



The main home overlooks the pasture with the Crazy Mountains in the background

DESIGN

## HOME on the RANGE

*Interior designer Abby Hetherington designed an eclectic and charming residence on a working Montana cattle ranch*

BY NATASHA WOLFF  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUCY CALL

A multigenerational family compound on a working cattle ranch in Big Timber, Montana, was the perfect project for Abby Hetherington. The designer loved re-envisioning the main house and three guest cabins for the current owners. The Bozeman-based interior designer, who has designed ski chalets at the Yellowstone Club and beachy homes in Boca Grande, was immediately attracted to the remote location with lots of wildlife. “The ranch is located between the Crazy Mountain and Absaroka Mountain ranges, which gives these unbelievable views,” says Hetherington. “Our mission was to create a home that was authentic to the land and a nod to rustic living, but enhanced for today’s everyday use. We found a balance between the two.” The design team took the structures down to the studs while still honoring the spaces. “Our clients wanted to keep the essence of the ranch, so they didn’t want to rebuild but modernize the current state of the old barn and cabins. Our job was to honor the past life of the property while enhancing it for now and future generations.”



What used to be the dining room was turned into a cozy sitting area

A game nook for the family to play cards and hang out



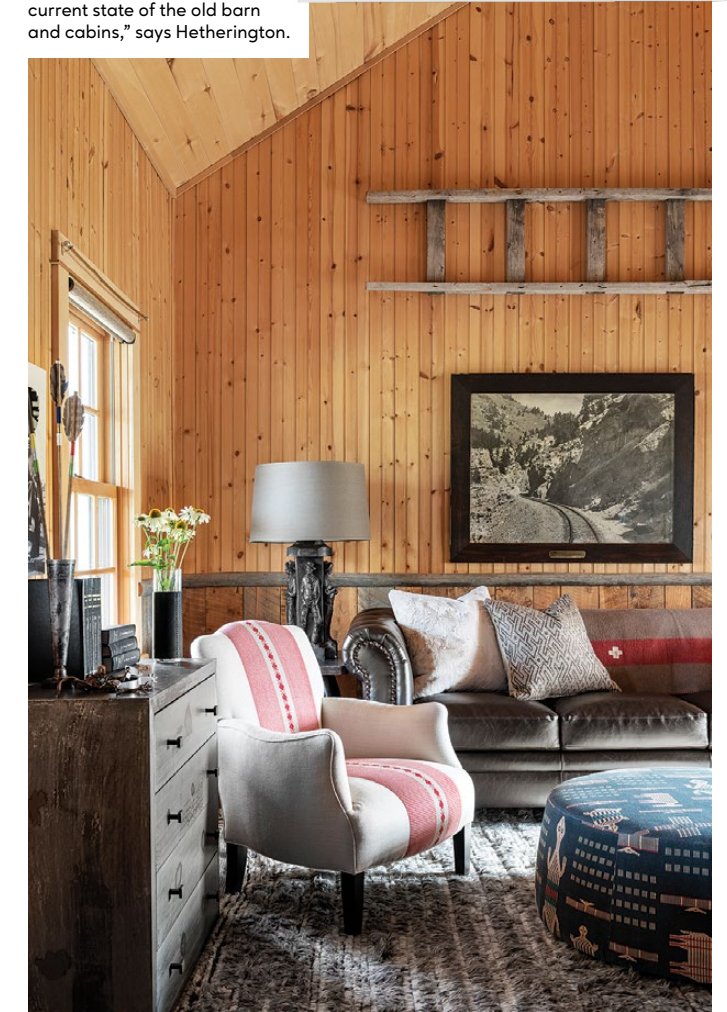
CABIN 1

Of the three cabins on the property, the first is the largest, with a kitchenette and a living room. The cabin features a show-stopping twisting wood staircase leading to second-level loft guest quarters. Blue tones and plaid details were carried over from the main home. "Our job was to honor the past life of the property while enhancing it for now and future generations," says Hetherington.



