

# Aesthetica

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## SYMBIOTIC ARCHITECTURE

Buildings that incorporate nature into the blueprints pave the way forwards

## PIVOTAL ILLUMINATION

Examining the ways lighting has developed over the last century

## FORGING NEW PATHWAYS

Chinese trailblazers are changing the definition of successful design

## THE STORY OF AESTHETICA

Reflecting upon 100 editions through a survey of groundbreaking artworks



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# Function and Aesthetics

## CONNECTION: CCY ARCHITECTS

Aspen-based CCY Architects are known for bringing fresh and creative ideas to built environments, from buildings in an avalanche path to a house wrapped in music. The award-winning firm takes a holistic approach when considering each new project, combining an area's natural surroundings – its topography – to boundary-pushing results.

For its debut monograph, the firm looks back on half a century of work through a series of 10 recently completed residential projects located through the Rocky Mountain region that showcase a tried and tested method. “Producing this publication highlighted some of the through-lines that exist in our body of work, including the connectedness between architecture and environment. It also illustrated a progression of ideas that might have otherwise gone unnoticed,” explains John Cottle, principal at CCY Architects.

The Chopin-inspired *Music Box* (2018), for example, is a modern guesthouse that sits next to an 1880s Victorian home in Aspen. Designed to accommodate music recitals, the project features a perforated scrim that wraps three faces of the structure like sheet music. The pattern is derived from Chopin's *Nocturne in E-Flat Major, Op. 9, No. 2*, a favourite piece of the client – an aesthetically pleasing design that doubles as a practical means to filter out unwanted alley views and harsh, piercing light. “The building is a direct response to our client's way of living, and aesthetics are a part

of that,” adds Alex Klumb, another of the principles.

*Castle Creek* takes a similarly unorthodox approach. Nestled into a high alpine meadow surrounded, the site falls on a minor avalanche path, prompting CCY Architects to build large steel columns and thick structural walls for protection, whilst a butterfly roof expands the space for ample light. Elsewhere, the stunning *Bridge House* is located in a lush forest. A challenge was presented with the need to accommodate gable roofs, whilst protecting the trees and creating a “steel and glass pavilion” to house the owner's extensive art collection. To accomplish this, CCY architects situated the living and dining areas in a transparent bridge spanning between two anchoring masses, preserving the natural drainage patterns and allowing the forest floor to flow underneath.

Despite differences in scale, location and intention, all the houses in the book are united by a respect for the environment and the desire to forge new dialogues. By asking what a changing habitat should feel like – look like – CCY Architects highlights the importance of experiencing a space through the senses and making a house a home. “Connecting buildings to their site is one of our core values and an approach that threads its way through all our work,” explains Klumb. “By approaching architecture this way, buildings can perform better as a function of sustainable design, they better reflect cultural context, and be profoundly more meaningful.”

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CCY Architects, Gammel Damm, Photo: Draper White.

