

The River Ranch

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A storied space

The owners of this mountain retreat wanted their new home to tell a tale of generations gone by.



Located along the Blue River, the mountain-ranch exterior is a stark contrast to the Old English-inspired interiors. The fireplaces are meant to mimic Old English manor houses, where hearths are the only source of heat.

While the exterior of the home melds with the other existing buildings on the nearly 650-acre property, the homeowners wanted an eclectic Old English interior that reflected details of world travel and years of harmonious room additions. Unlike traditional new construction, the home was built to suggest a small manor house whose footprint expanded through years of additions, as if each generation left its distinctive mark. Improbable details abound - stone walls tucked neatly into the interior of the great room look like a previous generation's exterior walls while numerous narrow passageways lead guests through the home.





LEFT:
The fireplace mantel, crafted with doors from a Gothic armoire, creates a distinctive focal point.

Because entertaining is central to the homeowners' lives, all the spaces were designed with guests in mind. Jon Gunson tailored each space, including primitive details that could be from the 19th-century, but are updated for entertaining large groups of friends in the 21st century. The great room features a working fireplace where simple fare can be prepared, while several seating areas provide ample space for large groups.

BELOW:
The kitchen is a lovely mix of color and wood finishes. The range is a custom-colored blue to complement the hand-painted tiles and distressed moldings; it all contrasts perfectly with the wood beams.

BELOW: The dining room was built long and narrow, reminiscent of an Old English pub and complete with a pub-inspired table that seats 14.





A view of the river dominates the master bedroom. The custom four-poster bed houses a hidden, pop-up television that doesn't detract from the aged look of the interior.



ABOVE:
The library, a private room the couple uses as an office, is part of the master suite.

Even the smallest detail brings life to this mountain home.



LEFT:
The master bath is light, airy and distinctly feminine. The cabinetry is built in a thick, hand-crafted style reminiscent of a salvaged farm-house piece. The scones provide a candlelit glow, further softening the look.