

# MOUNTAIN LIVING



# VALLONE

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THIS PAGE: Embracing the main cabin's well-equipped kitchen are counters fashioned from split fir logs, finished with 16 coats of wax. In modern counterpoints, the work counters inside the kitchen are cast concrete. Track lighting on the beams above illuminate food preparation areas.

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The goal of design covenants at Las Campanas "is to allow the West's and Southwest's historic architecture to be honored," says Marquez. In the case of the Cushing home, that ideal came to life in a 2,500-square-foot master cabin and 1,000-square-foot guest cabin made from pine logs, just as the region's pioneers might have done.

"Log cabins have been popular all over northern New Mexico and southern Colorado since the 1870s," Marquez adds. Linked to the main house by stone walls is a garage finished in straw-studded stucco resembling adobe, with carriage-style barn doors. Viewed together, the buildings "draw on the historic nature of a ranch compound," he notes.

So do the interiors fashioned by the Vallone Design team. "We wanted to embrace the High Desert Western theme," says designer Kim Anderson, adding that their goal "was not so much to be very traditional but, rather, to evoke tradition." ☞

## Beyond the Horizontal

Log-cabin living introduces the design challenge of surrounding yourself with the boldest of horizontal lines in the logs and their white plaster chinking. "You have a definite striped effect," sums up interior designer Kim Anderson, "so you really have to be careful what patterns and fabrics you choose." She and Jennifer Ferrandi at Vallone Design in Scottsdale, Arizona, kept that fact always in mind while planning the furnishings and accessories for the Las Campanas home, in the process coming up with these solutions:

**PICK COMPLEMENTARY PATTERNS** Rather than cloaking with equally bold geometrics, opt for curvier forms inspired by nature, such as large-scale floral and crested draperies, a polka dot rug, and intricately patterned fabrics inspired by traditional Southwestern Indian designs. "I like the whimsy of adding larger-scale patterns," says Anderson.

**KEEP IT NEUTRAL AND NATURAL** To give the eye a rest, Anderson suggests that solids and neutrals also work well, "especially natural fabrics and fibers with lots of texture. They give the eye a rest."

**BREAK IT UP** Use large-scale paintings and prints in bright colors to help interrupt the horizontal flow.

**CARRY THE EYE UPWARDS** To relieve the horizontality of the room, find ways to go vertical, from floor-length draperies to eye-catching chandeliers that attract the gaze.

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The most dramatic example of well-evoked tradition may be found in the main cabin's great room. In tribute, perhaps, to one-room cabins of yore that encompassed every aspect of settlers' lives, the 16-by-42-foot space includes living and dining areas and, beneath a loft media room, a modern kitchen. The great scale, however, finds a sense of proportion in the house's log cabin style. "It's a simple, straightforward, inherently humble structure," says Marquie.

Humble yet comfortable furnishings complement the architecture. "We wanted to keep it informal and cozy," says Anderson, explaining such choices as a leather sofa and armchairs, a mesquite dining table from Mexico, a cut-tin chandelier and, over the fireplace, an oil of a steer by local artist Robert T. Ritter. >>

LEFT: Beyond a railing above the kitchen, an informal family media room occupies a loft beneath a ceiling that rises from 11 feet at the springline to an apex of 17 feet.

ABOVE: The architect and builder applied to split-pine surfaces on the interior walls a five-step stain-and-wax process that gave them the deep, rich luster of a century-old patina.

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BELOW: In both cabins, new wide-plank pine floors look more authentic through the rough-and-tumble of country life.  
 RIGHT: The master bedroom in the 1,000-square-foot guest cabin achieves maximum comfort with minimum space thanks to open wall-mounted shelves and a bed with a thin steel frame.



## Touches of Whimsy

"There is nothing wrong with allowing the picturesque to occur in architecture, especially in an area as historic as northern New Mexico," observes Pedro Marquez, AIA, architect for the Cushings' residential compound at Las Campanas. To complement the historically accurate picturesque elements of his design, designers Kin Anderson and Jennifer Ferrandi added touches of whimsy that evoke life on the frontier:

**OBJECTS FROM THE RANGE** The cattle that roamed the West find expression, both subtle and direct, in such furnishings as leather sofas and chairs, a cowhide ottoman in the living room, and steer horns mounted above the fireplace in the guest cabin.

**JUST FOR FUN** From a cut-tin chandelier fashioned in folk-art style to casually placed boots, spurs, and hats that look like the occupants just stepped in from the range, genuine objects both evoke the region's heritage and playfully tap into a sense of nostalgia for the Old West.

An equally important element of the home's traditional approach to living may be found in the warm welcome it offers to guests in their own private cabin, which is connected to the main house via a breezeway and a sandstone patio where everyone can congregate when the weather is nice. Its own smaller great room has a wet bar/kitchenette in place of a full-blown kitchen. Where you might expect a dining table, it features a billiards table "that makes it the central meeting place when you have folks in from out of town," says Cushing.

