

# WESTERN REVERIE

Rustic luxury meets vernacular design in a sprawling mountain compound by Pearson Design Group that honors the land and its legacy.

By LAURA ECKSTEIN JONES  
Photographed by BRANDON HUTTENLOCHER



The home's facade sets the tone for a legacy ranch seven years in the making, where reclaimed timber and stone masonry root the design in provenance. Inspired by the agrarian and equestrian landscape, the architecture embodies rustic luxury with custom-forged ironwork and vintage Western details that balance wilderness seclusion with Aspen's cultural proximity.



The dining room centers on a Wil Wilkins creation—a chandelier of antique red-and-white target balls once used in skeet practice—suspended above Molesworth furnishings and a Santos console. David Yarrow’s “The Unusual Suspects” makes a bold statement on the wall, while a handwoven New Moon rug ties the setting together. Opposite page: The living room showcases the client’s trove of Thomas Molesworth originals, accented by Lester Santos reproductions and a custom rug from New Moon. Overhead, Wilkins’ chandelier, fashioned from branding irons, pairs with his monogrammed fireplace doors, adding rugged Western detail.



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—DANI FLAX

**THE PROJECT**

In Basalt, Colo., a legacy ranch seven years in the making has emerged as a striking fusion of tradition, craft and modern comfort. Conceived and executed by Bozeman, Mont.-based Pearson Design Group, the multi-structure compound was designed to honor the land, its history and the surrounding wilderness while providing the homeowners—a couple with a lifelong dream of settling in the West—with a timeless retreat. “We believe in, and are known for three essential pursuits: creativity, legacy and the environment,” says founding principal Larry Pearson. “On a project like this, while tradition informs many design decisions, we strive to do it uniquely and creatively.” Interior design lead Dani Flax adds, “It feels as if the property has been passed down through many generations, even though the current clients have acquired it relatively recently. There is almost a duty to preserve. Like a family heirloom.”

**THE PRIORITIES**

From the outset, authenticity was paramount. “For this particular project, there was a strong passion for hon-

oring the land, views and history,” says Flax. “We had to consider the tradition of existing structures on the property and consider the concept of preservation and the historic nature of the ranch.” Pearson emphasizes the balance of tradition and creativity as essential to making a legacy project. “If it finds the right balance, it doesn’t grow old,” he says. “It prompts introspection when experienced, and feels natural in its context.”

**THE INSPIRATION**

The site itself was the guiding force. “It’s far more vast than anything we can create. We must embrace it. Bring it inside. Make it a part of the architecture and interior experience,” says Flax. “The land was there long before, and it will be there long after, and the least we can do is honor it.”

**THE PLAN**

The design plan began with the site’s natural orientation toward Mount Sopris. From the earliest stages, the architectural strategy was to position each building so that every primary space captured a distinct view of the

A sculptural copper tub by William Holland anchors the primary bathroom, accompanied by a sleek De Castelli side table from Monologue London. Opposite page: The kitchen is outfitted entirely by Officine Gullo, where craftsmanship shines from the copper range hood—a collaboration with Will Wilkins—to his custom chandelier overhead.



mountain and surrounding terrain. The layout was conceived as a series of structures that respond directly to the landscape, visually and physically connected to create a sequence of indoor and outdoor experiences. Given the region's high-alpine winters, the interiors needed to bring the mountain experience inside. A palette of natural, tactile materials—stone, reclaimed timber, leather, alpaca and cashmere—was chosen to provide warmth, comfort and authenticity. “The rawness of the environment allows us to respond with authenticity of material,” Pearson shares. Every element, from the placement of windows to the curve of a custom banquette, was planned to honor the land's rugged beauty while offering the elevated functionality of a modern mountain retreat.

### THE DETAILS

From the moment guests arrive, the home's authenticity is palpable. The entry frames a sweeping view of Mount Sopris and features the ranch's logo branded into a timber header. “We intentionally made the architectural elements heavy and authentic, almost as if they've already stood the test of time, despite being a new build,” says Flax. Heavy stacked stone, hewn beams and a custom chandelier by Montana blacksmith Wil Wilkins establish the home's tactile language. Wilkins created much of the metalwork in the house—including chandeliers, door hardware and the range hood in the kitchen—often monogrammed with the ranch's insignia.

The great room showcases the clients' collection of original Thomas Molesworth furniture—augmented by reproductions from Cody, Wyo.—based artisan Lester Santos—paired with a custom New Moon rug and a chandelier featuring authentic branding irons by Wilkins. In the dining room, his fixture incorporates antique red-and-white target balls once used for trap shooting, while the kitchen is an Officine Gullo showpiece, complete with a copper range hood made in collaboration with Wilkins and counter stools by Ochre.

