



Paul Williams surveys the view from his deck – one of the most vital aspects of any Steamboat Springs home.

# Deck Life

A place for eating, recreating and gathering

Paul and Linda Williams sit on their deck, finishing a meal as the sun disappears over the western horizon. They sip wine and catch up on each other's day. Whether enjoying food, friends or the view, decks are a quintessential accessory to any Yampa Valley home.

If they aren't planned right, though, decks can easily become eyesores. "Aesthetically, it's great to have a big wrap-around deck," says designer Brian Hanlen. "But some obstruct your view and shadow places you don't want shadowed. They need to be thought out."

Joe Carberry

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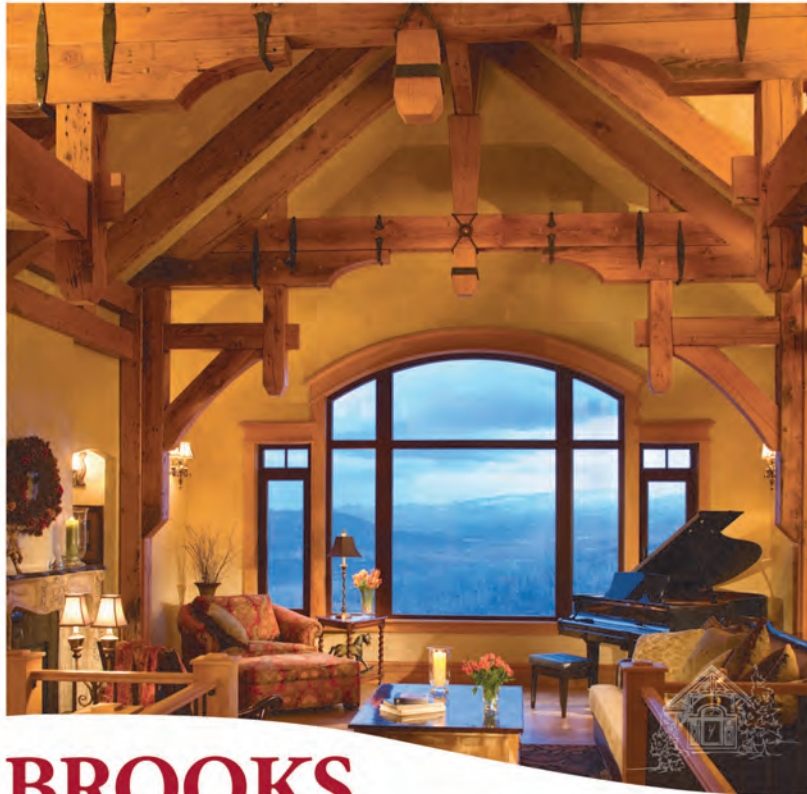


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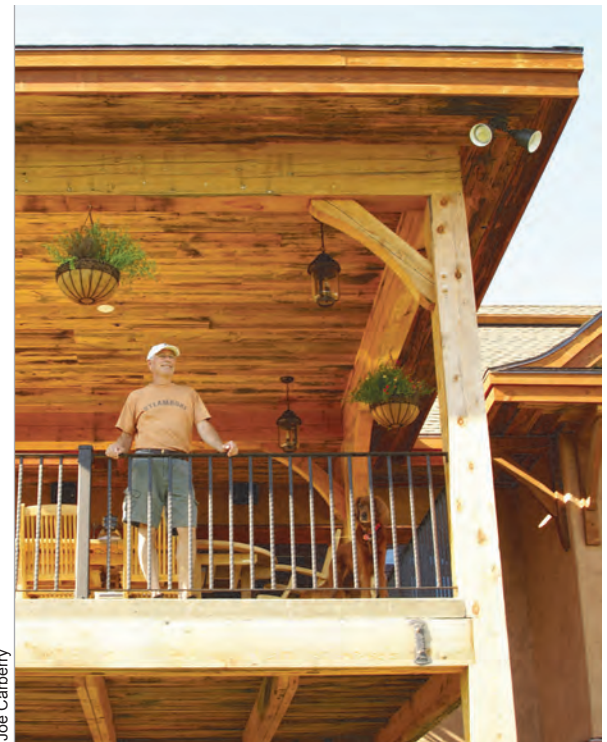
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Joe Carberry

“There’s a huge view in our great room and we wanted to keep it open,” Paul says. “The deck also shades the dining room so it’s not too hot in the summer.”

Paul and Linda’s house attaches to their deck via an intricately constructed bridge. “It extends the (vistas) even further,” Linda says.

Decks can be covered, uncovered or somewhere in between. Scott and Linne Marr covered the entire length of their deck, save a six-foot wide strip. “We left that open so if you want to sit in the sun, you can,” Linne says.

Regardless of the design, decks are an important part of the home and a place for social interaction.

Decks reflect the interests of their owners. The Williams used wrought iron railings that create an old-English feel while the Marrs utilized wood and designed the railings thick enough to hold plates. Bar stools can be pulled up to create extra dining space.

Regardless of the design, decks are an important part of the home and a place for social interaction. Or soul-searching. “Sometimes, I just sit out there and zone,” says Linne. “There’s a hummingbird feeder and we have some regular visitors. There’s always something to watch.”



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