



"Moving out of single-family homes into a smaller space is a life-changing experience," Hmielowski notes. "We wanted to create comfortable personal spaces that residents can make their own and feel at home, as well as communal areas where they can hang out and be social."

Beyond the reception area in the independent living building, a light-filled, double-height living room features a natural stone fireplace, wood and steel detailing and furnishings that are both comfortable and durable. The space is flanked by a bistro and dining room, respectively. Studio to two-bedroom apartments feature either a private balcony or patio with views of the surrounding landscape.

A separate building accommodates assisted living residents in studio apartments, while the memory care neighborhood offers residents a comfortable, secure living environment supporting individual needs. As a whole, the community succeeds in enriching the quality of life in a compassionate, professional yet homelike environment. 295 Rio Grande Ave., Carbondale, soprislodge.com

Clockwise: Basalt-based Z Group architects designed Sopris Lodge; the senior living facility is located in Carbondale. Opposite page: Group dining area.



GOLDEN YEARS

The architectural design of Sopris Lodge in Carbondale offers senior living at a higher level.

BY LINDA HAYES

Creating architectural design that lives in harmony with its landscape is a hallmark of Basalt-based Z Group Architects (zgrouparchitects.com). It is also the concept senior principal Seth Hmielowski and his team, along with interior designer Cherie Storm, embraced for the design of Carbondale's singular Sopris Lodge senior living retirement community. Set just off Main Street at the edge of the Rio Grande Trail, the dual-building retirement community offers three levels of care (independent living, assisted living and memory care) in a setting that has a Colorado lodge-like feel.

