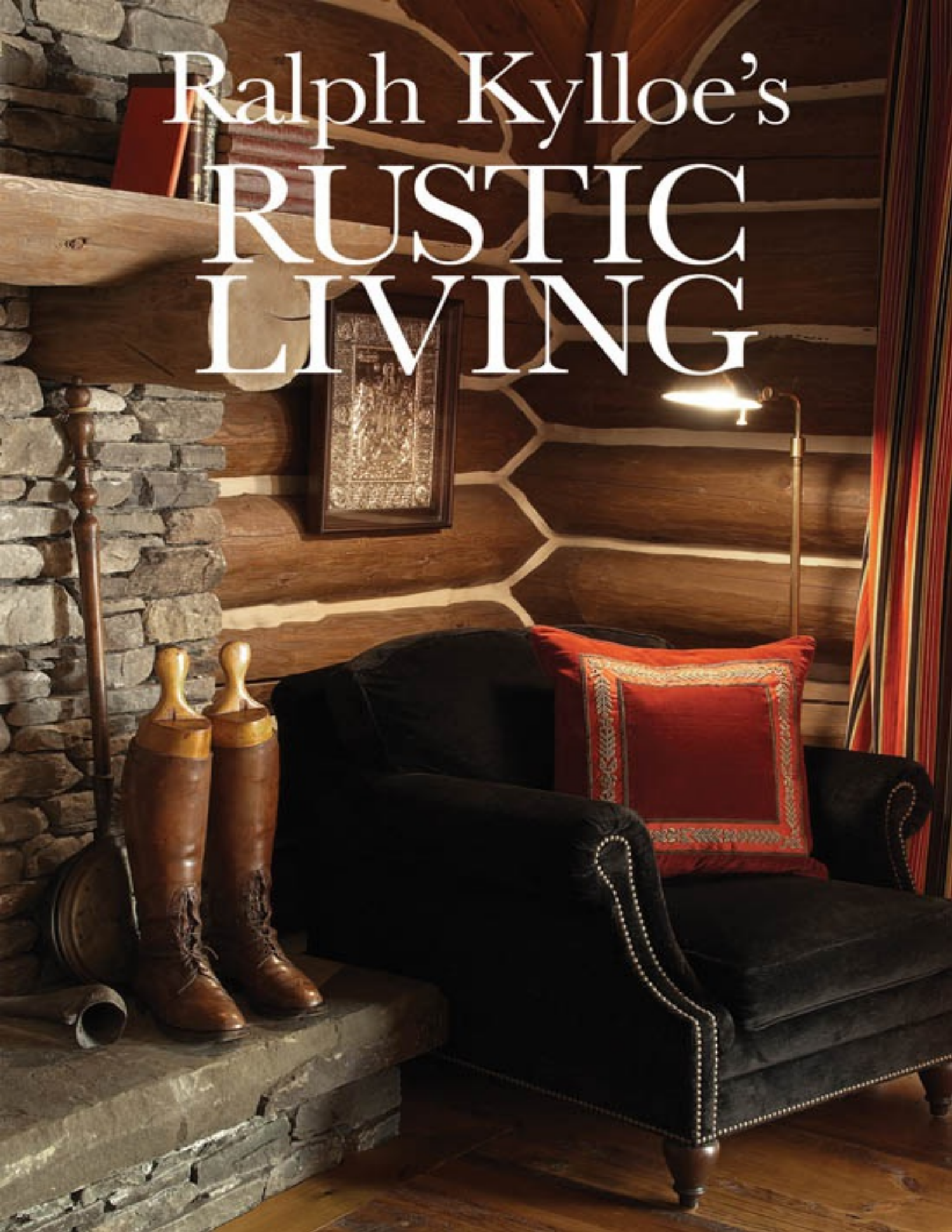


Ralph Kylloe's RUSTIC LIVING



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Author Ralph Kylloe

Photographs by Ralph Kylloe



GIBBS SMITH

TO ENRICH AND INSPIRE HUMANKIND

RALPH KYLLOE'S RUSTIC LIVING

Digital Edition 1.0

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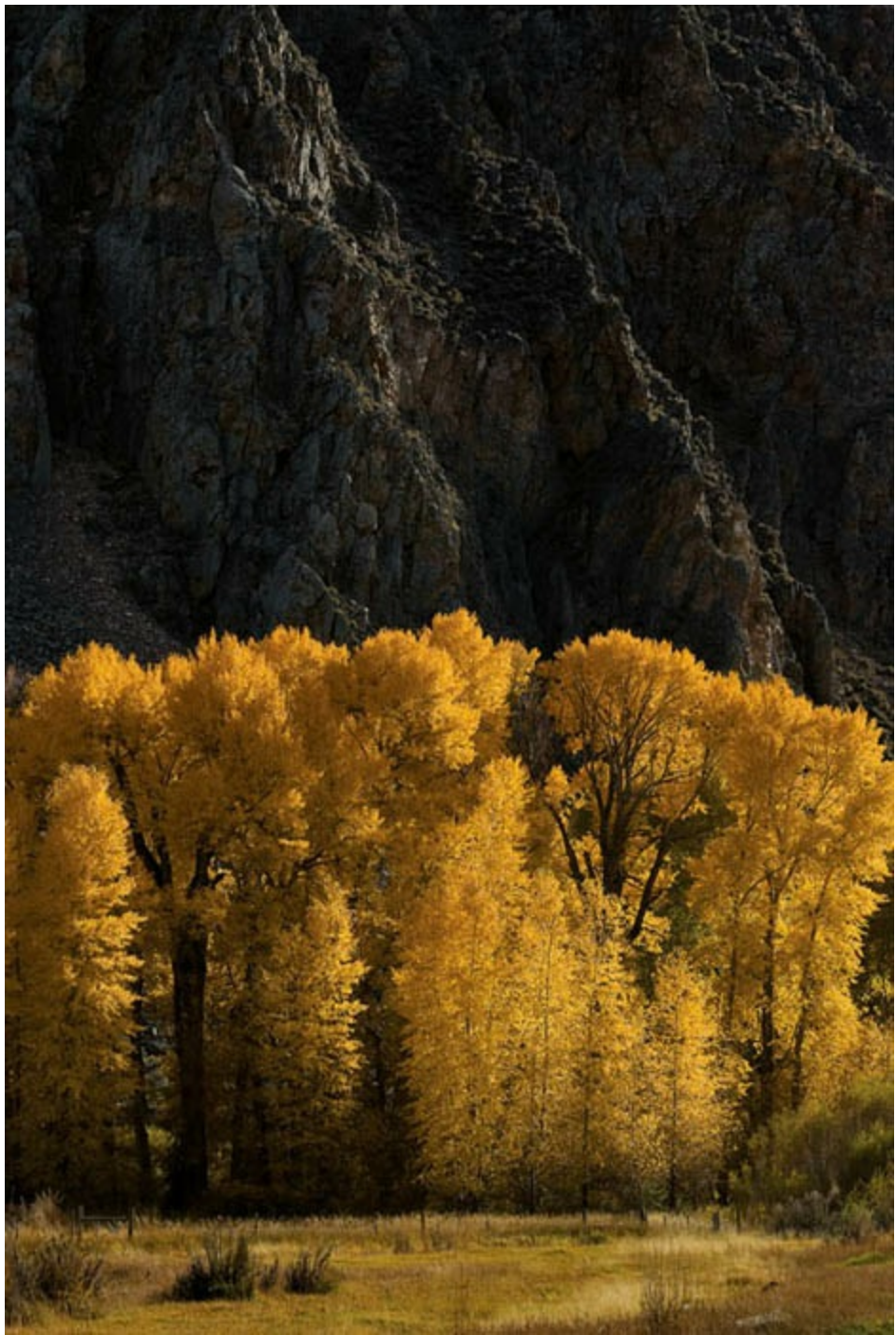
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Acknowledgments

Photographing the twenty-nine properties featured in this book took two years. There were many people who helped along the way, including designers and builders, homeowners who choose to remain anonymous, caretakers, and my wife, Michele, and daughter, Lindsey. To each and every one who assisted in any way, I extend a very, very special thanks. I would also like to thank Paul Filion, M.D., for all his help, and Bob Cooper for his special editing and patience.





Introduction

After meeting Ralph in the early 1990s, I could see that the word “rustic” would no longer be as Webster described it, simple and plain. Ralph’s interest for early rustic furnishings made from organic materials, such as roots, birchbark, saplings and trees became his passion.

As Ralph’s collection of rustic furniture increased, so did his desire to learn more about the craftspeople/artisans. Ralph made time to critique and offer advice to aspiring artisans, and would purchase pieces of rustic furniture and art to thus encourage the artists. Ralph’s books continue to impact and inspire the spectrum of artisans as well as collectors. His books entail exceptional photography, tales of adventure and close encounters with beasts of the forest. With the contemporary rustic movement spanning the globe, artists, furniture makers, interior designers and architects have settled in to a new frontier.

I would also like to acknowledge Ralph’s wife and partner, Michele, for her ballast, tenacious directional support and encouragement for Ralph.

Find your favorite place in the forest. . . .

—Barney Bellinger





The Ranch at Rock Creek

Several months ago I started receiving e-mails from an interior designer encouraging me to see a new lodge in Montana called the Ranch at Rock Creek. As I receive copious amounts of information about all kinds of rustic projects from many different people all over the world, I thanked the individual who sent me the info and mentioned that I would certainly check out their website and related information. And I did! It was an impressive-looking place, but I had seen such places before. Nonetheless, I continued receiving e-mails about the ranch and was told, in no uncertain terms, that I really needed to see the place.

In the fall of 2010 I found myself in Montana with a friend photographing other homes near the ranch (and doing a bit of fly-fishing as well). So I e-mailed the facility and invited myself over to see their digs. Montana is a very large place, and what seemed to be just a short drive on the map turned out to take longer than expected.

Each individual arriving at the ranch is assigned their own bicycle.

However, Montana is an extraordinary place and a drive in just about any direction can be spectacular. Rolling hills, wildlife around every turn, great-looking trout streams, forests, old mining towns and magnificent mountains were the setting for the lodge we were about to experience. Down a long, dusty road adjacent to a blue-ribbon trout stream resides the Ranch at Rock Creek.

The entire place was nothing less than magnificent. In the middle of what seemed to be absolutely nowhere, the ranch blended perfectly with the environment. Designed by architect Kirk Michaels of Livingston, Montana, the ranch offers the weary traveler something completely unexpected. The five-star resort, encompassing 6,600 acres, has accommodations for individuals, couples and families. You can sleep in the main guesthouse or in one of their complete cabins designed in traditional western fashion. Or you can sleep in a family tent as well! And I'm not talking about a small pup tent that requires a sleeping bag on the ground. The tents are fully contained and some offer complete kitchens and running water. Each tent also includes its own toilet and access to its own private high-end bathroom just outside the front tent flap.

But that's just the start of the adventure. Each individual arriving at the ranch is assigned their own bicycle, and you can ride horses and fly-fish in Rock Creek or their own stocked trout ponds to your heart's content (and I personally guarantee that you'll catch all kinds of great-looking trout!). Or you can spend the day in the spa or lounge around the heated pool if you choose. And the five-star restaurant will keep even the hungriest cowboy completely happy. The ranch also offers two great lounges, a fully mechanized bowling alley, pool tables and more activities than you can shake a stick at!

But it's the subtleties about the ranch that make it a great place. They have fly rods, guides and gear for everyone. If you want to hunt or shoot clay pigeons, there are guns of all kinds. If you want a hayride in an old wagon, it's no problem at all. And in the evening the campfires are great and the elk wander down from the mountains to graze in the meadows on the property.

The interiors of the facility were tastefully done by interior designer Jet Zarkadas of Los Griegos Studio in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with a wide variety of western-related antiques, art, textiles and memorabilia.



Guests can mosey up to this fully stocked bar in one of the ranch's two lounges and take a seat on a saddle stool.



This handcrafted tall case clock occupies a niche next to a half staircase.



