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also serves as a space for card games, coffee or cocktails, as of acres of open space stretching up into the Raggeds h, living and dining rooms sit on the second floor in what Bill e says, "in Crested Butte, the snow stacks up above your g area to be where you can see out."



## BILL AND ANNIE SKIN UP THE RESORT'S FRONTSIDE TWICE A WEEK; ONE OF THE TOWN'S GROOMED CROSS-COUNTRY TRACKS ROLLS RIGHT PAST THEIR BACKYARD.

"I had my townie 'stolen' this year. I found it two days later in front of a bar. Somebody had just borrowed it to get down the hill." He and Annie skin up the resort's frontside on AT skis twice a week; one of the town's groomed cross-country tracks rolls right past their backyard. "After a few months, we thought, 'Man, this is it.'"

The kids did their own brand of fitting in, excelling in the small schools. This

on a scholarship. The kitchen fridge and a nearby wall are papered with newspaper clippings, photographs and ribbons from Emma and her siblings' athletic exploits. But mostly Emma: "There's a





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always scores Top 5 in the state," says Bill. "The graduating class is like 20 kids. The teachers are young and energetic. We really stayed not just for the lifestyle, but for the schools."

A fourth Coburn will likely excel at those same schools: Joe, now 7, was born in Crested Butte. "Life up here is just so simple," says Bill. "In Boulder, our kids were in two or three different schools, their friends were all 20 miles away through traffic. In Crested Butte, they were all in one school."

Such a full-size family required a few changes to their one-time second home, originally designed as a getaway for two families. "If I had to design it all over from scratch, for my family, I would do it differently," Bill says. "I had to make it all fit—make enough bedrooms for enough kids, for starters." A main-level "don't-call-it-a-master" bedroom was expanded and a "bigger, better" steam shower added. A third-floor loft, once Willy's bedroom, was enclosed to add a game room. "Now it's Joe's scene," Bill says. A booth for breakfast or coffee or



**SMALL TOWN, SMALL HOUSE** Originally intended purely as a vacation house, the Coburns' Crested Butte home was designed without an oversized master bedroom. But it does have the views: Bill and Annie open their windows onto open meadows filled with horses in summer and feet of snow in winter. A split scissor staircase allows for upper-floor access from both the front door and the side entrance, which leads to the garage.

cocktails was installed in the kitchen, and a hot tub was stashed on the back porch, looking upvalley into the Raggeds Wilderness. "It's not very big—2,500 square feet is all—so we had to do lots of little things." A two-car garage sheathed in rusted tin holds four seasons' worth of athletic gear. "We've got everything: AT, XC, downhill...and there's incredible skate skiing here."

Three bedrooms—one for Gracie, one

for Emma and one for Joe's "secret train project"—hold down the first floor, while the living/dining/kitchen area occupies the second. "It's an upside-down house," Bill says. "When you live in Crested Butte, the snow stacks up above the first-floor windows, so you want your living area to be above that, where you can see out." Last year they had to cut a tunnel through the snow from the street to the front door. "It was an incredible year."