



SIMPLE MOUNTAIN STYLE

Creede America is a small community of modest-size houses nestled in Colorado's San Juan Mountains. In homage to the town of Creede's mining history, the architecture nods to the regional vernacular while bringing a definite freshness and modernity to the homes, which range in size between 850 sq. ft. and 3000 sq. ft. Construction that emphasizes sustainability and livability while keeping to a tight budget is foundational to the community. Windows afford natural cross ventilation, and since the cold winters require tightly insulated houses, there is a heat-recovery ventilator (HRV)—common to every Creede America residence—that moves fresh air through the house when doors and windows are closed. Design-wise, each house has special elements that set it apart from the others. This project, a builder-owner design collaboration, uses plywood for the interior paneling, kitchen, ceiling, and window popout. Instead of full 4x8 sheets for the ceiling, a size that would have been off-scale for the house, the pieces were cut in quarters, and to accentuate the space between the sheets of plywood there is a consistent 1/4-in. gap.



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Location Creede, Colo.

Photos Charles Davis Smith, FAIA