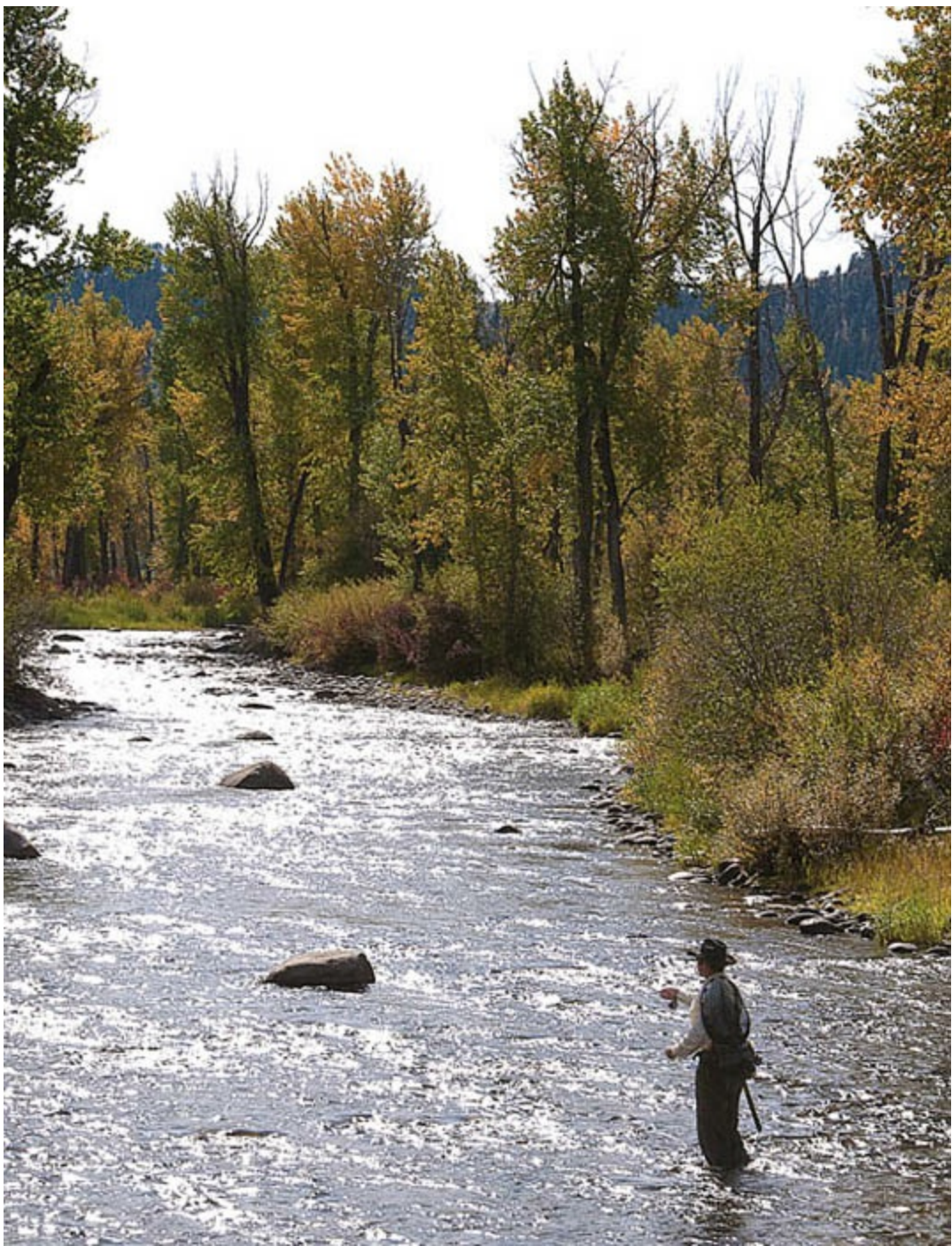
Above and below: Sleep it off in the Remington Room in the Granite Lodge, or grab some fly-fishing gear and try an entirely different kind of relaxation.



The ranch sits in splendid isolation on more than six thousand acres of rugged Montana ranchland.



The tastefully decorated Mustang Room is one of the guest rooms in the Granite Lodge.



Above and below: The great fly-fishing in Rock Creek is reason enough to visit the ranch.





One of the grandly furnished tents available for guest lodging, complete with running water and even a chandelier.



Above and below: The collection of rustic furniture and décor includes some vintage pieces, such as shoe shine chairs and a cowboy boot lamp.





The great room in the Granite Lodge is a comfortable place to relax in front of an inviting roaring fire at the end of the day.



Four elegantly appointed bowling lanes are a wonderfully unexpected feature at the ranch.



Above and below: A pool table frame of hewn timbers fits in well with the tasteful interior design provided by Jet Zarkadas of Santa Fe's Los Griegos Studio.





Featuring hardwood floors, elegant furnishings, and ample lighting, a double-wide tent is comfortable enough for the old folks and fun enough for the youngsters to all enjoy.

Cottonwoods

This cozy cabin situated along Cottonwood Creek in Montana was built by a team that included project manager Bill Keshishian; site superintendent Gabriel St. Pierre, who accomplished the majority of the work from the concrete foundation to the cabin's flooring; mason Andrew Verela of Set in Stone Masonry, who did the patio stone; and log craftsman Ray Chavis. The fireplace was built by Ron Davidson of R. Davidson Masonry, and the plastering was done by Doug Hillman.

An abundance of wildlife . . . is easily viewed from the backyard.

An abundance of wildlife—including white-tailed deer, black bears, elk, moose and great horned owls (which in the spring can be heard every evening as they depart for the day)—is easily viewed from the backyard.



A tapered stone fireplace, built by Ron Davidson, dominates the exterior view of this side of the cabin.



Maximizing space in the living room, a pair of window seats bookend the stone fireplace.



Log ceiling beams echo the exterior construction in one of the bedrooms.



A long table with benches complements a perfect porch setting for supper at sundown.



Stainless steel appliances and elegant wood cabinets fit snugly in the utilitarian kitchen space.



The claw-foot tub with gleaming feet and fixtures brings a bit of glam to the old-timey feel of this rustic home.

Lazy Moose Lodge

Lazy Moose Lodge is set on 150 acres overlooking both the Catskills and the Berkshires, as well as a beautiful valley. It includes, in addition to the lodge itself, a 3,500-square-foot guesthouse, a barn that has been converted into an entertainment center, a small rustic cabin (with a potbelly stove and no electricity), a Byzantine-style chapel, an orchard with apple and peach trees, over two miles of hiking and ATV trails, and a two-and-a-half-acre swimming pond, fully stocked with rainbow trout I might add!

The design of the lodge echoes Greek Revival architecture but maintains a classic rustic style.

The design of the lodge echoes Greek Revival architecture but maintains a classic rustic style. There are five bedrooms and four and a half baths, with a large domed steam room built as a Roman bath with colorful mosaic work and a stone grotto shower in the master bathroom. The owners have decorated the lodge with an eclectic mix of antiques and furniture from around the world, including custom-built Adirondack furniture, sconces and additional lighting that I was happy to provide.

Much fun is to be had in the barn—it includes a rustic pool table, a Wurlitzer jukebox, a full bar and various memorabilia, including a treasured guitar signed by Johnny and June Carter Cash and one of Roy Rogers's favorite saddles.

The lodge was designed by Alpine Log Homes and building was completed in 2008 by James Cervone of Little Deer & Company in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.



The Lazy Moose Lodge features an abundance of antiques and furniture from around the world, provided from the lodge owners' own collection, with a wonderfully eclectic mix displayed in the great room.



The huge asymmetrical stone fireplace acts as the great room's focal point, with the fate of the eponymous lazy moose punctuated in glorious fashion above the mantel. A Hans Duus chandelier hangs over the sofa.



Above and below: The barn provides its own views of the valley below and includes a rustic-style pool table and various hunting trophies mounted on the walls.





A tall case clock featuring exquisite wood and stone workmanship stands guard in this foyer. Gathered at the end of the space is evidence of someone's passion for equestrian sports.



The kitchen features a central island and a long breakfast bar with a set of rustic stools.



Rustic touches on this gun case help it blend in seamlessly with the chinked log walls.



Above and below: A finely crafted shelf table, large stone fireplace and mounted deer heads are additional features of the rustic décor.





A brass bedstead fits snugly into one of the five bedrooms in the main lodge.



A marvelously rustic bathroom is downright inviting enough to pay a nickel each time you climb into the tub! A mirrored vanity and chair are faced with birchbark.



Above and below: Some of the bedrooms feature their own stone fireplaces and unique chandeliers.





This cozy bedroom looks like the perfect place for a soothing night's sleep. .



Ralph Lauren drapes frame this elegant dining space. Furniture and furnishings are objects of conversation

Historical Adirondack Lodge

Having lived in the Adirondack Park for the past twenty years and been a visitor here long before that, I've had the opportunity to visit and spend significant time in many of the historical Adirondack Great Camps. Although many of the Great Camps have been published elsewhere, there are many that are virtually unknown and have survived in their original, untouched condition for decades. So when I was asked to visit an "old camp" on the shores of one of the hundreds of Adirondack lakes, I did not hesitate.

When I was asked to visit an "old camp" on the shores of one of the hundreds of Adirondack lakes, I did not hesitate.

The camp featured here was constructed between 1927 and 1929. It is a classic old-world Great Camp. Made of peeled cedar logs, the construction is as tight and solid as the day it was completed. Much of the original furniture and accessories remain in the home and are used by the owners and their friends and families. Out of necessity the kitchen was recently remodeled and upgraded. The impressive collection of historical taxidermy, which is a hallmark of historical Adirondack hunting lodges, speaks of ages long gone.

The home itself offers five bedrooms and three and a half baths. A walk-around second-floor balcony provides access to the different rooms on the upper floor. A game room, complete with game table, piano and historical accessories, occupies an open area on the second floor. The massive floor-to-ceiling fireplace, which accommodates four-foot logs, was constructed of locally found stones. The interior of the home has mellowed to a rich golden hue. Many of the original accents, including the great room chandelier, the fireplace andirons, sconces and other items, remain intact and profoundly complement the home. A lakeside porch offers great views of the water. The owners of the home, a gracious couple, have taken great care to preserve the heritage of the setting to insure that the building survives intact for generations to come.



Massive floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, mounted moose and deer heads, tight handcrafted log construction—there's no mistaking the rustic pedigree of this Adirondack Great Camp.



A walk-around balcony encircling the upper floor is a perfect place to display the owners' impressive variety of taxidermy.



Above and below: This Great Camp sits on the shore of one of the many lakes in the Adirondack Mountains. Many of the accessories and furnishings remain from the original home, built in the 1920s, although the kitchen appliances are new.







The woodwork and flooring in the kitchen contribute to imbuing the home with a rich golden patina.



One of the home's five bedrooms, this one features twin beds with log frames, matching side tables and a couple of woodsy lamps.



This rustic gaming table is the centerpiece of a game room occupying an open area on the second floor.



Above and below: An antique upright piano maintained in beautiful condition is one of the many historical touches that makes this home so inviting.



Western Heritage at Ladera Vista

In the upscale Ladera Vista community of Scottsdale, Arizona, sits this nearly 5,700-square-foot split-level home, featuring four bedrooms and four and a half baths. The design was inspired by both the ranch homes of the Old West and Arizona's rich heritage. It includes a guest casita, an office, a tavern room, four stone fireplaces and an outdoor fire pit overlooking a glass tile infinity pool. The home was designed by Domenic Berta of Scottsdale, with the owners responsible for both the construction and the interior design.

The design was inspired by both the ranch homes of the Old West and Arizona's rich heritage.

Custom art and rustic furniture abound at every turn. The owners commissioned handmade furnishings from craftsmen working in the rustic style—including Doug Nordberg of Wyoming, Andy Sanchez of New Mexico, Tim Groth of Idaho, and Al Boswell of Missouri—to help convey the spirit of Western culture throughout the home.

The tavern room is a favorite place for entertaining. Its design was inspired by the rail tour of the Queen Mine in Bisbee, Arizona. The custom upholstery was designed to mimic the yoke and accent piping of classic Western-style shirts. A sliding stained glass window disappears into a wall to open onto an exterior patio bar, providing convenient bar service for either indoor or outdoor entertaining. There's even a wine chiller, with a front panel made from reclaimed oak with hand-carved V-grooves and distressing, so that it fits in seamlessly with the rest of the rustic décor.



Building materials with rough surfaces and colors indigenous to the area—such as stucco, stone, clay tile and cement pavers—give this Arizona home a rustic appearance and ambience matched to the rugged desert landscape of the Southwest.



Cowhide stools nestle up to the breakfast bar, while custom tile art serves as a backsplash behind the range.



The guest bedroom includes a comfortable sitting area at the foot of the bed.



The tavern room design, with stone walls and post-and-beam construction, was inspired by the popular tour of the famous and now defunct Queen Mine in Bisbee, Arizona.



The basement, with its stone walls, stays cooler than the hot Arizona outdoors in summer and is quickly warmed by a fire when needed.



Above and below: An office, dining area and bedroom feature warm décor and bright southwestern patterns.







The spirit of Western rustic reigns in the great room, from wide plank flooring to hand-hewn trusses and a novel chandelier.

