





RAMBLIN' RANCH

WRITTEN BY **NANCY A. RUHLING**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **RÓN RUSCIO**

LONG AND LEGGY, THE 4 LAZY J RANCH STRETCHES OUT LIKE A COLORADO MOUNTAIN LION SNOOZING BEFORE A BLAZING CAMPFIRE. The 400-acre compound, part of the development of the C Lazy U guest ranch in Grand County, is the keep-your-muddy-boots-on equestrian summer home of a Chicago couple and their four strapping and nearly grown sons.

The classic mountain ranch was recently born and branded—Paul Miller, AIA, of Avon-based RMT Architects, designed it and Kevin O'Donnell, vice president of Vail-based Beck Building Co., constructed it—but it

ARCHITECT Paul Miller	HOME BUILDER Andy Beck	
INTERIOR DESIGNER Sara Zook		
BEDROOMS 3	BATHROOMS 3	SQUARE FEET 6,000

NEO-WESTERN STYLE

A stone fireplace dominates the great room, where classic ranch-style furnishings, like a chandelier of deer antlers, are paired with traditional classics, including a set of saddle-soft matching sofas.







WATER VIEW

A vintage-style soaking tub, clad in a petti-coat of polished stainless steel, sets the tone in one of the master baths. The slate walls and floor, and whitewashed ceiling beams and window woodwork are subtle and rustic reminders that this is a mountain ranch.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 191

possesses an old soul. "It looks like it was assembled over time," Miller says. "And it has the history and feel of a settler's homestead that alludes to the romance of the rugged ranching life of the 19th century."

To accomplish that look, three types of construction—stacked and chinked hand-hewn timber, mortise-and-tenon timber frame, and conventional framing—were used. Reclaimed barn siding was placed on the barn-like garage and the rest of the wood on the exterior was finished with an agent that instantly gave it an aged character.

The 6,000-square-foot 4 Lazy J Ranch (the four stands for the four sons, who are so busy riding the family's nine horses, fishing, hiking, biking and working for the C Lazy U that they don't have time to put their spurs up to set for a spell) is out in the middle of cowpoke country, which is just

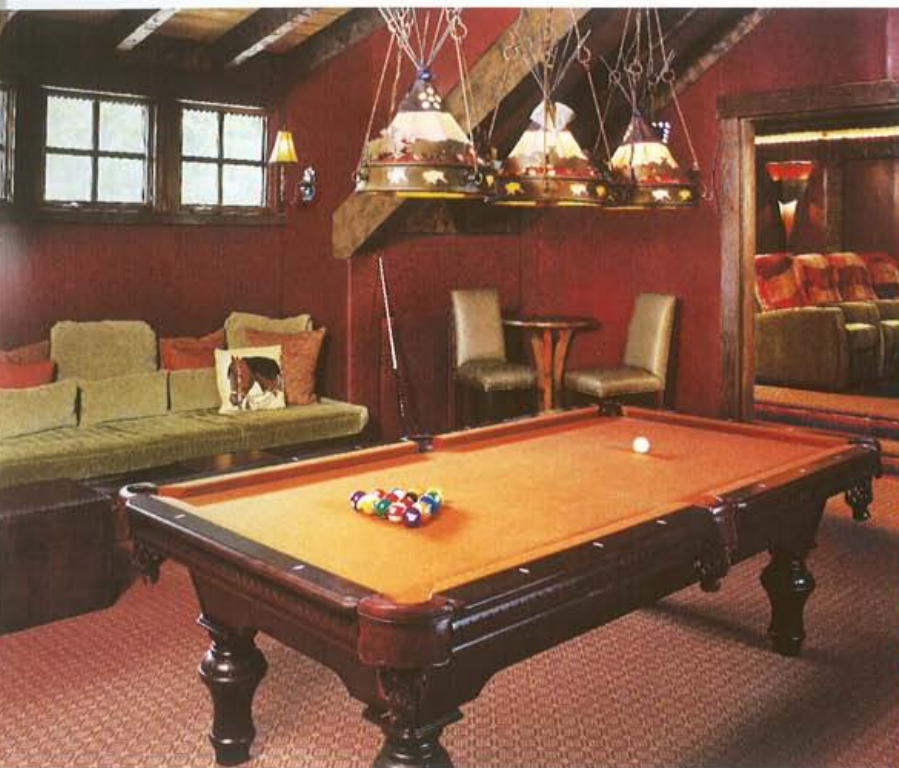
STYLE SELECTION

These supa duck pillows, shown in lavender and royal blue shades, are the perfect complement for trendy brown-and-blue color combinations. *Ankasa Sugarplum Collection Pillows, \$365 each; sliferdesigns.com*



