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2025 DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE ISSUE denver life

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ELEVATION

meets Ease

A design-forward Belcaro retreat
that balances quiet luxury with
curated comfort.

BY LACY MORRIS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSIE BRENNER / STYLING BY DANA SMITH





denver life magazine DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE 2025

BUILDER

Goldco Homes Group,
Jake Goldberg

LEAD DESIGNER

Monika Faye Designs,
Monika Engel



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Denver Life Magazine invites you to the unveiling of the 2025 Designer Showhouse, presented by Thermador. Built by Jake Goldberg of Goldco Homes Group, this year's home brings together 13 of Colorado's top design teams—each contributing to a cohesive vision led by Monika Engel of Monika Faye Designs. The result? A stunning Belcaro-area residence that captures the spirit of Colorado style and innovation. Tour the home September 27–28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are available for a \$40 donation per adult (\$15 for guests under 10), with 100% of proceeds benefiting our 2025 charity partner, The Patrick Surtain II Foundation. Your support helps ensure students in underserved communities have equal access to the educational resources they need to thrive. The home's address will be shared upon confirmation of your contribution. Since its inception, the Designer Showhouse has raised over \$500,000 to support Denver nonprofits. Be part of this year's impact—and experience the very best of high-end, Colorado-style design.



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Tucked inside the tree-lined enclave of Belcaro—just minutes from the vibrancy of Cherry Creek North—this year's Denver Life Magazine Designer Showhouse rises with quiet confidence. Anchored by clean lines, natural textures, and a distinct California-cool sensibility, the 2025 home is a testament to what happens when intentional design meets collaborative creativity.

Situated on a rare, deep lot, the home enjoys a best-of-both-worlds location: a peaceful setting surrounded by high-end residences and historic charm, yet just blocks from one of Denver's most walkable urban cores. Inside, the 7,200-square-foot new build—crafted by Jake Goldberg of Goldco Homes Group—unfolds with a purposeful sense of ease: open, light-soaked, and expansive, yet always grounded in functionality.

Jake, a third-generation builder, approaches each project with precision and passion. “I grew up in a family of builders—my grandfather, father, and uncles,” he says. “From an early age, I was drawn to the process, the coordination it demands, and the opportunity to create spaces where people live comfortably.” His design vision for this year's Showhouse was simple and confident: timeless, laid-back, and livable—what he calls a “California cool vibe.”

That ethos is felt from the moment you step through the oversized pivot door, where smooth plaster walls and white oak floors set the tone. Every room delivers a version of that mood: polished yet warm, stylish yet approachable. “Our goal was to create a sense of calm, cleanliness, and comfort,” says Jake. “A place where people can gather, grow, and come home.”

To bring the concept to life, Jake partnered with Monika Engel of Monika Faye Designs, who served as the Showhouse's lead designer and visual guide. “I was drawn to the idea of such a collaborative effort,” Monika says. “It piqued my creativity and interest to take so many beautiful visions and turn the home into one I believe any family will cherish for years to come.”

Monika established the overarching design tone for the home, then worked alongside a hand-selected group of local designers to carry that thread into each room. “I wanted the home to embody a cool, laid-back vibe while keeping a level of elevated elegance,” she explains. “We kept the color palette simple, while bringing in rich textures and natural elements—like Arabescato marble countertops and rift-sawn oak cabinetry—to create warmth and depth.”

The result is a home with cohesion and character. Details abound, but never overwhelm. A hidden door lead to a fully outfitted back pantry and scullery; ceiling vaults and custom millwork elevate the primary suite. On the lower level, a moody retreat with a wine room, bar, and game-ready rec space awaits. A private guest suite with separate outdoor access adds to the home's multi-generational flex-

ibility—while broad sightlines and generous windows ensure indoor spaces always feel connected to the outdoors.