Stone Mountain Lodge

Stone Mountain Lodge features stunning views of Montana's Gallatin Range and the mountains of Yellowstone National Park. With more than 8,500 square feet of living space situated on over two acres, the lodge includes five bedrooms, seven baths, and over 2,000 square feet of heated decks and patios. The lodge was designed by architect Mark Weirich and built by Yellowstone Traditions; the interiors were designed by Haven Interior Design.

Truly a heavenly match of rustic and modern.

As you approach the lodge, you can't help but notice the custom-built ten-foot double front doors with walnut inlays. Upon entering the lodge, the great room features a massive double-sided stone fireplace that infuses the entire space with a feeling of grandeur.

One of the four guest bedrooms is a bunkroom, perfect for kids to enjoy. In addition, the lodge includes a game room and adjacent home theater, a wine cellar, two outdoor fireplaces in addition to three indoors, a ski locker room and a hot tub patio to provide soothing respite after a day of skiing, fly-fishing or golfing.

Despite the overwhelming rustic ambiance of the lodge, it also offers the latest technology—most of which is not immediately evident on first glance. Custom, high-end decorative lighting and climate control were provided by Crestron Total Home Technology, which also outfitted the home theater. Truly a heavenly match of rustic and modern.



The exposed ceiling trusses and the huge double stone fireplace in the lodge's great room highlight the grandeur of the space.



With more than 8,500 square feet of livable space and over 2,000 square feet of heated decks and patios, the lodge presents a charmingly imposing face to visitors.



Above and below: The large kitchen features state-of-the-art appliances and granite countertops.





A large dining room, adjacent to both the kitchen and great room, provides elegance for fine dining or convenience for a quick snack.



A boon for entertaining is the tasting bar, allowing people to interact with the “chef” while meal prep is underway.



Double sources of lighting illuminate a chess corner, which leads to an adjacent home theater with a 115-inch screen and full wet bar.



Above and below: An arched door and cabinet with birchbark facing and applied twig effectively combine rustic and old-world charm.







The centerpiece of the great room is a massive double stone fireplace.



Above and below: The lodge features three indoor and two outdoor fireplaces, as well as several wood staircases connecting the three levels.





One of the guest bedrooms is arranged as a bunkroom, with matching log bunk beds.



Turkish, Persian, and Azerbaijan rugs are found throughout, including one of the latter in this bedroom.

Burleigh Bay Cabin

According to Lake George locals, this cabin, set on an acre of land on the end of Windy Point near the southern section of Burleigh Bay, was built around 1910 as a summer getaway home for a local state politician.

The property was in rough shape when the current owner purchased it, and though many advised him that it was a “tear-down,” it was exactly what he wanted. He recognized its place in history. The “lake cottages” were a vanishing part of the Adirondack region. He refused to demolish the cabin. (The former owners, in fact, had turned down a higher offer for the cabin when they learned that the prospective owners were planning on tearing it down.) The owner loved the cabin, and did some refurbishing to bring it up to its current homey and completely unique state.

There are so many antiques that some visitors have referred to it as a museum.

The exterior is made from what is referred to as “pig siding” in the Adirondacks, because it’s mostly the useless, leftover parts of trees after they’re trimmed for use as lumber that is often used to build pigpens.

Inside is a great collection of Adirondack antiques, with many rooms containing interesting pieces that add to the atmosphere, the “glow” of the place. In fact, there are so many antiques that some visitors have referred to it as a museum. You could spend an entire day perusing all the items on display here. There are no closets in the cabin—only chests of drawers and hooks to hang clothes on. That just means more wall space for display of a few more antiques!



The cabin's exterior sports "pig siding," made from the leftover parts of trees after they're trimmed for lumber.



An eclectic mix if ever there was one, and stories behind every artifact, antique and piece of furniture.



Above and below: A place for everything, and everything in its place—the cabin is loaded with what the owner refers to as “Adirondack antiques,” including an old Evinrude outboard motor that looks as if it might still work.







A sunny breakfast and game room overlooks excellent views outdoors.



The kitchen, as everywhere throughout the cabin, features fascinating decorative touches wherever you look, such as the splendid dog and fowl wood carving, the “Drinking Water” sign above the sink, and the pinecone-shaped cupboard knobs.



Old oars, a jai alai cesta, a collection of oil lamps . . . and is that a stuffed cat or a real one?



Above and below: The juxtaposition of such items as an old boat propeller and a stuffed owl at either end of a case clock makes for one of many fascinating tableaux, and adds to the “glow” of the cabin.







This bedroom provides plenty of distractions for someone desiring a bit of shut-eye.



Above and below: The owner says he loves the hunt for new and interesting items to add to the cabin's décor, including the "lovable scoundrels" he sometimes has to deal with.





A remarkable refurbishing job was done to restore this cabin to its current condition, especially given that it was considered no more than a “tear-down” at one time.

The Guesthouse

Even though the current owners of this large cedar log home have lived in it for more than a dozen years, they and everyone they know still refer to it by the original name it went by when they bought the property it sits on: “The Guesthouse.” In addition, there’s a matching cedar cottage on the property, designed and constructed with the same details to match the larger log home.

By design, no two rooms have all four walls designed the same.

The Guesthouse was designed by the owners, along with Williams & Williams Designers of Glens Falls, New York, and Gene Baker of Baker & Baker Construction in Bolton Landing, New York, who also led the building effort from start to completion in 2007. The entire exterior structure is knotty cedar, including the structural log wraparound covered porches. Interior stair stringers, half-log steps and all the interior walls, doors and ceilings are from the same knotty cedar. The doors were all custom made by Gene Baker. By design, no two rooms have all four walls designed the same, accomplished in part by using random widths of cedar for both the wall and ceiling covering designs.

There were numerous obstacles to overcome at the beginning of construction, the most important, according to the owners, being the excavation work done by Ruben Ellsworth of Ellsworth and Sons Excavating. And because of water and drainage issues due to an abundance of ledge rock in the area, as well as the location of the property between streams, a lake and the foot of a mountain, the laying of the foundation proved to be critical.



Here in the great room you can see one of the unique wall designs that was accomplished by using random-sized pieces of knotty cedar oriented both vertically and horizontally so as to produce an overall diagonal pattern.



The exterior of the Guesthouse is made entirely of knotty cedar, and includes wraparound porches with intricate twig work on the railings.



Above and below: A simple rustic log desk and chair, dresser with coordinating mirror above with applied twig, and a handcrafted pool table are well chosen to support the Adirondack style.







More knotty cedar can be found in the stringers and half log steps on the stairway nestled behind the stone fireplace, which also features a unique antler balustrade.



The cedar walls and ceilings blend in perfectly with the kitchen cabinets, stainless steel appliances and dark countertops.



A pair of burl lamps flank a bed with log and twig headboard.



This wonderfully unique burl rocking chair occupies its own corner of the Guesthouse.

Lazy Bear Lodge

Sitting near the top of a ridge and overlooking a dramatic view of the Appalachian Mountains rests Lazy Bear Lodge. Like many of the homes I've photographed, this residence was off the beaten path and took some effort and specific directions to find. Located in a gated community that offers a golf course and all the amenities, my visit was blessed with peak fall foliage.

I was surprised at the eclectic interiors.

With that said, I was overwhelmed with the magnificent views, the design of the home and its interiors. Grand in every way, the home is an inviting place filled with warmth and character.

It was the morning of a cold, wet day, and the fall colors were rich and enhanced by the moist air. When I arrived I was introduced to visiting guests and invited to have breakfast with the group. As we had many mutual friends, our morning conversation could have gone on for hours. And I must say that for the first time in my life I enjoyed eating grits. After a lengthy conversation I was given a tour of the home and was surprised at the eclectic interiors. The colors blended well, layer upon layer of accessories and textiles offered depth to the décor, and the artwork on the walls was sophisticated and appropriate for the setting. In short, it was an absolutely great place and I was happy to be there.

The home was designed by Robert Mann of ATTIC Design and built by Baxter Norris Construction. The homeowner played a significant role in the interior design, and Pam McKay of Dianne Davant & Associates was brought in to apply the finishing touches. With 8,600 square feet of living space—four bedrooms, a studio, five and a half baths, and extensive porches and patios on the grounds—Lazy Bear is grand in every respect. A large garage, covered parking area and extensive landscaping complete the residence.



The Lazy Bear Lodge's position near the top of an Appalachian ridge provides a stunning vista.



Exquisite carvings of Old West scenes embellish a fabulous sideboard, while hair-on-hide dining chair backs continue the rustic ambience.



Above and below: Handcrafted wood furniture commands presence in every room.







A horsehide spread gives this bed a simple and comfortable rustic feel.



The eclectic décor in this room includes a forged fire screen, root-base table lamp, wonderful patterned fabrics and woodland-themed objects.



Comfortable sofas and chairs surround a wooden coffee table with an intricate carved edge design.



A classic Victrola phonograph earns pride of place in one corner of this reading area.



A grandly carved headboard and footboard punctuate this bed that's set back into a nook in the stone wall.



Above and below: Intricate woodwork and exquisite taste are hallmarks of the lodge's interior design.







Stool legs made from antlers appear to be dancing a jig in front of this polished log wine bar.



The subtle way in which the myriad colors and artistic furnishings in the great room blend together makes for a truly rich and rewarding experience.

Camp Endo

Rolling hills, trout streams, dirt roads, massive hardwood trees and ski slopes provide the setting for Camp Endo. Although I had been associated with the project for some time, the size and scope of the home continued to thrill me each time I visited. Starting out as a dream of a small two- to three-bedroom family cabin, the project quickly grew to what it is today. “It just sort of happened,” mentioned the owner.

It is, without a doubt, a grand place and a dream come true.

Encompassing 425 acres of rolling hills and trees, the home offers dramatic views of the surrounding terrain. It is a complete playground for the owners, their family and their guests. The grounds include mountain bike and ATV trails, a newly created swimming pond stocked with both brown and rainbow trout, a six-foot-square chessboard in the middle of the forest, ski trails and numerous other outdoor amenities.

I could never figure out the name “Camp Endo.” It sounded to me like a dentist’s term. But the owner is a serious bicycle rider who mentioned that he has often flipped over his handlebars (unintentionally, of course). In biker nomenclature, this embarrassing and possibly injurious act is reverently referred to as an “endo” . . . flipping over the “end of” one’s bike. As the owner related this tale to me, a sheepish but somewhat proud smile came to his face. And I must admit that I greatly admire anyone who willingly admits their own unpleasant mishaps or foibles.

It is often easy to misconstrue the meaning or essence of a place, especially large homes. Although complete with high-end furniture, accessories of the finest quality and artwork—all with a designer’s touch—the home is both warm and inviting. Bare feet and blue jeans are welcome. Have a drink, put up your feet and relax. Read a book, have some honey—produced right on the property by Camp Endo bees—or toss a fly into the pond and hook a monster trout. Just down the road are major ski resorts where one can attack moguls or glide through untouched powder. Or, if one so desires, just wander the grounds and enjoy the multitude of wildflowers in the summer or the heavenly colors of the fall. It is, without a doubt, a grand place and a dream come true.

But grand places don’t just happen. A number of very talented people were associated with the project, to whom the owner would like to give credit. Most of the home was designed and created by Maple Island Log Homes; the interior design team of Christina Lake and Ray Forehand at Raymond Forehand Associates was responsible for the interior décor; the Ralph Kylloe Gallery provided many pieces of furniture and artwork; Skip and John Woodruff were responsible for the bark and twig work throughout most of the home; the large chandeliers and other lighting were created by Hammerton, Inc.; Lance Del Priore of Prime Focus Communications created the extensive home entertainment center; Joe Holly created the fire screens and other metal objects; much of the masonry was completed by Ryan Lizard; Kirk Kehoe of Sparky Electric was responsible for the electrical systems; Noel Dydo created the swimming and fishing pond on the property; Shane Lewis created the complex of rustic staircases; Paul Stark masterfully carved the many figures on the staircase newel posts; Chris Cole of Cole Company was the project manager for the complex; and Kris Dennan served as both the estate manager and dream maker for the entire

project.



A rustic cornucopia presents itself in this view of Camp Endo's great room, from an antler chandelier to a birchbark canoe hoisted in the rafters, following down the clean line of the stone fireplace, matching drum end tables and finally a custom-made coffee table decorated with birchbark and twig.



Above and below: Bark, twig and other detailed ornamentation stands out on drawers, cabinets and doors throughout, thanks to the work of Skip and John Woodruff.





A reverse view of the great room, showing the elegant breakfast bar with a log-framed window into the kitchen and dining area.



A tile fireplace surround serves as backdrop for a comfortable sitting area featuring an imaginative rocker made from gnarled wood.



A long dining table is surrounded by dining chairs with relief-carved silhouettes for a clean, strong accent. The chandelier overhead was created by Hammerton, Inc.



A kitchen island provides lots of space both above and below for work and storage.