Yet there's also abundant comfort and privacy to be found here, all charmingly detailed with authentic touches ranging from Western hats and finely tooled old boots to carpets and cushions in patterns inspired by Southwestern Indian tribes. A bedroom for grownup guests features an iron-framed four-poster queen-sized bed. For the kids, a "bunkhouse" is furnished with two pairs of sturdy stacked beds that look like they've been nailed together from old fence posts and have space below to add trundle beds, in case of a major influx of young out-of-towners. "I don't know one child who has walked in there and didn't want to stay for hours on end," laughs Anderson.

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That's not to suggest that the compound at Las Campanas keeps its sensibilities too deeply rooted in the past. Look no further than the Cushings' master suite in the main house to find how thoroughly modern its comforts can be within a traditional West-by-Southwestern style. A king-sized bed offers repose with crisp white linens, framed with a hint of blue gingham. Daylight and views of starry nighttime skies enter through one of the house's three high dormers, a contemporary use for faithfully historic fenestration. The master bath, too, looks old-fashioned and yet ably fulfills contemporary needs, with his-and-hers sinks housed in an antique-style vanity, and a clawfoot tub nestled in its own alcove with windows on three sides.

That alcove suggests what may be the single greatest appeal of life in this log cabin, and within the greater environs of Las Campanas: the views. To the east rise the Sangre de Cristo, southern tributary of the Rockies. To the west are spectacular sunsets over the Jemez Range. Northward stretch vast panoramas of the rugged badlands, rolling on into Colorado. Tens of thousands of acres of adjoining property under the U.S. Bureau of Land Management safeguard the views in perpetuity. "They'll be like that for the rest of time," says Cushing.

To the Montana-born Cushing, it's a setting that seems perfectly natural. "We come here whenever we can right now with the kids," he says. "And some time in the future, it will be our retirement home." ■

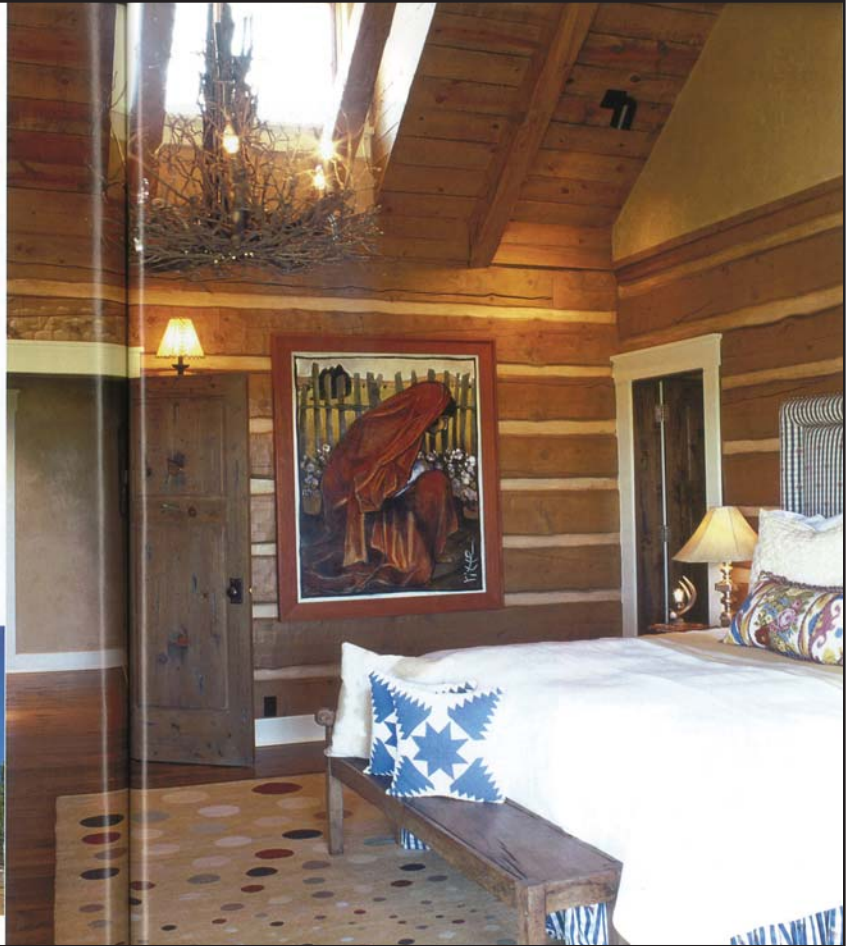
BELOW: Viewed from its driveway, the main cabin entrance is shaded by a porch roof, above which three dormers bring daylight into the great room, loft and master bedroom. RIGHT: In the master bedroom, above an antique Mexican boot bench, a one-of-a-kind contemporary chandelier made from birch twigs adds lofty, whimsical interest.

## { DESIGN BOOK }

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