

LOCAL FURNITURE CRAFTSMEN | FRESH COLOR FORECAST

# COLORADO HOMES & LIFESTYLES™

30<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

Furniture  
Fashion:

Custom, classic,  
contemporary



ColoradoHomesMag.com  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

A photograph of a traditional living room. The walls are a mix of rough-hewn stone and dark wood paneling. A large window is covered with light-colored curtains. In the center is a fireplace with a white marble mantel, topped with a framed picture and several small vases. Two tufted, upholstered armchairs are positioned on either side of the fireplace, with a small ottoman in front. A chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The overall atmosphere is warm and classic.

A *Storyied*

# SPACE

The owners of this mountain retreat wanted their new home to tell a tale of generations gone by—and with charming furnishings and details, they've succeeded.

BY JILL VIVED

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID MARLOW

*(left)* As guests enter the home, they are greeted with a vignette offering warmth and comfort. Petite chairs complement the scale of the narrow fireplace. Oliver selected the chairs, she says, "because my client loved the charming design and they were the perfect size."

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





(left) Oliver designed the great room around the floral sofa fabric by Brunswick & Fils, adding a touch of serenity to the family gathering place that is defined by dark wood paneling. The fireplace mantel, crafted with doors from a Gothic armoire, creates a distinctive focal point. (right) Inspired by English pub tables, the dining room table is long and narrow to create intimate dinner parties and make guests feel welcome. The Jacobean-inspired chairs surrounding the table are covered in a warm, wonderful tapestry, and trimmed with playful tassels. The greatest challenge in furnishing this room was finding plates small enough to fit the narrow table.

## Details ADD LIFE TO EVERY SPACE—

and interior designer Lane Elisabeth Oliver's latest mountain creation is humming with life. Nestled next to the Blue River, the retreat is both traditional mountain ranch and Old English manor house. "The best way to describe the house is a wonderful, charming surprise," says Oliver, principal of Denver-based LEO Interior Design.

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," Oliver says. 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 nearly into the interior of





"I wanted all of the furniture to have an aged look to it, like it had been collected over the years, but I stayed away from too many antiques for the main pieces; instead I chose to focus on comfort," says designer Lane Oliver.

*(left)* 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.

*(right)* The powder room was inspired by an old church Oliver saw in England. A custom-painted vanity provides a delightful focal point and unique details: enchant with an authentic pull-chain toilet (not shown) and jeweled light fixtures adorned with strands of pearls.



the great room look like a previous generation's exterior walls while numerous narrow passageways lead guests through the home. The furnishings resemble a collection gathered over many generations, as if a European pioneer family accumulated various treasures along the way. "My mission was to make the powerful spaces feel aged and intimate," Oliver says, and to find furniture that was "dainty yet strong so that it contrasts with the courtly and masterful architecture." Trips to England, Scotland and France inspired these design choices.

The high-Europe ambience begins with the entry, where guests are greeted by an intimate fireplace and a pair of English-style Bergere chairs akin to furniture Oliver encountered in England. "In my travels, all the manor houses had these wonderful fireplaces near the front door so guests could warm themselves after a long journey," she explains. Oliver kept fireplaces petite and seating arrangements intimate to draw guests in. Artwork, rugs, and accessories with soft mellow tones enhance the rich, deep hues of the furnishings.

The designer carefully selected the furniture with an eye toward livabil-

ity. "I wanted all of the furniture to have an aged look to it, like it had been collected over the years, but I stayed away from too many antiques for the main pieces; instead I chose to focus on comfort," she says. Many of the smaller chairs and accessories are authentic antiques that add to the Old English charm of the home, and each custom furniture piece is enhanced with beautiful details, such as the playful tassels trimming the Jacobean-inspired dining room chairs from Ebanista. "I chose fabrics with strong texture, playful, aged colors, and exciting trim details," Oliver adds.

Because entertaining is central to the homeowners' lives, Oliver designed all the spaces with guests in mind. Together with architect Jon Gunson and contractor Rick Emarine, she 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. "Creating separate, intimate spaces makes every niche useful and cozy," Oliver explains. The



dining room was built long and narrow, reminiscent of an Old English pub and complete with a pub-inspired table by Macrae that seats 14. In the kitchen, a large island anchors the space, while an 18th-century French walnut vaisselier houses a collection of antique toile plates used extensively for the parties the family hosts. As with every detail in the home, nothing is too precious for everyday use.

A view of the river dominates the master bedroom, and intimate seating arrangements keep it cozy. The custom four-poster bed houses a hidden, pop-up television that doesn't detract from the aged look of the interior. The master suite also houses an alder-paneled library upholstered with a mix of beautiful patterns and textures. "Mixing patterns can be very interesting and comforting if the proportions are considered and blended correctly," Oliver explains. Even the books were selected not just for reading enjoyment, but also for aesthetic appeal—once again proving even the smallest detail brings life to this mountain home. □



(left) The library, a private room the couple uses as an office, is part of the master suite. The plush black tapestry on the sofa sets the tone for the room. "We wanted to select fabrics that were warm and dark to contrast the golden alder on the walls and ceiling," Oliver says. The antique buffet to the right of the fireplace is French, circa 1880. The homeowner and her mother found the piece while traveling the world in search of rare and beautiful pieces. (above) The master bath is light, airy and distinctly feminine. The cabinetry is built in a thick, hand-crafted style reminiscent of a salvaged farmhouse piece. The sconces provide a candlelight glow, further softening the look.

#### DESIGN DETAILS

Interior Design  
**LANE ELISABETH OLIVER**  
 LEO Interior Design  
 (303) 722-4288

Architecture  
**JON GUNSON, AIA**  
 Custom Mountain  
 Architects  
 (970) 453-6657

Construction  
**RICK EMARINE**  
 Infinite Scope, Inc.  
 (970) 468-1367

For more information about the products in this home, visit [ColoradoHomesMag.com](http://ColoradoHomesMag.com)