Above and below: More wonderfully intricate cabinetry detail really brings out the rustic feel of the place. A large stone fireplace on this deck adds to the perfect rustic setting for entertaining on cool autumn nights.





A large stone fireplace on this deck adds to the perfect rustic setting for entertaining on cool autumn nights.



The design of the home by Maple Island Log Homes and the interior design by Christina Lake and Ray Forehand mesh beautifully, as evidenced in this view of the great room.



One complete end of this room—cupboards and overmantel—is faced with bark and accented with twig. The twig work accents the bark-faced stone fireplace to create a unique look.



A view from the dining area into the stairwell containing part of the complex of great rustic wood staircases created by Shane Lewis.



A log chair and a desk mounted on a free-form structure of branches makes for an iconic rustic image framed against a chinked log wall.



A look at the impressive log construction of Camp Endo, which offers dramatic views of the surrounding New England terrain.

Kellum Mountain Lodge

Nestled in an idyllic woodland setting in the Lake George region of New York State sits Kellum Mountain Lodge. Encompassing nearly two hundred acres of pine and hardwood forest, the property includes a private, spring-fed, eleven-acre pond. The custom log lodge overlooks the pond's northeast shoreline. In addition to the picture-postcard views of the water through gable windows, there are also great views of the southern Adirondacks.

In addition to the picture-postcard views of the water through gable windows, there are also great views of the southern Adirondacks.

Constructed in 1983, the nearly 1,200-square-foot lodge has plenty of rustic ambience. The round-log construction was inspired by the historic Adirondack Great Camps of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There's an open floor plan centered around a living/dining area with a large granite rock fireplace, and a wraparound stone deck effectively extends the living space. The screened summer porch is accented by natural granite stonework. In nice weather it's often used as an outdoor dining room for evening meals. Other design features include original oak hardwood floors, log railings and rafters, and cathedral pine ceilings with skylights.

On the first floor is a master bedroom with bath, while the second floor contains an open four-hundred-square-foot loft that can sleep an additional four to six people.

From the lodge, a stone walkway goes down to a dock at the pond's edge. The pond is reportedly as deep as twenty-five feet, and I'm told is home to a thriving largemouth bass population.



From the downstairs living and dining area, a stairway leads up to an open loft that can sleep four to six. This cabin, though compact in size, packs immeasurable enjoyment and rustic ambience into every square foot.



Classic rustic furniture and a granite rock fireplace anchor the main-floor living/dining area.



Here are views of the round-log construction.



The master bedroom is downstairs, situated off the main room.



The dining area is part of the open floor plan. A unique contemporary chandelier sheds light on the rustic dining table and chairs.



Just a short walk down the pathway from the cabin is a private, eleven-acre, spring-fed pond, perfect for swimming or fishing.

Timberline Lodge

A few hours above New York City is a community called The Chapin Estate. Located in the Catskill Mountains, the development includes thousands of acres of timberland, trout streams and lakes. Deer and turkeys are plentiful, and an occasional bear wanders the woodlands. Timberline Lodge is tucked away amongst the trees and foliage, and from the road appears unassuming . . . until you get closer. The owner of the home is a professional rodeo calf roper (among other things), and his horses relax in the fields and corrals on his property. During the warm months, guests relax on his grounds and enjoy the well-manicured property and sculptures of all kinds, play with the family dog, take a swim in the large pool, enjoy the waterfall or roast hot dogs to their hearts' content in his backyard.

It's a comfortable, inviting place where guests are welcome to take off their shoes and relax.

The waterfront property also includes barns, a guesthouse, a separate building that houses a collection of automobiles, gazebos and an outdoor pavilion complete with a modern kitchen and massive fireplace.

Timberline Lodge is not just a cabin . . . although it could be called that. Rather, it is a home offering a unique, original design and is filled with an eclectic mix of high-end art, furnishings, textiles, carpets and other amenities. Further, it's a comfortable, inviting place where guests are welcome to take off their shoes and relax.

The home includes 10,400 square feet of living space as well as several porches, walkways and garden terraces. The home was completed in 2004 and offers four bedrooms and eight baths. The building and setting were designed and constructed by Steve Dubrovsky and Woodstone Development LLC. The masonry includes native fieldstone, and the logs for the building are red and white pine as well as cedar. The guesthouse offers another four bedrooms and two and a half baths. The owner of the home was responsible for the interior design, furnishings and all accessories.



From across the backyard pool, you can see many of the wonderful features of this grand lodge, including one of several porches and the native fieldstone that was used for much of the masonry work.



A massive tree trunk rises up in the middle of the great room.



From the kitchen you can see some of the large logs and timbers that are used for structural support . . . as well as a handy place to hang a wine collection.



The floor-to-ceiling bank of multipaned windows on one side of the great room lets in exceptional amounts of light.



The fieldstone walls, torch, wall sconces, chandelier and gathered drapes make this intimate dining area feel almost like a medieval castle.



Above and below: The judicious use of drapery and arches frames many stunning views throughout the lodge and guesthouse.







This bed features a uniquely rustic canopy arrangement that emphasizes the high ceiling. Here again, fun tree trunks are used in unusual ways.



This wooden staircase and landing are one of the most arresting features of the lodge's great room.



A lakefront pavilion features a large stone fireplace and its own kitchen.



Surrounding this well-lit sitting area are pithy quotes such as this one from Walter Winchell: "A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

Big Sky Beauty

This remarkable three-level home is near Big Sky, Montana, with great views of both Cedar Mountain and Lone Peak. It includes seven bedrooms and ten baths, a recreation room, a built-in playroom for the kids, a theater room, a ski room and an office. Walking out of the house from the lower level, you pass under a covered patio and across a yard leading to a footbridge. Crossing the bridge over a wetlands you come to a guest cabin, which is built directly into a hill and sports a sod roof.

The home exudes a rustic ambiance that is palpable.

As you walk in the main entry across the covered porch and through the mudroom, you immediately notice the large Harlow stone fireplace. An integrated pier-plank staircase wraps around it, leading to both upper and lower levels. The upper level includes a guest suite and the ski room, which provides ski in/ski out access. The office is on this floor as well, with independent stair access from the master bedroom below.

The lower level is mostly geared towards kids and fun. Here you'll find a bunkroom and separate girls' and boys' rooms, the kids' playroom and a recreation room with built-in fireplace. The theater room includes stepped seating and custom wall panels that help produce amazing sound quality for a home theater.

The architectural interiors were done by Pearson Design Interiors. Throughout much of the house, antique hardware was used for the cabinet hardware. Interior designer Hilary Heminway designed many of the cowboy and rustic pieces found in the home. The home exudes a rustic ambiance that is palpable.



The dining table, designed by Hilary Heminway, includes electrical outlets built directly into the pedestal base for use with the table lamps. The fire screen on the stone fireplace was designed by Pearson Design Group and created by Bill Moore. Lighting in the great room, including the multitiered chandelier, is by Joe Holly Lighting.



This three-level home provides a relatively low profile from this angle, blending in perfectly with the snow-covered Montana terrain.



The dining area opens just off the main-level entry, and features a built-in sideboard created by Diane Ross as well as Elk River art light fixtures.



The rec room includes a wine bar, pool table and its own fireplace.



Looking into the dining area you can see the fine workmanship on the sideboard, as well as the log framing that's an important design feature throughout the house.



A balcony surrounds much of the great room.



The gramophone pendant lights were designed by Pearson Design Group.



Above and below: A breakfast nook graces the kitchen, while a pier-plank stair system leads to both the upper and lower levels.





This metal tub and table feel right at home in a sparsely furnished bathroom.



An intricately painted cupboard flanked by two chairs with complementary fabric designs adds a splash of color next to the natural stone wall.



Some of the bedrooms, and even the master bath, feature their own stone fireplaces.





A La Luna birch canopy bed is a treat for visitors staying in the guest room.

Half-Mile Farm

Just outside the quaint town of Highlands, North Carolina, rests a traditional B&B with rolling lawns, ponds, a friendly dog, happy people and quiet, serene surroundings. On the complex are three historical buildings offering a rustic ambiance guaranteed to calm the souls of anyone staying there. The home featured here is what we call a restack: old, historical cabins are located and completely dismantled, then moved to a new site and reassembled to make one complete building. This home was completed by restacking two historical buildings and joining them together with a new connecting addition. Both of the structures that comprise this building are early cabins found in West Tennessee.

This home was completed by restacking two historical buildings and joining them together.

During the reconstruction, plumbing, heating and electrical systems were properly installed. Further, old doors were often used in such homes, and old tin and often wooden shake shingles were used on roofs to maintain the rustic, historical appearance. The building is a classical hand-hewn log structure with notched dovetailing on the corners.

The interior of this home is an interesting collection of classic southern country accessories and furniture. The interior floors were made from old barn flooring, as were many of the kitchen and bathroom cabinets. The home was designed and reconstructed by David Grant Howard.

If you'd like to stay in the cabin for a night or a few months, just contact Half-Mile Farm. I stayed there for three nights and I can assure you that you won't be disappointed!



A weathered patina has been left on some of the furniture, such as this old cabinet with peeling paint.



The Captain's House is one of three historical restacks at Half-Mile Farm, maintaining the hand-hewn log structure of the original Tennessee cabins, as well as some of the original doors



Above and below: The ground-floor kitchen includes a wonderful cook stove, and the bedroom and bath upstairs both feature great views of the nearby lake.







The dining area features a corner hutch and metal chandelier hanging over a dining table with antique green slat-back chairs.



A classic southern porch fronts the cabin, while old tin on the roof and overhang helps maintain a rustic feel.

Three Century Farm

This quintessential fifty-acre New England farm was once a working dairy and potato farm. The homeowners worked closely with both the builder, Dean Edmunds, and interior decorator Natasha Willauer to renovate the buildings.

This quintessential fifty-acre New England farm has literally been around for more than three centuries.

The large barn featured here was originally constructed in the late 1800s. It includes a stable on the lower level, where the owners have horses, rabbits, chickens . . . and many, many cats. The first floor includes a utility room and mudroom. On the second level is a large living space with dark wood-paneled walls and a large stone fireplace, a kitchen and two bedrooms. And the master suite and a loft take up the third level. An eclectic collection of rustic Americana abounds in every room.



An eclectic array of collectibles is on display along with this classic stone fireplace, including traditional hardwood-framed snowshoes, cross-country skis, a scale-model canoe, and the ubiquitous moose head.



A wide view of the great room shows an eclectic group of furniture and accessories elegantly arranged.



State-of-the-art appliances nestle among vintage wood cabinets and cupboards.



A library and sitting area, featuring a set of elegantly built antler chairs, is directly adjacent to the great room.



A wonderful old chest with drawers labeled for wool, felt, and “horse hair,” among other items, serves a new purpose here.



A dark green hue reverberates through both the kitchen and dining area, reflected in everything from the posts, beams and cabinets to the chair fabric and table candles.



A display case enhanced with a twig and birchbark face houses a collection of decorative plates and other items.



Above and below: The home includes intriguing design features wherever you look, including an elegantly finished sofa table and gilt leaves embellishing the corner of a metal fire screen.





Red is abundant in this bedroom, from the tufted headboard and bed coverlet to the curtains, wallpaper and upholstered ottoman.



Above and below: Unique decorative items are to be found throughout the house, including a well-worn keepsake box on the dining table and a horse weather vane sitting in front of a cabinet with inset clock.





The original nineteenth-century barn building underwent substantial renovation to achieve the interior rustic ambience seen on these pages, and still includes a stable full of animals on the lower level.



This view, looking up from the great room, highlights a pair of antler chandeliers and shows the contours of the original barn building.

Watkins Creek Ranch

A strong west wind was blowing and whitecapped waves slammed the shores as I traversed the lake looking for the home I was to photograph. Deer were everywhere. The tall cottonwood trees were in full fall color and layers of dark clouds covered the tops of the local mountains. After an hour of dirt roads I saw a very small sign at the foot of a bootjack fence. I assumed I was at the right place. Fortunately the gate was open and I entered a complex that I hoped would be as spectacular as it had been described. The golden grass and huge trees seemed to welcome me as I made my way along a dirt road. In time several buildings came into view: first a rustic garage, next a few smaller cabins and then a main house.

The golden grass and huge trees seemed to welcome me as I made my way along a dirt road.

Purchased a few years before my visit by a discriminating couple with great vision, the home was constructed in about 1904 by Mr. Jack Watkins. Watkins, a talented individual, was also involved in the construction of the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park about 1903. The present owners purchased the property from Watkins's son, also named Jack Watkins, who was at least eighty years old at the time of the sale.