CABIN 2

With a living room and a loft, guests can enjoy their own private space to relax. More modern furniture is combined with traditional fabrics to embrace the rustic ranch atmosphere. Every room has a historic element that speaks to the local history. "Our clients wanted to keep the essence of the ranch, so they didn't want to rebuild but modernize the current state of the old barn and cabins," says Hetherington.



“ Our mission was to create a home that was *authentic to the land* and a nod to rustic living, but *enhanced* for today's everyday use.

—ABBY HETHERINGTON

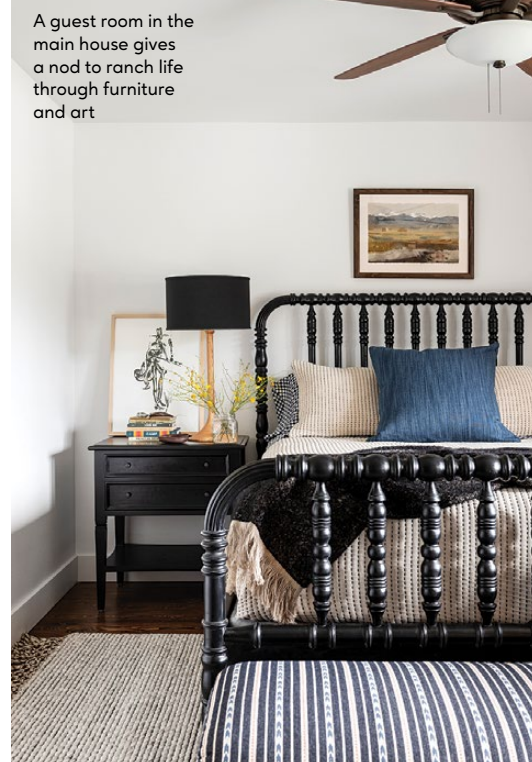
”



With an oversized space, the primary suite has ample space for a writing desk and small seating arrangement. The four-poster canopy bed highlights a stunning slanted ceiling.



The kitchen gets a face lift with fresh paint (goodbye, bright red) and new appliances. "Using a fresh and calm color helped modernize the space while remaining authentic with the old cabinets," says Hetherington.



A guest room in the main house gives a nod to ranch life through furniture and art.

With a lot of dark wood in the homes, it was important for the design team to keep the interiors light and modern. "It was very dark, and we knew immediately we wanted to open up walls and use fresh paint colors," explains Hetherington. "We played with patterns, using more modern furniture with traditional fabrics to keep with the cowboy rustic ranch." Deep earth tones and natural materials are a common thread throughout all of the bedrooms. The main living area is centered around a substantial fireplace hearth, and the wood-planked walls encompass the warm space and complement the rich leather sofas and an oversized rustic pendant light. Playful plaid banquette seating offers an additional space to gather around the corner from the soft blue open kitchen. "With the old and new style we were going for, we made sure to not only enhance what was already there but make sure it was functional for the family," says Hetherington. A large childrens' lounge offers seating, a play area and bunk bed accommodations, closed off by sliding barn doors that connect to another cozy family area with a game table and multiple seating areas. Both guest cabins feature a show-stopping twisting wood staircase leading to second-level loft guest quarters. Blue tones and plaid details were carried over from the main home. "For authenticity, we spent a lot of time with furniture builders and craftsmen who built traditional cowboy furniture—yes, that is a thing! We also worked with local collectors and pickers to find Montana and Big Timber history," says Hetherington. "Every room has a historic element that speaks to the local history. Being able to incorporate objects that we found was an awesome experience." The home boasts a rich American West aesthetic with thoughtful local touches. "We created a collection of the history and culture of the local town that's seen throughout the home. My favorite thing about this project was bringing life back to this ranch." ■



A mudroom off the kitchen where the family can kick off their muddy boots.



The lower level, which was once a bunk room for ranchers, is now the Kid Zone.