



## RANCH REDUX

WRITTEN BY **NANCY CLARK**  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY **RON RUSCIO**

ONE-HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, THE FUNCTION OF A FARMHOUSE—ANY FARMHOUSE—DRILLED DOWN TO ONE PURPOSE: SHELTER. Life in Colorado was anything but soft around the edges. So it's a wonder that a home built back then could be refashioned into a thoroughly modern tribute to historic integrity, plus have five bathrooms.

The owners of this 25-acre spread used masonry experts (the sister science of carbon dating) to identify the construction period of the structures still standing. One out-building, a milk house, was built as early as 1863. The house itself dates back to 1882 and suffered what is aptly described by architect Dale Hubbard as "an unfortunate remodel in the 1970s."

Hubbard set about more than doubling the 2,200-square-foot home into a masterpiece for modern-day entertaining. Expansive perceived public spaces have been sized accordingly to accommodate caterers, bands and plenty of visitors, including overnight guests. Cut ceilings replaced 45-degree 12 x 12 dormers and the floor was dropped when the new foundation was poured to gain one and a half feet, floor to ceiling.

**ARCHITECT** Dale R. Hubbard | **HOME BUILDER** Derek Gvarasco

**DESIGNERS** Judy Gubner & Colleen Johnson

**BEDROOMS** 4 | **BATHROOMS** 5 | **SQUARE FEET** 5,900



**COPPER TOP**

The custom copper hood found in the kitchen stands 20 feet tall.

THE INFLUENCE OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND  
ARTS AND CRAFTS MEETS 21ST CENTURY SCALE



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 211

"The original farmhouse ceilings of the mid-1800s, seven feet and some change, don't work today," Hubbard says. The cut ceilings are supported with Douglas fir trusses produced with exacting precision by woodwrights in Montana, and then shipped to Colorado. And just to be certain that the joinery of mortise and tenon wasn't challenged over time as in kiln-dried timbers, these timbers were dried by a rare and costly radio frequency process to maintain the longevity and stability of the wood.

While the intent was to stay true to the original farmhouse template, the owners did not want the creaky flooring inherent in some restorations. So contractor Derek Guarascio replaced all of the flooring and relocated the stairway, effectively gutting the home in the process. "The way this house lives and feels is as if it was built in 2005," he says.

**STARTING POINT**

The inherent color in the reclaimed flooring by Carlisle used in the foyer was the starting point for the palette throughout the house.

#### PEACEFUL LIVING

A decorative accessory in many homes, the Buddha head, which dates back to the Tang Dynasty, represents the attainment of peace, harmony, wisdom and joy.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 213

This new millennium farmhouse is, as well, a study in solar gain. The owners sought a relationship between living space and the sun's location. Thus the morning room, where residents enjoy the newspaper and coffee, is on the east side along with a contiguous kitchen. The master suite is located on the south side, and the entertaining spaces on the west side offer views of the mountains and sunset. "Unlike the majority of home sites, this one provides nearly 360-degree views," Hubbard points out.

In-Site Design Group's July Gubner and Colleen Johnson schlepped nearly 75 pounds of different tiles, stones, woods and metals to an early meeting with the architect, builder and owners and laid all the samples out on the floor. Their clients preferred the rich reds, golds and greens and insisted on all-natural materials, nothing augmented, explains Gubner. "This is one of the most handmade houses we've had the pleasure to work on," adds Johnson. "Everything is done the old way, the right way."



#### RIGHT ANGLE

The influence of Frank Lloyd Wright and Arts and Crafts meets 20th-century scale in this morning kitchen/dining room.



**HOUSE PICK**

This Asian-inspired end table, crafted of Chinese hardwood, is simple in form yet stays true to design aesthetics found in the Far East. Shinto End Table, \$299. [roomandboard.com](http://roomandboard.com)



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 214

The architecture of satisfaction in a house, even today, has everything to do with shelter, as it did in yesteryear. But today's homes also promulgate the owners' tastes, status, travels and interests. The owners of this home are regarded as connoisseurs of natural materials, one category being woods. Enormous slabs of imported woods were used throughout the house, including a bar top in the kitchen—a 12-foot by 3-foot cantilevered four-inch slab of ironwood, among the densest woods in the world. Purchased overseas and specially seasoned when imported to Colorado, the wood had to be cut with a laser router. Nothing here is soft around the edges, even today. **LS**