The new owners knew of the intrinsic value of both the property and the buildings. They interviewed several talented individuals, and decided to engage architect Candace Tillotson-Miller of Livingston, Montana, and Yellowstone Traditions of Bozeman, Montana, to both redesign and rebuild the compound. The mandate of the owners, who worked closely with both the architect and the builders, was to maintain the integrity of the existing buildings and to respect the original design of the home. The owners credit both the architect and the builders with being instrumental in the redesign of the project.

According to various individuals who restored the compound, the setting was a receptacle for many years of abuse and neglect. Old cars, junk and other debris cluttered the site. It has been described as a rundown working ranch and farm. Sixty-five cats were found living in the basement of the main building, and it took more than a year to eliminate the odor.

Initially the entrance road to the property was redesigned and relocated to a different area on the property. Ultimately the interior of the building was completely gutted. New plumbing and wiring were installed, and energy-efficient windows and doors were added. Porches were added to the main building. The kitchen was also completely redesigned.

Other buildings were added on the compound. Several small historical cabins were found on the property. These buildings were disassembled, restored and restacked to accommodate the needs of the family. One building is described as an office but is really a getaway building, complete with fireplace, tons of fly-fishing gear and a desk for tying flies. Another building, referred to as the "Dog Trot," serves as duplex guest cabins. An underground root cellar was transformed into a "gentlemen's club," complete with a pool table and huge-screen TV. Further, a lakeside pavilion and a log-sided boathouse were added to accommodate the family's interest in water sports. Finally, extensive landscaping restored the grounds to its original aura. In time, interior design guru

Diana Beattie was brought in to complete the interiors with furnishings, artwork and accessories.

My first visit to the ranch was quite memorable. I spent easily five hours photographing the main building. However, I was not able to start a fire in the fireplace. As much as possible I always photograph fireplaces complete with raging fires burning. Because of the complexity of the fireplace I was not able to open the flue, so I did not photograph it. I did return the following day with the contractor, who graciously opened the complex flue and built a great fire. But all things change. When I returned the following day the tall, swaying cottonwood trees had completely lost their leaves, standing as a stark transition from the previous day. I reminded myself to enjoy beauty each moment, as it can be gone in a puff of the wind.

The complex today stands in tribute to the vision and abilities of the owners, architects, contractors and interior designers. It is a place complete with innovation, attention to detail and heroic dispositions.



A view from the side of a smaller building, looking toward the main house, reveals different types of corner

A view from the side of a smaller building, looking toward the main house, reveals different types of corner configurations and exquisite craftsmanship of the tight-fitting stacked logs.



Above and below: Lanterns converted to electric lamps and a piece of gnarled wood as door handle make for interesting details.





The root cellar “gentlemen’s club” boasts an architectural stone arch over the wide opening.



The original 1904 cabin is spectacular for its multiline roofing system and distinguished corner configurations.



Above and below: Freestanding wooden cases and cabinets dot the interior, as do lamps of all kinds, including this one with a rawhide shade.







A gnarled banister lends character to the main room.



Above and below: Two views of the same room show how different types and colors of wood, whether stained, painted or bark-on, can create a harmonious look for a rustic home.





An heirloom European-style cabinet with luxurious carvings is right at home in a corner nook.



Curly-horn ram's heads distinguish the otherwise simple chandelier. A rough-stacked stone fireplace is the focal center for an intimate conversation space.



Inlaid twig headboards set the tone for a couple of cowpokes to bunk in style.



Woven seating makes a twig lounge chair and footstool beautiful as well as functional.



The main bedroom features a carved wood headboard, ample lighting ambience and just the right amount of pillows and blankets.



The comfortable ambience of the dining room is easily dressed up for an evening meal.



An upstairs library is a quiet spot for reading.



The kitchen has all the modern appliances needed for efficiently preparing the family's meals.



One of the smaller cabins on the property is outfitted with an eclectic mix of vintage furnishings and accessories.



This corner of the small “getaway” building on the property is set up with a desk for tying flies and plenty of fishing gear, including rods, nets and creels.



Above and below: The various bathrooms at the ranch incorporate an abundance of dark wood cabinets and countertops that enhance the rustic ambiance.



Indian Portage

Beside a quiet and isolated New Hampshire lake sits a home the owners call Indian Portage. They call it that because long ago the indigenous peoples of that area portaged their birchbark canoes from one lake to the next on that very location. On the day we visited the home we were thrilled with the setting and the project in general. And the experience was made more eventful because ten loons, comprising two different families, swam in the small bay just out the back door. Their calls to each other were both mystical and thrilling.

Long ago the indigenous peoples of that area portaged their birchbark canoes from one lake to the next on that very location.

Indian Portage, sitting on twenty-five acres, was designed by architect Philip Bennett of Christopher P. Williams Architects and built by White House Construction. Five bedrooms, four and a half bathrooms, a living room, and dining and kitchen areas offer just less than five thousand square feet of living space. The home is further complemented with just over eight hundred square feet of decks and porches. It also offers five different interior fireplaces and one more on an enclosed back porch. Fieldstone was used in the masonry throughout the home.

Keith Woodruff of KW Home and Julie Glisan of Serendipity Designs served as interior designers for the home.



Keith Woodruff and Julie Glisan are responsible for the interior look of the home, which is highlighted throughout with such touches as this unique snowshoe/antler chandelier.



Above and below: Large-scale, clean-lined furniture fills the living room with rustic ambience, such as a massive cabinet in a corner and soft leather-clad chairs circling a game table.



Above and below: The nearly five thousand square feet of living space includes a game room with pool table

above and below. The nearly five thousand square feet of living space includes a game room with pool table.





Intricately carved panels are featured on the second-floor balcony railing.



A small breakfast bar and the kitchen beyond are framed by two log pillars.



Fieldstone forms a complete wall between dining room and living room. In addition to the fireplace, two alcoves hold plenty of wood to keep the fire stoked.



On the wall is a good example of the hand-peeled pine used for much of the house's interior construction.



Above and below: The home's many unique features include a "tree fort" bedroom, with an upper platform accessed via ladder, and a stone-tiled bathtub alcove.





The tree fort bedroom's upper platform is supported by a forest of tree trunks.



A view looking over the balcony railing at the chandelier hanging above the great room.



Above and below: The perfect melding of stonework and woodwork throughout the house provides a classic rustic feel.







This small table on the fully screened porch, which includes mahogany floors and its own stone fireplace, is the perfect place to enjoy a meal of the best-ever pasta.

Gentleman's Playhouse

With no hint of the rustic elegance contained within, this small, 864-square-foot “playhouse” is part of a larger complex located on beautiful Lake George in the Adirondacks of New York. The complex also includes a main house, lake house, cottage and pool house.

It's clear that the main intention of this space is to have fun!

The playhouse consists of a great room crammed with a generous collection of entertainment options, rustic furniture and décor, and high-tech gadgets. There's also a small kitchen off to the side. But it's clear that the main intention of this space is to have fun!

The playhouse was designed and built by Dean Howard of Lake George. Landscaping was done by Richard Gould of Whitehall, New York. And the audio/video equipment was provided by Ray Supply of Queensbury, New York.



Antlers abound on the chandelier, card table legs and lamp stand, and help provide a wonderful rustic feel for this “gentleman’s playhouse.”



If chess is your game, this high table with inlaid chessboard is just the thing for a friendly match.



A vintage jukebox lights up the space with its bright neon facing.



A pool table and a whimsical flying fish share the space with traditional rustic décor, like the Native American rug and ornate log and twig settee.



You'd better make sure you know when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em at this comfortably appointed card table.



The gray suburban exterior, manicured lawn and children's swing set out front belie the rustic elegance found inside the playhouse.



Above and below: Intricate details on the cabinet and mirror frame highlight the playhouse's lone bathroom. And a large flat-screen TV sits above a roaring fire at one end of the great room, providing a perfect juxtaposition of the fun and rustic embodied here.





A few pieces of gnarled wood and a great imagination make for a unique rocker.



There's enough to keep everyone occupied for hours on end in this relatively small but well-designed recreational space.

J & S Ranch

It's called the "Burma Road of America," but it's more like the Ho Chi Minh Trail. First off, it's nearly impossible to find the road . . . let alone drive on it. But once you're on it the scenery is extraordinary. It's classical Old West. Every few miles I drove past an abandoned log cabin, a nearly collapsed ancient root cellar or long-abandoned gold mines. It was high desert plateau at its finest. It also traversed a great river, and I will admit that on three occasions I stopped, rigged up my fly rod and fished several great-looking spots. I was very careful to avoid the rattlesnakes that seemed to be resting comfortably every few feet along the trail. I did, however, succeed in landing several cutthroat and brown trout!

The late fall colors of the huge cottonwood trees were nothing less than mesmerizing.

After many miles and potholes, I traversed a mile or so of bootjack fencing. In time, an old sign indicated that I was at the driveway entrance to the J & S Ranch. I was told that the gate would be unlocked, and I was pleased when I finally swung the log gate open. I was also careful to not break my leg on the cattle guard. And so in I drove. I drove slowly to avoid hitting the many deer and antelope that stared at me in wonderment. I did my best to not disturb their midday lunch and naps.

The J & S Ranch is surrounded by thousands of acres of Bureau of Land Management lands and is the home of moose, bears, deer, antelope, mountain lions, bobcats, elk and migratory water fowl of all sorts, including cranes, ducks and geese. And did I fail to mention rattlesnakes? The late fall colors of the huge cottonwood trees were nothing less than mesmerizing. Swaying in a magical dance, the trees, like ballet dancers, flowed gracefully with each puff of wind.

The owners of the property had looked at land in the area for more than two years before purchasing this site. Like many historical properties in the Old West, it was overgrazed, run down and had incurred many years of neglect and abuse. But the new owners, with the help of Harry Howard from Yellowstone Traditions and architect Candace Tillotson-Miller, saw great potential in the property, which occupied more than three miles of riverfront. The owners initially sought a large home to accommodate family and friends. It was suggested, however, that the architecture should be consistent with the historical precedence of the valley. And that meant small buildings. In time, six old historical buildings from the area were purchased and restacked on the property.

Tillotson-Miller designed several structures for the project, including the main building called the Field House, which would become the focal point on the property. Like many homes, the building has been expanded three times during the past decade. (As an aside, a section of the Field House was actually a summer writing studio for TV journalist Charles Kuralt!) Ed Matos of Bridger Engineers was brought in to engineer the buildings and create an irrigation system, including numerous ponds (which I understand are loaded with trout!) throughout the property. Hilary Heminway was the interior designer for the project, and Phil Cox served as the mason, creating several extraordinary fireplaces from locally quarried stones.

Bob and Denise Smith presently serve as the ranch managers and have created an absolute oasis in the desert. The property currently offers some twenty buildings and continues to evolve. It includes

horses and cattle, and remains a haven for wildlife of all sorts.



The main building's great room features a pleasing mix of log construction, wainscoting panels, rustic wood furniture and cabinetry, and Native American prints.



Above and below: The property includes some twenty buildings, including many restacked historical buildings that were moved to the property. The interiors abound with all the necessary rustic touches.







A zebra-skin rug might seem a bit incongruous in this rustic den, but it fits in just fine.



A Native American motif predominates in this cozy living area, with bright fabric patterns, and Indian drawings and arrowheads on the wall.



Above and below: Different construction techniques are evident in the variety of buildings at the ranch. At top you can see plank walls and tin roofing on one of the cabins. The bottom shows another cabin with log wall construction using splines rather than the traditional chinking.





Looking from this dining area into the kitchen, you can see the generous size of the bar and center work island.



Another building features a galley kitchen and bar opening to the living area.



Above and below: A rustic log bench and a dry stacked stone fireplace are two of the many traditional touches that make this property so special.





The pristine and varied wilderness surrounding the ranch is home to many species of wildlife, and the nearby river is ideal for fly-fishing.



Many of the fireplaces were created by mason Phil Cox using locally quarried stones.



The veneer on the refrigerator/freezer blends in well with the kitchen's abundant wood cabinetry



A wide hallway opens to a well-lit dining area.



Another of the ranch's stone fireplaces, handcrafted of locally quarried stones, provides a pleasant warmth to this living area.



This sleigh bed fits in very well with the spare rustic décor and wood-trimmed windows in this bedroom.

Lakeside Cabin

I've known the owner of this home for many years, and have fished with him in Alaska on several occasions and in other areas as well. A few years ago he invited me to an "all men's" evening at his vacation cabin. I had never been to his retreat before and accepted his gracious invitation. The evening was a grand success. The guests for the night included artists, architects, businessmen, writers and others. Several men cooked food and most of us brought a dish or two. I provided an excellent assortment of smoked salmon that I had personally caught in Alaska. The fish was gone within minutes of being set on the dining table. The party began to dissipate early in the morning and I spent the remainder of the night sleeping soundly in a guestroom.

