A combination of granite and quartz countertops anchors the kitchen's palette of sophisticated grays and browns. The kitchen includes seating for eight at the table and three at the island.

Playful light fixtures enhance the eating areas, as does the expansive view from the kitchen to the covered patio in the back yard, with large custom hot tub and built-in grill. Jenn and Justin's active lifestyle means they use the grill and hot tub—and commercial heater that warms the surrounding space—year 'round.

The wine cellar, bar, theater and pool table in the basement also get plenty of use. "That's where we hang out at night," said Justin. He and Jenn often host gatherings for colleagues, as well as friends and neighbors. "We needed it to serve multiple purposes," Justin explained, of the many entertaining options the home affords.

That Justin and Jenn are so pleased with their home, also pleases Ted. "We are 100 percent custom home builders," he said, "So we will tailor the interior and exterior architectural design to the client's demands. The most rewarding thing on every challenging, one-of-a-kind custom home, is when the homeowner is thoroughly happy with the design and functionality." 🍷

## RESOURCES

**Builder** Ted Otero, Otero Signature Homes; **Interior designer** Kaleigh Cody, Allied ASID, Otero Signature Homes & Ovation Interior Design; **Architect** Justin Kapela, AIBD, J.Kapela Designs; **AV tech/Security designer & installer** Shane Horner, Horner Networks; **Spa design & installation** High Tech Pools; **Landscape design & installer** H&M Landscaping; **Lighting** Cleveland Lighting; **KITCHEN Cabinetry** Custom cabinetry by Ben Miller, MA Miller; **Countertops** Cambria; **Refrigerator, cooktop, ventilation, double ovens, dishwasher** Thermador; **Microwave** Sharp; **LAUNDRY ROOM Washer** GE front load ruby red washer; **Dryer** GE electronic ruby red dryer; **Countertops** Cambria; **OUTDOOR COVERED PATIO Gas grill** DCS built-in 36" gas grill; **Spa** 10 person in-ground custom spa with 6 jets and color changing LED, High Tech Pools; **BASEMENT BAR Countertops** Cambria

**10** Leather seating, bold artwork and lighting bring drama to the lower-level home theater, which is part of a whole-home audio distribution system.



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