NOW PLAYING

A trio of rawhide ceiling lights shaped like Indian teepees, faux-leather-upholstered walls and an English Wilton carpet place the billiards room in the Old West. On a more modern note, the home theater is in the adjoining room.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 195

where the owners want it to be. "We have access to 7,000 acres," the wife says. "You can ride for hours without seeing anyone, and you can stand on the ridgetops and see for miles."

Although the wife originally envisioned a little log cabin, the ranch evolved and expanded to include a three-bay garage, a horse barn complete with a two-bedroom apartment, an ample pasture and a tractor shed. "There are two master bedroom suites, one up and one down, so two families can stay here at once," the wife says. "Our sons like to have a lot of friends over, so we also have a bunkroom that can sleep 17."

The property, which is nestled at the edge of an evergreen forest and a creek overlooking the Indian Peaks mountain range, also features a pond that the owners reclaimed. "This was one highlight of the project," says O'Donnell. "We filled it and brought it back to its natural environment."

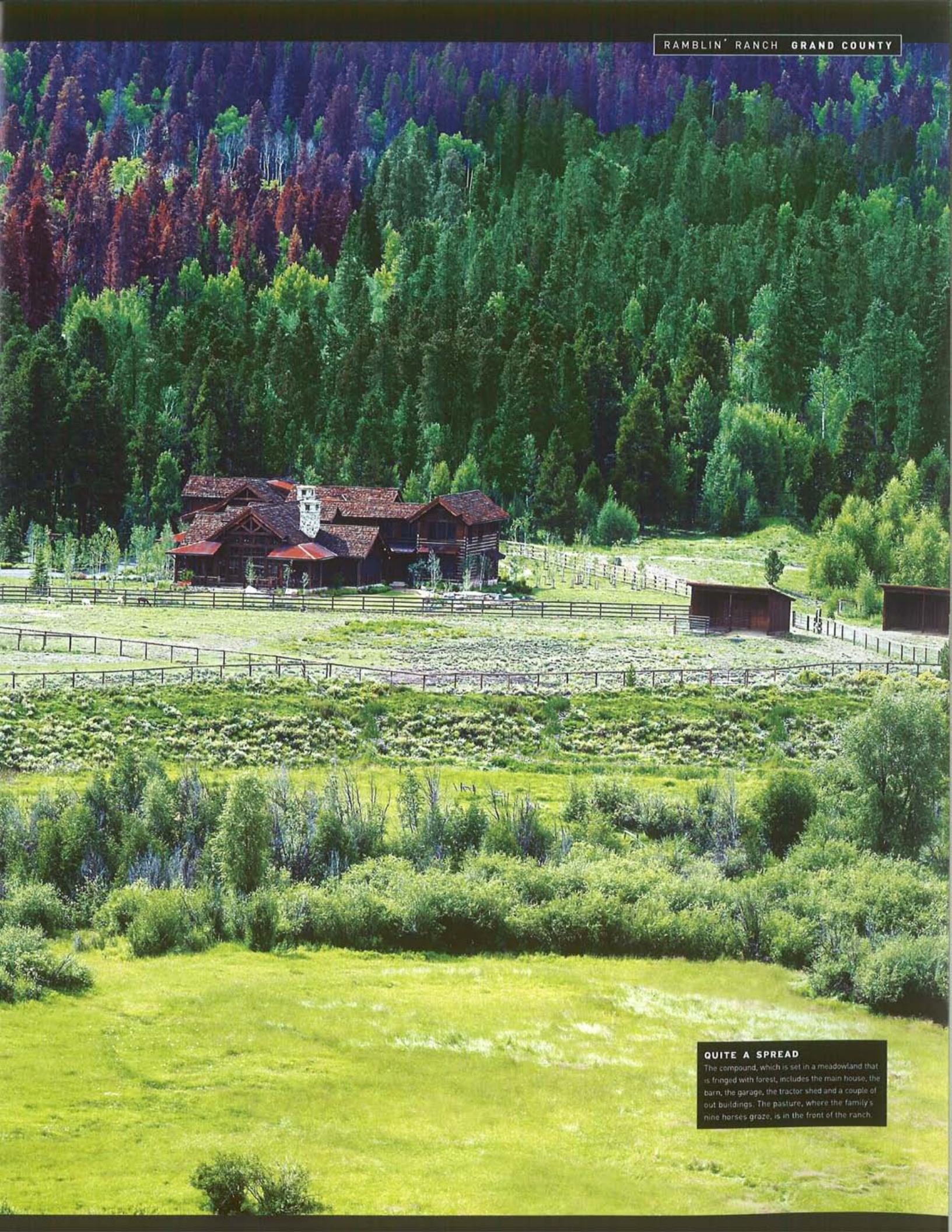


NATURE'S WAY

The screened-in porch, everyone's favorite room, uses willow furniture and a cast-metal horn dining table and matching chairs to evoke a Wild, Wild West theme.



AT THE 4 LAZY J RANCH,
THE OLD WEST BLAZES NEW TRAILS
IN HORSE COUNTRY



QUITE A SPREAD

The compound, which is set in a meadowland that is fringed with forest, includes the main house, the barn, the garage, the tractor shed and a couple of out buildings. The pasture, where the family's nine horses graze, is in the front of the ranch.



SLEEPING QUARTERS

In the bunkroom, which sleeps 17, a leather and metal chandelier sheds light on a metal-clad cabinet. The bunk beds are reached via fold-up ladders.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 196

Inside, interior designer Sara Zook, ASID, of the Denver-based firm that bears her name, opted for the casual elegance of a cowboy dressed in his Sunday best. "We did what the pioneers did—they brought their most treasured and fancy family heirlooms with them in their covered wagons from the east coast and then filled in with more local and casual pieces," she says.