The region offers waterfowl of all sorts, great blue herons and great fishing!

The ranch home was constructed in the mid-1980s. The present owner purchased the building, including three acres of land and two hundred yards of lake frontage, a few years ago. When the sale was final he completely gutted the structure. Extra space was added and the ceiling was raised. Decks across the back of the building were added and the basement was finished to include extra bedrooms. The kitchen was also completely remodeled. The home includes three bedrooms, two and a half baths, living and dining rooms, a kitchen and a huge deck to watch the sun go down.

The lake itself is privately owned by the local residents and offers no public access. To insure the tranquility of the site, no personal watercraft are allowed on the lake and only boats with forty-horsepower engines or smaller are allowed on the water. Hence the region offers waterfowl of all sorts, great blue herons and great fishing!



A realistic waterfowl tableau in a lighted niche over the fireplace truly stands out as the centerpiece of the living room.



This ranch home underwent a remarkable transformation, as the interiors were completely redone in a relatively sparse but elegant rustic style.



Above and below: The kitchen and dining room remodeling included dark wood cabinets to go with the completely modern appliances, along with an interesting blend of modern design and rustic style as seen in the wood, metal, and stained glass chandelier over the dining table.





When the interiors were redone, a raised ceiling was added in the living room, which provides more space for displaying a collection of wicker baskets.



An open set of shelves in the living room acts as an entertainment center and a display area for a collection of rustic knickknacks.



This 1980s ranch home gives little indication from the front of the extensive remodeling to the interior.



A large wooden deck extends across the back of the home, providing a magnificent view of the lake.

Great Bear Lodge

This home is located in The Chapin Estate, a few hours above New York City. Great Bear Lodge sits on the shore of one of the lakes in the development, and the long gravel driveway leading to the property guarantees privacy. Surrounded by massive old-growth oak and maple trees, the autumn brings dramatic color to the setting and the surrounding terrain.

The entrance and main living area has a vaulted ceiling that is accented by soaring tree trunks and limbs as decorative members.

The entrance and main living area has a vaulted ceiling that is accented by soaring tree trunks and limbs as decorative members. The home also includes organic staircases, a fifties retro ice cream parlor, bunk and game rooms, and a complete shower and feeding room for the family dog!

The home has seven bedrooms and eight bathrooms. It was designed and constructed by Mike Watkins and Steve Dubrovsky of Woodstone Development LLC. The structure was completed in 2007 and offers 7,621 square feet of living space.



Looking through the great room towards the main entry, the tremendous vaulted ceiling is showcased, along with some creatively installed tree trunks with soaring branches that give the large room an outdoors feel.



The great room's high ceiling allows for ample window space and profuse natural lighting. Behind the sofa, an old trunk has been repurposed as a table by adding some legs.



A wonderfully whimsical curved wooden staircase features carved bears and squirrels on the newel posts and overhead on the tree branches, giving the feeling of being in a forest.



The long dining table comfortably seats eighteen, with the wall-mounted dispensers on the credenza behind it serving up a selection of dry cereals.



A view of the wooden staircase leading up from the great room.



Scattered amongst the traditional rustic décor and tree trunks are the occasional counter and cupboard and a handcrafted case clock.



The well-designed kitchen features two sinks and two stovetops.



This wonderful antique high chair looks as if it's still functional and regularly used.



This bath features a dark stone wash basin sitting atop a fishing-themed rustic cabinet—which even includes an inlaid rod and reel!



A log canopy bed with graceful lines makes for sweet dreams in one of the lodge's seven bedrooms.



An interesting blend of horizontal boards, shake shingle siding and spit log details highlight the exterior face of the lodge.

Clayoquot Wilderness Resort

Clayoquot Wilderness Resort is situated near the mouth of the Bedwell River on the west coast of Vancouver Island. It is the perfect antidote to the work-a-day world, where those hoping to get away from it all can enjoy the luxury of four-star accommodations mixed with an endless choice of outdoor activities. Inspired by the Adirondack Great Camps of the late nineteenth century, where the eastern elite spent their summers “roughing it,” Clayoquot comprises a huge rustic-flavored timber cookhouse and lodge, plus white canvas tents for the guests. In addition to tents for sleeping, there are two lounge tents (one dedicated to games and the other to reading and computer access) and spa tents. All the tents sit on raised wooden platforms.

The perfect antidote to the work-a-day world, where those hoping to get away from it all can enjoy . . . four-star accommodations.

The roomy prospector-style guest tents have no telephones or TVs by design, but there are off-site generators that provide electricity for hot water, electric lights and other necessities of twenty-first-century living. The resort is equipped with wireless Web access for guests who feel naked without their Internet and e-mail.

The tents are nestled in the coastal rainforest or perched on the nearby hillside. They are connected by a network of cedar boardwalks. The tents are outfitted with Adirondack-style beds and comfortable furnishings, featuring antique dressers, tea tables and oil lamps, all hearkening back to simpler times. Deluxe tents include a full bathroom with toilet, shower and in-floor heating. Others have a composting toilet just outside the tent, and a short walk to a nearby shower house for a morning shower is required.

The resort is only open during the summer months, from late May through September, but is well worth the visit. The mild summer weather is perfect for the wide range of activities available—everything from kayaking and mountain biking to lake fishing and whale watching. And don’t be surprised if you wake one morning to the sounds of an indigenous black bear scrounging up breakfast in the tidal flats of the river not too far from your tent flap!



This exclusive resort is located on the west coast of Vancouver Island, and is accessible via a forty-five-minute seaplane flight from Vancouver, British Columbia.



The resort includes twenty white canvas guest tents built on raised wooden platforms and including enough amenities to provide a truly luxurious experience.



The rustic timber lodge includes a piano for those who wish to tickle the ivories.



The lodge also includes a cookhouse with dining room.



One of the two lounge tents at the resort is dedicated to games, harkening back to nineteenth-century gentlemen's clubs with its dark woods and burnished leather.



The rustic furnishings in one of the guest tents include a wood-burning stove and dining table.



An elegant sitting area helps transform these guest accommodations into more than just the canvas tents that they appear to be from the outside.



From the window of the cookhouse is visible part of the resort's "Healing Grounds," which encompasses massage tents, treatment rooms, wood-fired cedar hot tubs, a wood-fired cedar sauna, an outdoor shower and wraparound sundecks.



A crow's nest overlooks some of the guest tents, connected via a network of cedar boardwalks.



The tents are remarkably spacious—fitting two beds with plenty of room to spare in this particular corner.

The Caboose

Tucked neatly in the foothills of the Absaroka Range and just north of Yellowstone National Park is an area called Paradise Valley. The Yellowstone River runs right down the middle of the valley. And in the tiny town of Pray, Montana, is Chico Hot Springs Resort. I've stayed there many times and return whenever possible. Legend has it that the inn at the hot springs opened its doors in June 1900. The resort was named after a chef named "Chico" who was legendary for his cooking. Local gold miners often frequented the place to do their laundry in the hot springs, and it is well known that Native Americans often visited the springs as well. Part of the resort is very old. Recent upgrades include additional modern rooms, a day spa and a variety of other amenities. The resort also has a five-star restaurant that requires reservations even in the coldest months.

Pushing the definition of "rustic," the Caboose is as romantic as it gets.

Most people go to the resort for its Olympic-size, open-air swimming pool, which is fed by the hot springs. After a hard day of sightseeing and horseback riding, the hot waters can relax even the tightest muscles and unwind the most stressed-out souls. I've relaxed in the pool in every season, and have found peace in my heart on cold January nights while marveling at the sounds of howling wolves and the feeling of huge snowflakes falling on my face.

A few years ago we were turned away from the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone because of forest fires. I called Chico Hot Springs at the last second and was told they had had a cancellation. I immediately booked the room for two nights. When we arrived, my family and I were thrilled to be directed to the Caboose, which I hadn't seen before.

Pushing the definition of "rustic," the Caboose is as romantic as it gets. Evoking the old Wild West, train robberies and buffalo stampedes, the Caboose represents a lost era in the evolution of America. Colin Davis, one of the managers at the resort, found an old caboose hidden amongst the shrubs and trees just south of Livingston, Montana. The old railroad car, with its antique wooden frame, was an absolute relic. Eventually the owner was found and agreed to sell the caboose to the resort. With significant effort, the train car, along with the original tracks, was moved to its present spot at Chico Hot Springs Resort. It was, as expected, in very rough shape, but over a period of a few years, the talented people at the resort restored the Caboose to its present glory. New cherry floors were installed, a delightful bathroom, complete with soaking tub and ornate fixtures, was added and Victorian furniture was brought in. Stained glass windows were installed and all the amenities were added to make the Caboose an absolute gem. It's often booked a year in advance, and is quite popular with honeymooners.



Pushing the definition of “rustic,” the painstakingly refurbished Caboose sparkles on the outside and provides surprisingly unique and elegant accommodations inside.



Above and below: Cherry floors, red velvet wallpaper and Victorian furniture help to make this restored Chico Short Line train car a veritable gem.





Above and below: A pedestal bathtub is featured in a large bathroom that would have most people believing they're staying in a five-star hotel rather than a train car.





The Caboose is located on a hill overlooking the Chico Hot Springs pools, with great views of Montana's Paradise Valley beyond.

Cherry Creek Ranch

It was the most difficult place to find. No one told me of the forks in the so-called road. No one told me of the nasty longhorn bulls or the grizzly bears or the hairpin turns or the spots where the dirt road dropped off hundreds of feet into the valley below. But I must say that I was impressed with the scenery and the setting.

After an hour of driving on nothing more than a goat path, a very large meadow opened up. Before me stood horses, mature aspen trees in full fall color, green meadows, bootjack fences, ponds and rugged rustic buildings that looked like they had been there for at least a hundred years. So without knowing where I was, I stopped and took photos of the setting just because the scene before me was both idyllic and picturesque. And frankly, I thought if I had to spend eternity somewhere this was not a bad place to be.

I thought if I had to spend eternity somewhere this was not a bad place to be.

After driving on for another half mile I was eternally grateful to find a sign in a driveway (actually two ruts in the road) that read “Cherry Creek Ranch.” I looked again at the page of directions I had been given and chuckled to myself as I read the final sentences on the carefully prepared instructions: “Last and only home on the road. [Just have] faith to continue up the road!” In truth, it was not the sort of place from where one would casually drive into town for a pint of ice cream. As I pulled into the property I was met by a gracious woman who immediately made me welcome and gave me a tour of the buildings and grounds. Surrounded by literally thousands of acres of wild national forest lands, the environment offers ever-visible elk, bears, eagles, rattlesnakes and impressive trout in a stream that passes through the property.

The owner of the property had great vision, as the site was initially an abandoned homestead complete with old trailers, tires, barbed wire and junk of all sorts. The construction firm of Yellowstone Traditions in Bozeman, Montana, was brought in to design and develop the buildings and grounds. The materials for the buildings were taken from timbers and other items found on the site. The project evolved over a four-year period and was supervised by Justin Bowland and Michael Jones of Yellowstone Traditions. The caretaker’s cottage is actually a restack of an abandoned building found on the grounds. The guesthouse was originally a butcher’s shack, complete with meat hooks and leftover animal debris. The small cabin on the shore of the pond is now a hi-tech sauna designed by the owner.

The grounds surrounding the cabins are irrigated with water from a local stream, and the caretaker spends two days every other week mowing the more than four acres of carefully manicured lawns. A well provides drinking water, and a traditional leach field and septic system takes care of waste water.

During the time I spent photographing the various buildings and grounds, each time I ventured out of a building, a bevy of friendly farm dogs ran between my legs, begging for attention and insisting that I toss their toys in a never-ending game of fetch. I politely engaged them and tossed their toys until my arm succumbed to exhaustion. Throughout the day the caretaker chatted with me and made

my visit quite enjoyable. She also invited my family and I back the following summer for a few days of relaxation. And she really made my day when she asked if I'd like to fish the pond for a few of the huge trout that resided there. It was music to my ears, and I succeeded in landing several gorgeous brook trout in glorious spawning color and an eight-pound rainbow trout!

To me the setting was nothing less than spectacular. I remember the sounds—or lack of them. The wind blew calmly and the sounds of the horses talking amongst themselves seemed right. I could not hear the noise of vehicles, airplanes or radios. The falling of mature leaves from their branches added to the ambiance of the day. The realization that bears and elk and deer had lived on these grounds for millions of years reminded me that I was just a visitor. And a grateful one at that!

Near the end of the day, I took my leave and drove down the trail toward a paved road. About a half hour into the drive, two longhorn bulls stood directly on the road blocking my path. I tried on several occasions to leave my vehicle, but their grunting and foot stomping convinced me that I should remain in my rental car. And so I sat there, honking the horn and taunting them for almost an hour until they decided they had made my life miserable enough and finally allowed me to pass.

