

Colorado Modern

AS HMH ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF DOTTING THE FRONT RANGE WITH DISTINCTIVE DESIGN, PARTNERS HARVEY HINE AND CHERIE GOFF LOOK INTO THE FIRM'S FUTURE—WITH A SOFTER EDGE

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Harvey Hine, AIA, founder and president of HMH Architecture + Interiors, discovered modernism as a young boy in Vienna, Austria, where his family moved from Boston when he was almost eight years old.

“My school in Vienna was Bauhaus—white, with glass,” the award-winning architect remembers. “My parents were modernists, and I had the opportunity to see the modern homes of their friends. I really felt connected to this style of design.”

Hine returned to the States to earn a Bachelor of Environmental Design from CU and his master’s degree in architecture from Harvard.

“When I was in school in the ‘70s and ‘80s, modern was not popular. It took me a while to come back to it,” the 58-year old says. “It’s the style I enjoy when I buy something, whether it’s dishes or furniture. It just feels right.”

In 1989, Hine—who defines modernism as a lifestyle and the simplicity of form—founded his own architecture firm in Boulder.

The iconic Jessor/Menken residence, built in 2001, is perhaps Hine’s most recognizable residential design in town. His clients were avid mountain climbers and wanted a house that integrated their outdoor lifestyle into the architecture, so Hine designed a stair as focal point of the sculptural home, with small punctured windows providing a play of light and shadows on the climb up the rooftop terrace.

HMH 2.0

Then, in 2004, Cherie Goff, AIA, walked in the door. The determined young architect from Frisco, Colo., liked Hine’s work and was looking for a job after studying architecture at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas at Austin, practicing at a couple of different firms and traveling Europe. She began working at HMH within the week, was promoted to partner four years later, and today Goff is vice president of HMH.

The two architects share a deep appreciation for the timelessness and simplicity of design from the 1930s.

“Le Corbusier is our big favorite,” Goff says of the iconic Swiss-French architect. “We bow to Corbusier every hour,” her counterpart insinuates, laughing.

Hine looks back at his firm’s beginnings with nostalgia. “Architecture was much more experimental 25 years ago,” he says. “Today, it is more retrospective. Mid-century modern is very popular.”

However, glancing at her business partner, Goff insists, “I can still see some of that funkiness from 25 years ago in his work.”

Goff’s own preference for the simplicity of modern architecture and the clarity of rooms is a souvenir from her time living in Denmark.

“I was impressed with the clean lines and design quality of everyday things,” she reflects. “My inclination has always been towards modern, but it was influential to see the Scandinavian style.”

With her passion for sustainability and simplicity, the LEED Green Associate adds her own style to the firm. She calls it “Colorado Modern.”

“I bring in more of the warmth and comfort people are searching for here,” the self-described mountain girl says. “I love Colorado, and really just fit in with people here in Boulder.”

That love for the outdoors Goff shares with her clients undoubtedly inspires her work.

“We want to make sure our homes feel like they are part of the landscape,” she says. “A sense of place is integral to design.”

THE NEXT 25 YEARS

As the younger partner in the firm, Goff is looking toward the next 25 years of HMH.

“Harvey and I share a common core in that we want to make great architecture,” she says. “We sometimes have different ideas, but I think they complement each other.”

“That makes it more interesting,” interjects Hine. “When modern is no longer popular, what will happen?”

“That’s why it is important to focus on modern not as a style but on the idea of modern,” Cherie replies. “True modern is timeless. It will always be in style.”

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