

SAYONARA, PARDNA

Far East and Old West design come together at a ranch retreat near Prescott

By Melanie Winderlich  Photography by Tom Kirby



From the exterior, the Troutte residence is Old West, but past the threshold, the interior decor is an eclectic mix of cowboy chic and Far East.

Looming elephant tusks neighbor a 6-foot-tall cowboy sculpture, and Korean lacquer jars reside within a home constructed of 100-year-old reclaimed barn wood from Utah. Eclectic flamboyance is obvious at 15050 Wilderness Way—where East-meets-West charm oozes from every corner.

"This is a 'Far Eastern Alaskan Western House,' and if you were a decorator, you'd never agree to do it," says homeowner Richard Troutte. He and his wife Sandra decorated their 4,400-square-foot northern retreat to bridge their Western and Eastern backgrounds.

Located 12 miles northwest of Prescott, in the housing community of Talking Rock, the Troutte house is a site to behold. The exterior encap-

ulates pure American Western heritage. Reclaimed, weathered barn wood and flagstone columns evoke the ol' days of the Arizona territory, where rustic ranch houses dotted the terrain. Western materials and design continue into the interior, as the look surprisingly, and successfully, melds with the far Eastern artwork and décor.

"We spent more than 10 years in the Far East," says Richard Troutte. "We wanted our Western home to reflect the collections we had from Hong Kong, Japan and other Eastern countries."

After visiting Wyoming, Idaho and Alaska, the Trouttes bought this 1.75-acre property. They wanted a "straight Western look" and found it set amongst the juniper and pinon trees of Arizona's high country.





Asian-inspired ceiling lighting in the entrance and accessories from Thailand and other eastern countries complement rustic touches like flagstone columns and weathered wood doors.



*An automated framed
artpiece above the fireplace
lifts upward to reveal a
plasma TV behind it.*



Natural, Western materials provide an air of authenticity not commonly found in newly built homes. Most of the main house, including the kitchen, library and hallways, features rocky mountain quartzite flooring. Streaks of gold, black and brown run through the glittery stone—no two pieces ever alike. The great room's flooring consists of reclaimed pinewood, thought to have come from a wharf. Rich, colorful granite envelopes the kitchen and bathrooms in Old West luxury.

"West meets East was a challenge," says Dan Boylan, president and owner of DLB Custom Homes Inc., the company that built the Trouttes' home. "'How do you make it work?' Because of their travels on the Eastern side of the world, they have a lot of artwork. The Trouttes gave us a lot of liberties to bring Western influence into their Eastern pieces."



Asian design elements like Chinese enamel paintings and wedding baskets and a rosewood bar brought back from Thailand required creative planning from Boylan and architect Steven Adams of Adams Architecture.

Maintaining a coherent look that honors the Trouttes' fond travel memories and their love of the Old West caused Adams to utilize innovative design methods. The detached casita (known as the "bunkhouse") is treated as if it is an old barn converted into guest quarters. "This included not

only the size and shape of the structure," says Adams, "but also the details such as a barn door and 'hay loft' access areas."

The bunkhouse serves the Trouttes' youngest guests—their five grandchildren. These wild cowboys and cowgirls have their own television, small refrigerator and bunk beds. However, Sheriff Troutte enforces house rules by monitoring the bunkhouse with a surveillance camera and speaker system.

Overlooking majestic Granite Mountain to the south, the house welcomes Arizona's natural landscape with true Western hospitality. Nearly every room allows light to enter from the outside at various angles. To maximize natural light, most windows are completely exposed—no elaborate drapes to mask the views.

"Because we're surrounded by forest, we thought it a good idea," says Troutte. "We kind of can run around naked if we wanted," he jokes.

To feel truly a part of the landscape, a suspended patio deck hugs the home's entire exterior. Since the Trouttes did not want to maintain a wooden deck and wanted the sturdiness of concrete, Boylan constructed a U-shaped, light, concrete deck covered with flagstone. Built-ins like benches for sitting, a fire pit for warmth and a barbecue grill for outdoor dining were final details allowing the Trouttes to entertain at home in style.

More collections beyond that of Eastern origin are featured in the motley home. A cumulation of more than 2,500 books required much more support than a standard bookshelf could provide. The library/office's floor-to-ceiling

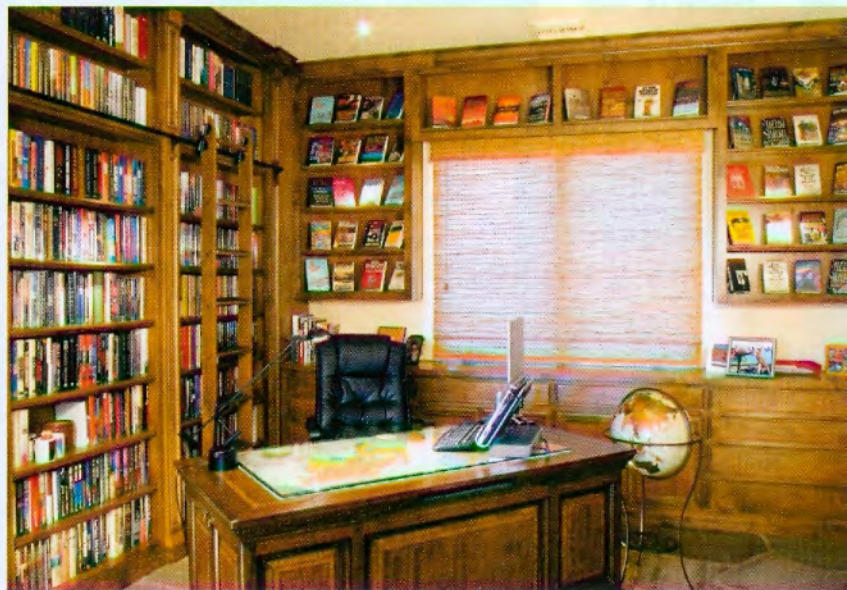


Top left: Ample stone tile work in the master bath gives the room a rustic, welcoming ambiance.

Top right: The master bedroom's view of juniper and pinon trees is picturesque and relaxing.

Bottom left: Plentiful counter space and an island with extra storage make the kitchen user-friendly.

Bottom right: More than 2,500 books line the library's shelves, many of which are valuable first editions and first prints.



bookshelves support a valuable collection of first editions and first prints, of which 95 percent have been signed. Diffused desk lamp lighting and indirect sunlight bounce off plastic covers protecting the books, to create a chamber of entrancing color. Japanese-influenced elements, such as the clean lines of the master bath, complement rustic features like wooden trusses and a stone fireplace. Blending old with new—the

art of the ancient East with the style of a young American West—produces a pastoral retreat that offers something a little different to visitors who come inside. A cultural excursion awaits guests of the Troutte house; a place where you can hang up your spurs and hear a story or two about a great adventure in a faraway country. ■

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