The primary suite features a custom Greenseam bed upholstered in Moon & Co. plaid wool, layered with Rosemary Hallgarten alpaca bedding. “It was really

The primary bedroom features a custom Greenseam bed in Moon & Co. plaid wool, layered with Rosemary Hallgarten alpaca bedding and Forsyth sheepskin rugs for warmth and softness. BDDW bedside tables and Ralph Lauren Colorado club chairs in Edelman suede add to the authentic ranch aesthetic, while a custom pop-up bench discreetly conceals the TV at the foot of the bed.



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 ALLOWS US TO RESPOND WITH  
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 —LARRY PEARSON



Framed by expansive windows with views to Mount Sopris, the living room in one of the two guest cabins reflects the rugged yet gracious character of the land. Delicately stacked stone, hand-hewn timbers and furniture detailed in nailheads create a space rooted in the mountain's enduring presence, while bold plaids and graphic patterns speak to the western setting.



Natural materials and rough textures were chosen to reflect the provenance of the surrounding landscape.

important for us to use soft, natural fibers throughout this project,” says Flax. “With all the architectural materials being of the land like timbers and stone, it felt right to incorporate fur and as many natural fibers, including wool, alpaca, cashmere, cotton, leather, suede and more.” Sheepskin rugs from Forsyth and Ralph Lauren Colorado club chairs in Edelman suede reinforce the tactile, nature-inspired palette. The primary bath features a William Holland copper tub, an Esmeralda quartzite vanity top, Van Cronenburg hardware and burnished nickel Waterworks fixtures under a chandelier by Bozeman’s Ironglass.

### THE CHALLENGES

“All projects of this scale have challenges, but I think the primary challenge was the duration,” says Pearson. “The client’s needs changed as their family and priorities shifted. Seven years is a long time to be involved in a project. People and ideas have changed, but the integrity and passion behind the project never wavered.”

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

“My favorite spaces are the pool overlooking Mount Sopris, one of the powder rooms and the primary bedroom,” says Flax. “I also love the cozy charm of the guest cabins. It’s all so original and beautiful—and hard to pick a favorite.” Pearson adds: “There’s a sense of curiosity as you pass through each structure and come across a new pond or waterfall you may not have been aware of.”

### THE OUTCOME

The finished home is a master class in traditional rustic ranch design elevated by craftsmanship and artistry. “We wanted to integrate with the environment and be grounded,” says Pearson. “This house does that—it’s a legacy project.” Flax concludes, “Seeing the clients take it all in—knowing it was built with so much thought, care and respect—was unforgettable.”

Opposite page: In the library, Ralph Lauren club chairs in Jerry Pair Leather’s Cowlick suede mingle with a custom desk by Englishman’s Fine Furniture and a Marzorati chair, set atop a Ralph Lauren rug. A matching side table reinforces the timeless, tailored aesthetic.



## Design Details

### TYPE

Single-Family

### Neighborhood

Basalt, Colorado

### Designer

Dani Flax,  
Pearson Design Group  
[pearsondesigngroup.com](http://pearsondesigngroup.com)

### Architect

Pearson Design Group  
[pearsondesigngroup.com](http://pearsondesigngroup.com)

### Builder

Divide Creek Builders  
[dividecreekbuilders.com](http://dividecreekbuilders.com)

### Landscape Architect

Design Workshop  
[designworkshop.com](http://designworkshop.com)

### RESOURCES

#### 1st Dibs

Primary sitting room  
accent chair, rec room  
accent chairs  
[1stdibs.com](http://1stdibs.com)

#### Espasso

Rec room Mole sofa by  
Sergio Rodrigues  
[espasso.com](http://espasso.com)

#### Green Seam Designs

Primary bedroom custom  
bed  
[greenseamdesigns.com](http://greenseamdesigns.com)

#### Ironglass Lighting

Primary bathroom custom  
chandelier  
[ironglasslighting.com](http://ironglasslighting.com)

#### Loro Piana

Banquette fabric  
[us.loropiana.com](http://us.loropiana.com)

#### John Brooks

Rec room Mimi London  
lounge chairs  
[johnbrooksinc.com](http://johnbrooksinc.com)

#### New Moon Rugs

Rugs throughout  
[newmoonrugs.com](http://newmoonrugs.com)

#### Officine Gullo

Kitchen  
[us.officinegullo.com](http://us.officinegullo.com)

#### Ralph Lauren

Furnishings throughout  
and library rug  
[ralphlauren.com](http://ralphlauren.com)

#### Rosemary Hallgarten

Primary bedroom custom  
bedding  
[rosemaryhallgarten.com](http://rosemaryhallgarten.com)

#### William Holland

Primary bathroom  
copper tub  
[williamholland.com](http://williamholland.com)