All in all, the entire compound is a setting of profound rustic comfort. It is a family ranch designed for comfort and relaxation. Complete with family accessories and functional, carefree furnishings, visitors are enticed to relax and enjoy themselves. It's definitely a place where just about anyone could have the time of their life! I know I could.



The beautiful Montana landscape surrounding Cherry Creek Ranch, with horses grazing on a hillside meadow, provides an idyllic backdrop for this formerly abandoned homestead.



Above and below: The main cabin on the property has approximately a thousand square feet of living space, including a living room and kitchen on the main floor.





The cabin features frame construction, with sawn logs on the exterior and wood cabinets and ceilings inside.



The ranch, consisting of six buildings, including the barn and one of the cabins shown here, sits in a mountain valley all by itself, completely surrounded by national forest.



Above and below: The main cabin packs a lot of charm and functionality into a relatively small space, with a bedroom loft, kitchen and bunk alcoves all easily accessed from the main living/dining area.





The opening to one of the bunk alcoves is right next to finely finished cabinets and cupboards.



The two queen-sized bunk alcoves are tucked snugly on either side of the main entrance to the cabin.



The master bedroom loft is situated above the kitchen.



Above and below: There are some wonderfully rustic touches scattered throughout the property, as can be seen in these views of the main cabin and the quirky tin-can robot hanging on a wall.







The fishing cabin, sitting on the edge of a fishing pond, is actually a sauna with wood-fired heating.

Elk Ridge Lodge

Elk Ridge Lodge is tucked comfortably into a high ridge at the Club at Spanish Peaks in Big Sky, Montana, commanding magnificent views on all sides. Properly emphasizing the lodge's place on the ridge was, in fact, one of the preeminent design challenges of the architectural team, led by Jamie Dugaard of Centre Sky Architecture. The terraced rooflines, cedar logs, historical wood planking and other reclaimed timber elements used on the exterior help meld the lodge to its surroundings. Scott Walden and John Myles of Teton Heritage Builders supervised the construction of the lodge, and the interior design was provided by Carole Sisson Designs.

Properly emphasizing the lodge's place on the ridge was, in fact, one of the preeminent design challenges of the architectural team.

Coming through the front entrance of the lodge into the great room, you can't help but be impressed. Stone piers and angled cedar columns support an overhead bridge that spans the entire width of the room. The open layout of the lodge makes the kitchen and den seem like extensions of the great room, and certain parts of the upper level are also open to the space below.

Standing in this great room, surrounded by the perfect complement of rustic furnishings, and with the late afternoon winter sun angling through clerestory windows above, one is struck by the immense grandeur of this truly great space.



A double-sided stone fireplace is the centerpiece of the great room, anchoring an open space that also includes the kitchen and den on the main floor.



Reclaimed timbers and trusses are wonderfully utilized in this grand arched front entrance.



The terraced rooflines and overhangs of the lodge, set at different angles and supported in various places by outriggers and log pillars, add to its one-of-a-kind look.



Above and below: An overhead rail bridge ornamented with a black steel banister and wire-brushed wood and a burl coffee table in the great room are two of the fascinating elements on display here.





Spanning the great room, the overhead bridge is supported by stone piers and massive angled cedar columns.



A view from beneath the bridge, looking through the stone columns on one side and cedar logs on the other, towards the den area.



A burl desk, stone fireplace and bearskin rug make for an iconic rustic tableau in the den.



The open kitchen, featuring still more stonework, serves as an extension of the great room.



This bath appears to have a root system beneath the sink.



A foosball table adds a fun element to the bunkroom.



Plenty of light shines through this bedroom's windows and doors, which include wire-brushed cedar frames chosen to add to the elegant ranch feel of the lodge.



Wood timbers, outriggers and cedar logs are used effectively to create interesting diversity in the exterior design of the lodge.



A unique twig chandelier hangs in this bedroom.



The den's stone fireplace is handsome from any angle.



Western craftsman-style chairs make a cozy conversation group.

The Mill

Deep in the Appalachian Mountains and resting on the banks of a flowing river sits the Mill. Constructed sometime in the 1920s, it was a working mill whose primary function was to grind corn for the local farmers. When the mill business proved to be less than profitable, the site was used as a tourist attraction. A cable car was strung across the falls to allow access to the property, and tourists could spend an afternoon in arguably one of the most romantic places on earth.

The eclectic nature of the home offers surprises around each corner.

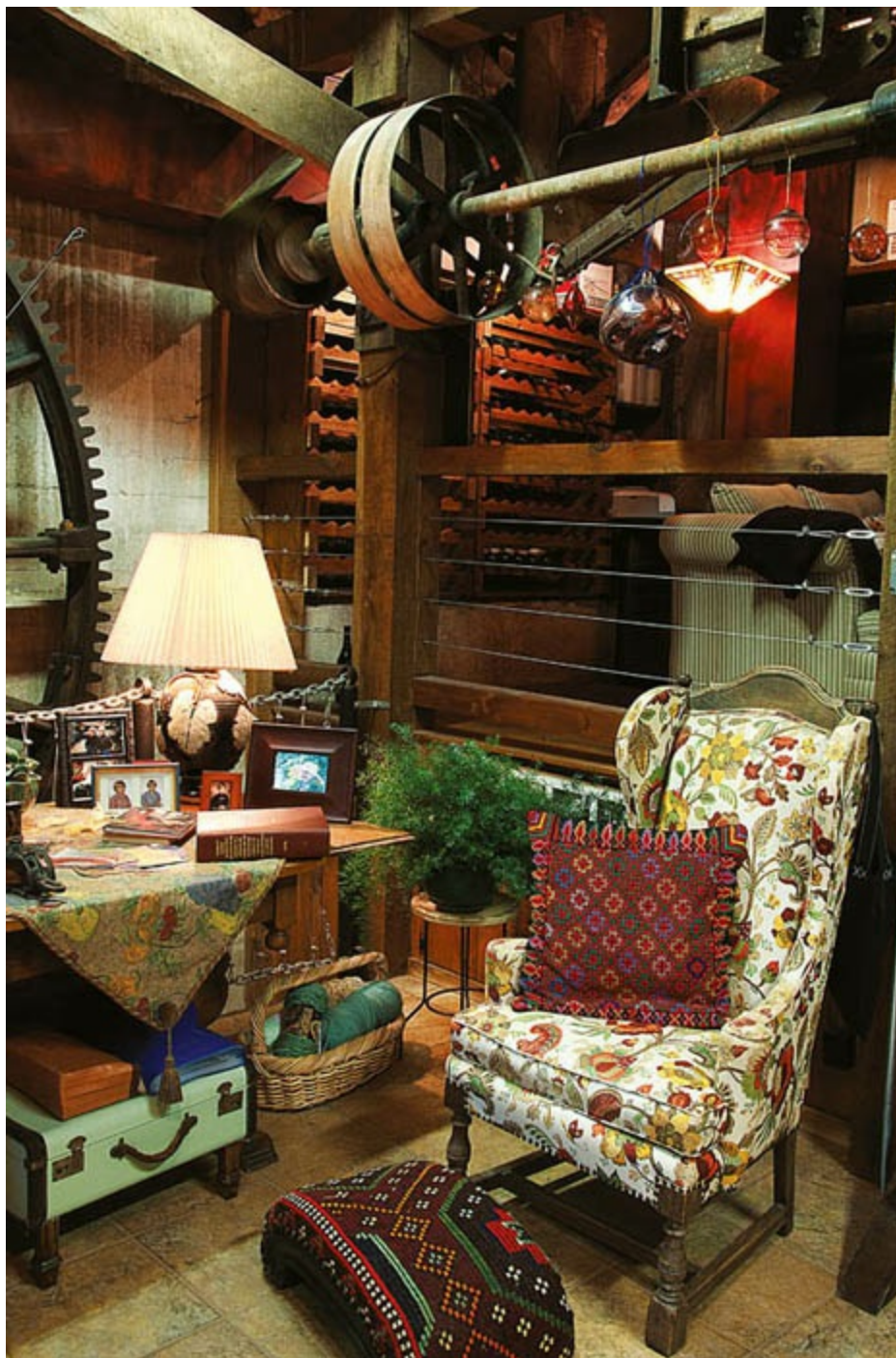
Eventually the mill was purchased by a couple who installed a deck overlooking the river and falls. The wife of the owner proved to have no interest in living there, and the husband quickly gave up the idea of using the mill as a home and the site was again abandoned.

Over the years the porch and railing system became covered with initials carved into the wood by the many visitors to the mill.

When the present owners purchased the property, the mill had been abandoned for more than thirty years. The building itself was covered with layers of graffiti, broken glass and trash, and it took more than two years to make the structure habitable. The husband felt that the building should be torn down, but the wife, an artist of significant talent and vision, sought to preserve and restore the structure and make it a home. Working with architect Dennis DeWolf, the building was brought back to its original framework, updated and restored to what it is today. The eccentric and eclectic interior furnishings and accessories were provided by the wife, who allowed her husband some say in the design—just to keep him happy!

There are three floors in the building and each offers slightly less than seven hundred square feet of living space. In all, the building comprises about 2,100 square feet. In time, an office, extra porches, walkways and extra baths were added. The home today offers three bedrooms, a few built-in cupboard beds and three bathrooms. The building is heated with a combination of gas and electric systems. The couple also installed an air-conditioning system early in the restoration, but removed it some five years later having never turned it on!

Unique in every way, this nontraditional home is an absolute delight to both visit and spend time in. The falling water, which can be heard throughout much of the building, calms the nerves, and the eclectic nature of the home offers surprises around each corner. The mature landscaping on the property offers a large variety of indigenous flora, including massive rhododendron bushes, hardwood and softwood trees, plants of all sorts and an eclectic mixture of folksy lawn ornaments scattered throughout the property.



The eclectic interior décor even incorporates some of the workings of the original corn mill.



The Mill's site on the banks of this Appalachian river is the stuff from which picture postcards are made.



Above and below: Extra baths were added to the building over time, and the furnishings and accessories throughout the home reflect the owners' unique sensibilities.





A wine rack meshes naturally with the mill gears on the wall above it.



Colorful print fabric and textiles enrich the palette of the home, here adding to the old-world feel of the carved wood furniture.



The home designers ingeniously integrated an old stone grinding wheel as a base for this rustic-flavored dining table.



Above and below: Not only the tables display collections and accessories, but the walls are used as decorative surfaces right up to the top, and the ceilings as well.







A screened stone fireplace provides a warm focal point for the cozy great room you'd certainly never recognize as being part of an old mill.

The East Gallatin Preserve

The East Gallatin Preserve is a twenty-acre property situated right along the banks of the East Gallatin River near Bozeman, Montana. The property includes a 5,640-square-foot home, built in 1994, along with a cabin and nearby barn. And the best feature of the property might well be the river itself, along which can be found some of the best fly-fishing in the world. There are substantial populations of brown and rainbow trout to be found here. Not to mention all the other native wildlife the river attracts year-round, such as whitetail deer, sandhill cranes, bald and golden eagles, ducks, geese, egrets and wild turkeys.

The best feature of the property might well be the river itself.

The spacious main home was remodeled in 2000. It comprises a great room with a floor-to-ceiling fireplace and custom log mantel, kitchen, both formal and informal dining areas, three bedrooms and three baths. An office can be used as a fourth bedroom. There's also a spacious activity room with a wet bar, and the home features spectacular log beams. Sliding doors in the master bedroom suite open directly to the banks of the river. Further amenities include a laundry room, a gun room that's also used for storage and a large mudroom with a built-in work table.

The compact 1,200-square-foot cabin includes a living room, master suite, galley-style kitchen and loft. It was designed by John Sather of Swaback Partners and built by Yellowstone Traditions. The exterior includes an interesting combination of antique hand-hewn slabs, vertical recycled barn wood, and cold-rolled steel and cedar shingle roofing. Yellowstone Traditions designed and built custom doors, cabinetry and furniture for the cabin interior utilizing reclaimed barn wood. The floors, ceilings and wall finishes are rough-sawn fir milled in Montana. Interior designs are by Marni Duncan of Model Home Source.

The 835-square-foot barn is a historic log building that Yellowstone Traditions found elsewhere, then dismantled, relocated and rebuilt on the East Gallatin property.



The small cabin at the preserve sits in the middle of a verdant lawn.



The cabin exterior includes hand-hewn slabs, recycled barn wood and cedar shingle roofing.



The sleeping loft is accessed by a ladder.



A galley-style kitchen has all the necessary kitchen gear at hand.



Another view of the cabin's living room shows that rustic and modern furnishings are gentle companions.



Convenient drawers underneath this king-sized bed help to optimize the storage space in the cabin.