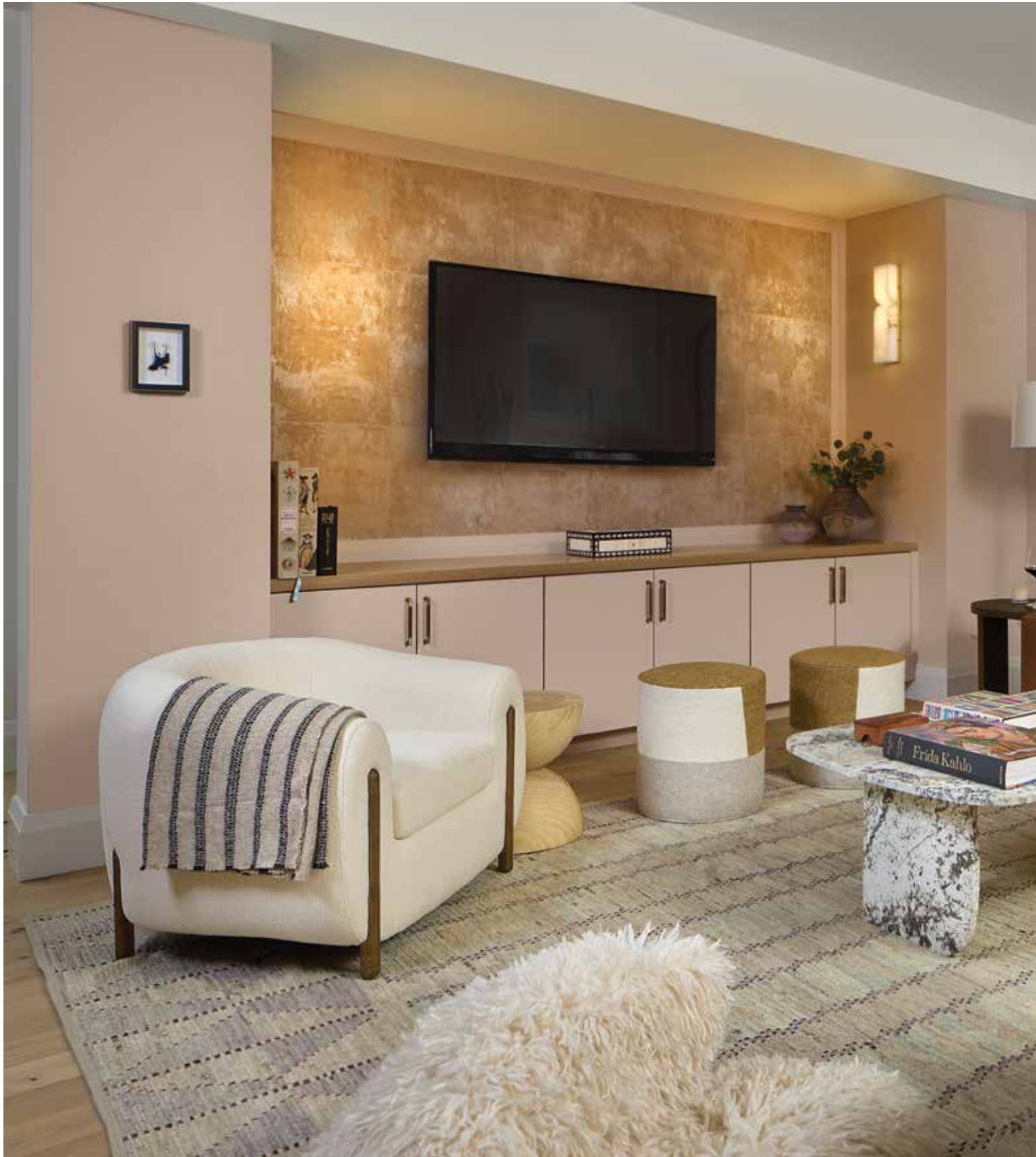
That balance between elegance and ease is what makes this year's Showhouse stand out. “The depth of the lot allowed us to do things you don't often see in Denver,” Jake explains. “We were able to stretch the floor plan, maximize natural light, and create an open flow that still feels grounded.”

Just as important as the design is the process behind it. Jake emphasizes collaboration—between builder, architect, designer, and trades—as essential to bringing a vision like this to life. “To me, great home-building is about trusting your partners and letting them excel in their lane,” he says. “When that trust is there, craftsmanship turns vision into reality.”