The keys to the time-worn look are the ox-blood-red painted finish on the floor and the whitewashed beams in some of the rooms. "Both of these were the wife's idea; and it took us months to get the floors to look just right," Zook says.

OVER EASY

A cast-concrete counter and a bevy of bar stools give the kitchen the look of a saloon; the sons and their friends use the space as an Internet café. An Aga range is nestled in the chimney, and elaborate hand-worked horse bridles decorate a hand-stenciled wall by Sherry Haydel of New Orleans.



HOLDING THEIR HORSES

The wooden floor in the barn echoes with the romantic clip-clop of horses' hooves. In addition to the nine horses—Arabians, quarter horses and paints—the building also houses cats, dogs, llamas and alpacas.



RAISING THE BARN

Like the ranch house, the barn was designed to look as though it evolved over time. A full-time caretaker lives in the two-bedroom apartment at the top.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 201

The wooden furniture, most of which was designed by Zook and made by her company, New Classics Creations, has the look of antique and the feel of wide, open spaces. The walls, stenciled and faux-finished by Sherry Haydel of New Orleans, add subtle sophistication.

At the 4 Lazy J Ranch, nobody stands on ceremony. In the evenings, the family fixes barbeque in an outdoor fire pit, then heads to the screened-in porch to watch the sun paint the mountains in shimmering shades of yellow, purple and pink. By the firelight, the wife sometimes knits. The souvenir sweaters, blankets, throws and pillows that she creates make guests feel at home on the ranch and on the range. "This seems more like our primary residence every day," the wife says. "And one day soon, we will move here full-time and our children and grandchildren will come to visit." **L**

BECK BUILDING COMPANY

PO Box 4030
Vail, CO 81658
PHONE 970-949-1800

REPRINTED FROM



LUXE
THE COLORADO HOME REDEFINED

For more information about LUXE, visit us at luxemagazine.com