A large corner cabinet with plenty of storage shelves and cubbies makes great use of vertical space.



Above and below: A dry stacked stone fireplace fits snugly in a corner of the 1,200-square-foot cabin's living room, while a collection of fishing gear awaits use in the nearby East Gallatin River.





A visit to this outhouse might well be worth an extended stay just to peruse all the interesting artifacts and reading matter.

Trapper Peak Ranch

Trapper Peak Ranch, located in Montana's Bitterroot Valley, is named for Trapper Peak Mountain, which dominates the views from this impressive 785-acre spread. The current owners of the ranch purchased it in 2007, and the 6,000-square-foot log lodge was completed in 2008. The lodge was designed by Walker & Moody Architects of San Francisco to maximize the views of the peak. It was built by Vintage Construction, with a log shell by Alpine Log Homes. Interior design was provided by Gloria Frame of Texas.

Plenty of wildlife, including elk and deer herds and wild turkeys, roam the property.

The ranch also includes a renovated farmhouse now used as a guesthouse, a bunkhouse, a caretaker's home, two barns, a shop, a fishpond stocked with rainbow trout, a swimming pool and several other outbuildings. Plenty of wildlife, including elk and deer herds and wild turkeys, roam the property. The main lodge was constructed from large logs that have an unusually rich patina that would normally only be seen on much older logs.

It includes large stone fireplaces in both the great room and the master bedroom, as well as an impressive antler chandelier hanging in the great room, and is filled with an excellent collection of rustic furniture. A balcony sitting area overlooking the great room makes for a comfortable retreat. From this sitting area, a spiral staircase ascends to a crow's nest, perfect for enjoying a quiet morning coffee. In the basement, the well-stocked wine cellar also includes a tasting area.

The traditional New England-style farmhouse, originally constructed in 1982, was entirely renovated in 2007. It has three bedrooms and three and a half baths, a living room with a brick fireplace serving as the centerpiece, a kitchen and a wraparound porch that proves to be a perfect place for relaxing in one of the rocking chairs found there.

The bunkhouse was at one time a dairy barn. It has been remodeled into guest quarters large enough to accommodate two to three families at a time, and includes its own kitchen.

This is still a working ranch, producing over six hundred tons of hay annually. In addition to the lodge and guesthouses, there are wonderful old rustic barns, calving sheds, horse shelters, corrals and horse-training arenas on the property.



White horsehide dining chairs enhance the sophistication of the lodge's rustic aura.



An elegant set of rustic twig bar stools nicely complement the breakfast bar.



Above and below: The rich patina of the logs used for the main lodge is evident even from a distance. A wonderful bark and twig sculpture stands guard on the porch as sundown approaches.





Above and below: Many different and interesting types and colors of wood were used for the furniture in the lodge.





A couple of rowboats floating serenely serve as a backdrop to the thoroughly modern fixtures and appliances found in the kitchen.



This classic spiral staircase leads up from the library to a crow's nest.



Colorful fabrics and Native American artifacts, including a collection of stone cutting and shaping implements, decorate the lodge.



This large bedroom, featuring a canopied bed and its own fireplace, is watched over by a vigilant cowboy.



The comfortable canopied bed from a different viewpoint, highlighting the rich patina on the logs used to construct the lodge.



Above and below: A variety of colorful décor enhances the ranch’s great room.





A small tasting area provides the finishing touch on an intimate and well-stocked wine cellar.



This sitting area has a good view of the landscaped environs surrounding the ranch.



Ample and comfortable seating is available in the great room as well as a balcony sitting area.

Kylloe Homestead

When I was in graduate school, some thirty-five years ago, one of my roommates, Jon Ames, was in the antiques business. One day he brought home a gorgeous oval table with huge log legs. It knocked me out and I bought it from him with my last \$280. A month later he bought it back from me for \$400. I made \$120 for doing almost nothing and was thrilled beyond belief! That was it. I was hooked. I spent every second of my spare time at auctions, flea markets and with other antiques dealers. The art world thrilled me and the excitement of the hunt for objects of art engulfed my life. Even though I finished my graduate degrees and taught at the university level for many years, I always had my rustic design and antiques business.

I love all things rustic and live a rustic life.

I love all things rustic and live a rustic life. Some twenty years ago my wife and I built my gallery in Lake George, New York, and then added a sizable apartment to the showroom. Occupying about three thousand square feet, the home is constructed mostly of logs that are flat on three sides. I designed the structure myself and hired contractor Marvin “Pinky” O’Dell and his son Adam to build the home for us. The building offers three large bedrooms, one of which serves as my study and office. The large master bedroom contains a vaulted ceiling. A sizable basement provides space for storage and the power room. The apartment also contains a living and dining room, a breakfast and island area, and a kitchen and full bath.

My daughter has her own large room, and until about the age of seven seemed to enjoy the moose head, antlers, old camp signs, fishing creels, rustic furniture and antler chandelier that occupied the room. When she turned eight she came to me and said that she (and all of her friends) thought her room was “weird” and wanted to make some changes. Young daughters have a certain influence over their fathers and I agreed to allow her to change whatever she wanted in her room. In a few days all the rustic stuff was gone, the ceiling was painted purple, the walls were painted pink, the curtains were a lacy blue and red, and there were posters of cats, dogs and teenage rock stars all over the place. Soon her friends started spending more time at our house and I’ve had to endure fashion shows, dance routines and makeup cases. This is not what I expected, but how could I deny my only child a bit of happiness? Nonetheless, if and when I ever decide to sell this place, I’m not certain the purple ceilings and pink walls are appropriate for a log cabin and I may have to change the colors to make the place more sellable.

Our living room has a gorgeous fireplace with woodstove. The room also has an upper shelf that is ideal for displaying the many antique pieces we have collected over the years. The staircase was created from logs that were cut on my property. The newel posts on the staircase were created from apple trees. The custom kitchen was created from a variety of rustic materials, including old barn boards. The cabinet door fronts were made from wainscoting. The countertops underneath the cabinets and on the island were made from slabs of a hundred-and-fifty-year-old white pine tree. Old barn beams cover the ceilings in the dining room, kitchen and island eating area. The bathroom includes a custom vanity and mirror. The sink was made from hammered copper and the faucet system resembles an old farm pump. The décor in our home, accumulated over thirty-five years,

includes a collection of antique rustic accessories, original paintings and rustic furniture.



The living room features an elegant stone fireplace with woodstove, and numerous rustic touches throughout, including mounted fish, snowshoes, a large antler chandelier and wicker chairs.



Above and below: Such unique features as a bathroom faucet that resembles on old hand-crank water pump and a collection of mounted deer heads enliven the home's décor.





The wooden staircase leading to the upper floor was built using half logs from trees cut on the property, as well as newel posts made from apple trees.



A large custom antler chandelier hangs over the dining table, while various rustic antique pieces flank the walls.



The vaulted ceiling in the master bedroom provides more wall space . . . for displaying our snowshoe collection!



There's also quite a collection of wicker pack baskets displayed, among other places, in this bedroom.



Above and below: Amidst the collection of baskets and showshoes are to be found such features as a rustic sideboard with recessed lights made by Adirondack craftsmen and a unique chest of drawers.







The custom-designed kitchen was created from a variety of rustic materials, including old barn boards and wainscoting.



The upstairs office includes a relatively unadorned desk for working, surrounded by a myriad of rustic furniture and décor, including a collection of model rustic furniture sitting atop the bookcase.

Resources

Architects

ATTIC Design

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Builders/Contractors

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Custom/Northern Log Homes

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Historic Lumber, Inc.

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Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 586-1500
www.onsitemanagement.com

StairMeister Log Works

7606 County Road 10
Ft. Lupton, CO 80621
(303) 440-2994
www.logstairs.com
info@stairmeisterlogworks.com

Teton Heritage Builders

76225 Gallatin Road
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730
(406) 522-0808
160 West Deloney
P.O. Box 4819
Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 733-8771
www.tetonheritagebuilders.com
info@tetonheritagebuilders.com

White House Construction Co., Inc.

6 Lily Pond Road
Gilford, NH 03249
(603) 528-2282
www.white-house-construction.com
dfrost@ white-house-construction.com

Yellowstone Traditions

34290 East Frontage Road
Bozeman, MT 59715-8625
P.O. Box 1933
Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 587-0968
www.yellowstonetraditions.com
info@yellowstonetraditions.com

Civil Engineers

Bridger Engineers, Inc.

2233 West Kagy Boulevard, Suite 3
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 585-0590
www.bridgerengineers.com
info@bridgerengineers.com

Furniture Builders & Design Galleries

Black Bass Antiques

4940 Lake Shore Drive
P.O. Box 788
Bolton Landing, NY 12814
(518) 644-2389
www.blackbassantiques.com

Todd Gardenier Works

P.O. Box 6682
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 994-0800
www.tdgworks.com

Randy Holden

P.O. Box 2214
Skowhegan, ME 04976
(207) 474-7507

Ralph Kylloe Gallery

P.O. Box 669
Lake George, NY 12845
(518) 696-4100
www.ralphkylloe.com
info@ralphkylloe.com

Esmond Lyons Fine Art

13 Garfield Street
Glens Falls, NY 12801
(518) 307-6665
www.esmond.fineartstudioonline.com

Rustic Furniture Limited Company

Diane Ross
P.O. Box 1
Willow Creek, MT 59760
(406) 285-6882
www.rusticfurniture.net
diane@rusticfurniture.net

Sampson Bog Studio

Barney Bellinger
171 Paradise Point Road
Mayfield, NY 12117
(518) 661-6563

Santos Furniture

Lester Santos

P.O. Box 176
Cody, WY 82414
(888) 966-3489
www.lestersantos.com

Scottsdale Art Factory

7407 East Greenway Road
Scottsdale AZ 85260
(480) 483-0170
(800) 292-0008
www.artfactory.com

Betsy Swartz Fine Art Consulting

2000 Fairway Drive, Suite 105
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 585-8339
www.betsyswartzfineart.com

Wood River Rustics

Doug Tedrow
P.O. Box 3446
Ketchum, ID 83340
(208) 726-1442

Skip Woodruff Rustic Furniture

Route 30, Main Street
Jamaica, VT 05343
(802) 874-4172
www.oldcorkersantiques.com
oldcork@sover.net

Frank J. Zitz & Company, Inc.

479 Schultz Hill Road

Rhinebeck, NY 12572
(845) 876-4896
www.taxidermymuseum.com
zitzf@valstar.net

Home Electronics

Adirondack Audio & Video

Mike Timko
1048 State Route 9
Queensbury, NY 12804
(518) 792-3528
www.adkav.com

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5111 Highway 105 South
Banner Elk, NC 28604
(828) 898-9887
(828) 963-7500
41 SW Seminole Street
Stuart, FL 34994
(772) 287-2872
www.davant-interiors.com
info@davant-interiors.com

Raymond Forehand Associates

23 Miller Street
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-7636
www.rjforehand.com
ray@rjforehand.com

Haven Interior Design

1001 Oak Street, Suite 110
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 522-4188
www.havenid.com

Hilary Heminway Interiors

(860) 535-3110
www.hilaryheminwayinteriors.com
hahbriarpatch@comcast.net

KW Home

Keith Woodruff
82-1/2 Cottage Street
Easthampton, MA 01027
(413) 527-5936
www.kwhome.net
info@kwhome.net

Los Griegos Studio, LLC

Jet Zarkadas
209 La Cruz Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 720-6190
www.losgriegosstudio.com
info@losgriegosstudio.com

Model Home Source

Marni Duncan
1007 Briosso Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
(949) 515-1073
www.modelhomesource.com
marni@modelhomesource.com

Peace Design

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Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 237-8681
www.peacedesign.org

Carole Sisson Designs

99 Lone Peak Drive
Big Sky Town Center
P.O. Box 161867
Big Sky, MT 59716
(406) 993-2666
www.sissondesigns.com
erika@sissondesigns.com

Natasha Willauer Interiors, Inc.

2 India Street
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-9553
(508) 228-9573 (fax)
(203) 913-9828 (cell)
natashawillauerinteriors.com
natashawillauer@yahoo.com

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1987 Upper Turnpike Road

Whitehall, NY 12887-2231

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www.gouldlandscaping.com

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626 Ferguson Avenue, Suite 1

Bozeman, MT 59718

(406) 522-4056

www.pondandstream.com

info@pondandstream.com

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Jeremy Stark

(406) 587-1797

(406) 579-8078 (cell)

www.valleyoftheflowers.com

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(518) 638-5702

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Gary and Beth Sumner
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Friday Harbor, WA 98250
(360) 378-2761
(541) 484-2768 (cell)
info@sumnerstainedglass.com
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www.oregonstudios.com/Paul_Stark.php