This year's Denver Life Magazine Showhouse isn't just a celebration of design—it's a home with heart. As with every Showhouse, proceeds from ticketed tours go beyond the walls, directly supporting a local nonprofit. In 2025, the beneficiary is the Patrick Surtain II Foundation, founded by Denver Broncos cornerback Patrick Surtain II. The foundation's mission is rooted in equity: to level the academic playing field for students in underserved communities by providing them with access to the same quality educational resources as their suburban peers. It's a vision of opportunity, empowerment, and long-term impact—aligning perfectly with the Showhouse's commitment to giving back.

As you explore the rooms ahead, you'll meet the designers who made this home sing. From spa-like retreats and teen hangouts to luxe, layered lounges, each room reflects a unique creative point of view—yet all speak the same design language: elevated but livable, beautiful but welcoming.

Because ultimately, this Showhouse isn't just about architecture or finishes. It's about what happens inside these walls—hosting dinners, raising kids, pouring a glass of wine, curling up with a book. It's about the rhythms of everyday life, elevated by design. As Jake puts it: “We're not just building houses. We're building homes.” ►



REC ROOM

▲ **KAYTI FAN DESIGNS**
kaytifandesigns.com

▲ **DESIGNER**
Kayti Fan

► Tucked into the lower level but brimming with light, texture, and layered personality, the Rec Room by Kayti Fan Designs offers a fresh take on what a basement can be. Designed as a true extension of the home's living spaces—not an afterthought—the room is warm, elevated, and ready for anything: game nights, wine tastings, casual hangs, or movie marathons.

"I wanted to thoughtfully design an area that may not typically be given the full design treatment despite being such an important gathering space," says principal designer Kayti Fan. Her approach centers around tactile materials and a neutral palette that lets stone, wood, and leather take center stage. Anchoring the room is a rich, cognac-hued sectional and a bold marble coffee table, paired with accent seating that invites casual conversation or lounging with a glass in hand. A nearby game table adds flexibility, while the full bar and temperature-controlled wine room lend a grown-up sense of polish.

Despite its subterranean setting, the space feels anything but dark. Metallic wallpaper and lacquered cabinetry adds subtle shine and contrast, while decorative lighting—strategically placed to create ambiance—eliminates the need for over-reliance on recessed cans. "We really pared down the overhead lighting," Kayti explains. "Instead, we leaned on statement fixtures to add warmth and intention."

From its inviting furnishings to its mix of materials and custom finishes, this rec room sets the tone for effortless entertaining and everyday comfort—no matter what's on the calendar.

Why did you select this space to design?

The lower-level bar and recreation room often becomes the heart of a home during gatherings. I wanted to give this frequently used space the thoughtful design treatment it deserves.





What was the overall vision for your space?

We stuck to a neutral palette, allowing the textures and natural materials to shine. The vision was to create something warm, tactile, and compelling without relying on loud colors—something that felt elevated but easy, like the overall California-inspired aesthetic of the home.

How did you incorporate the builder's aesthetic into your space?

To keep with the contemporary California feel, we focused on natural, organic materials and made deliberate choices in our wood and stone selections. The goal was a polished, modern space that still felt laid back and livable.

What's a key element that makes your space unique?

We painted the walls and built-ins the same color to keep things cohesive, but gave the

cabinets a glossy finish for subtle contrast. It creates a clean, streamlined look while still feeling dynamic.

What advice would you give to homeowners when designing a rec space?

Start with how you actually use the room today—not how you think you might use it a decade from now. That clarity will guide every decision.

Any design tricks of the trade?

Creative wallpaper placement! We used a metallic paper on the TV wall to keep the space visually interesting—even with a screen as the focal point.

Favorite moment in the space?

The tile at the bar is a standout—it adds instant texture and charm. And the wine room view through the glass? That always pulls people in.

What reflects your signature style here?

Layered textures and patterns—visually and through touch. We're always mixing materials, but we do it with intention.

What was your inspiration for the furniture and layout?

We aimed for open, comfortable, and inviting. The layout encourages people to gather and linger.

How do you approach accessories?

Scale is everything. I like bold pieces paired with more functional, personal touches. The goal is to avoid anything that feels too staged.

DETAILS ABOUT
THIS DESIGNER

