

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

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SPECIAL  
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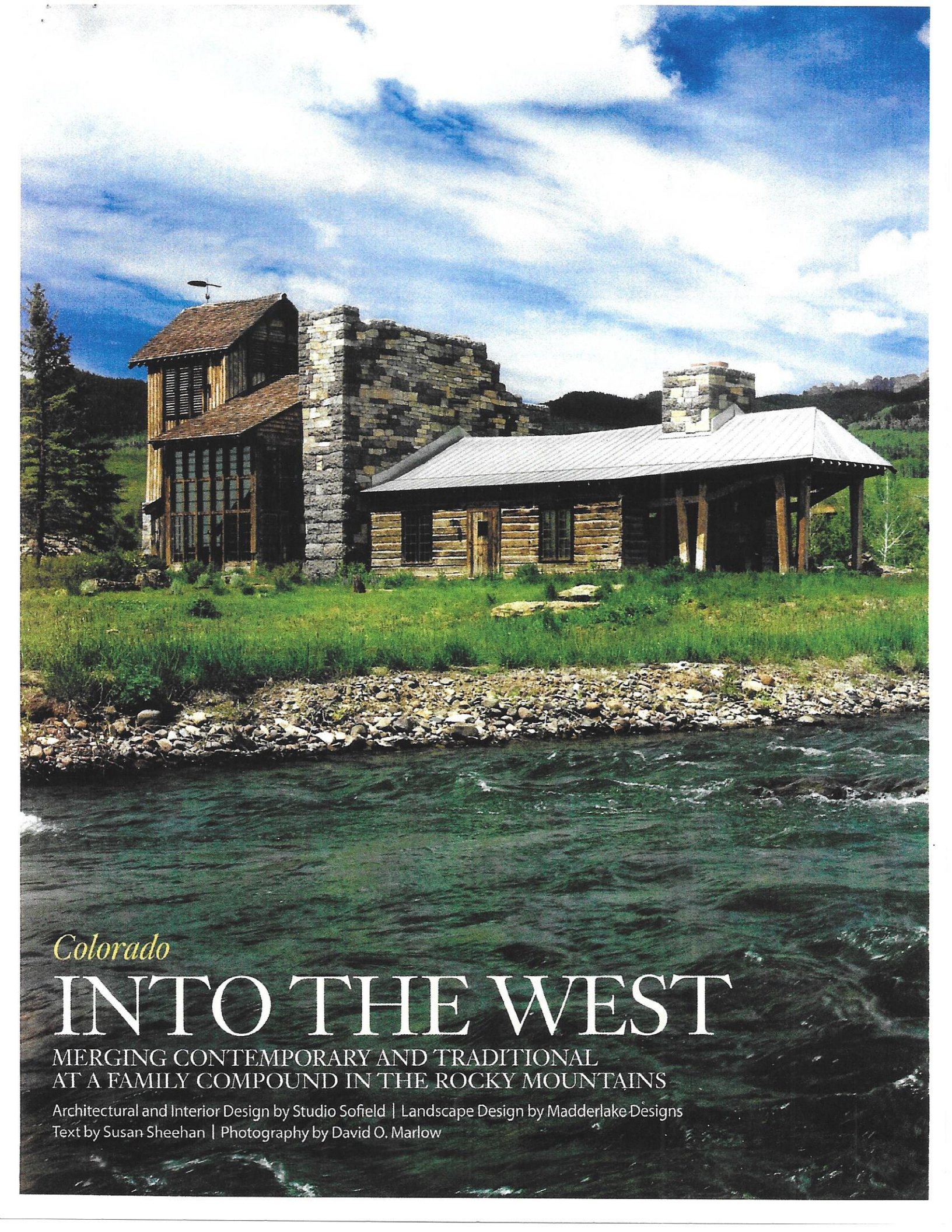
## Country Comfort

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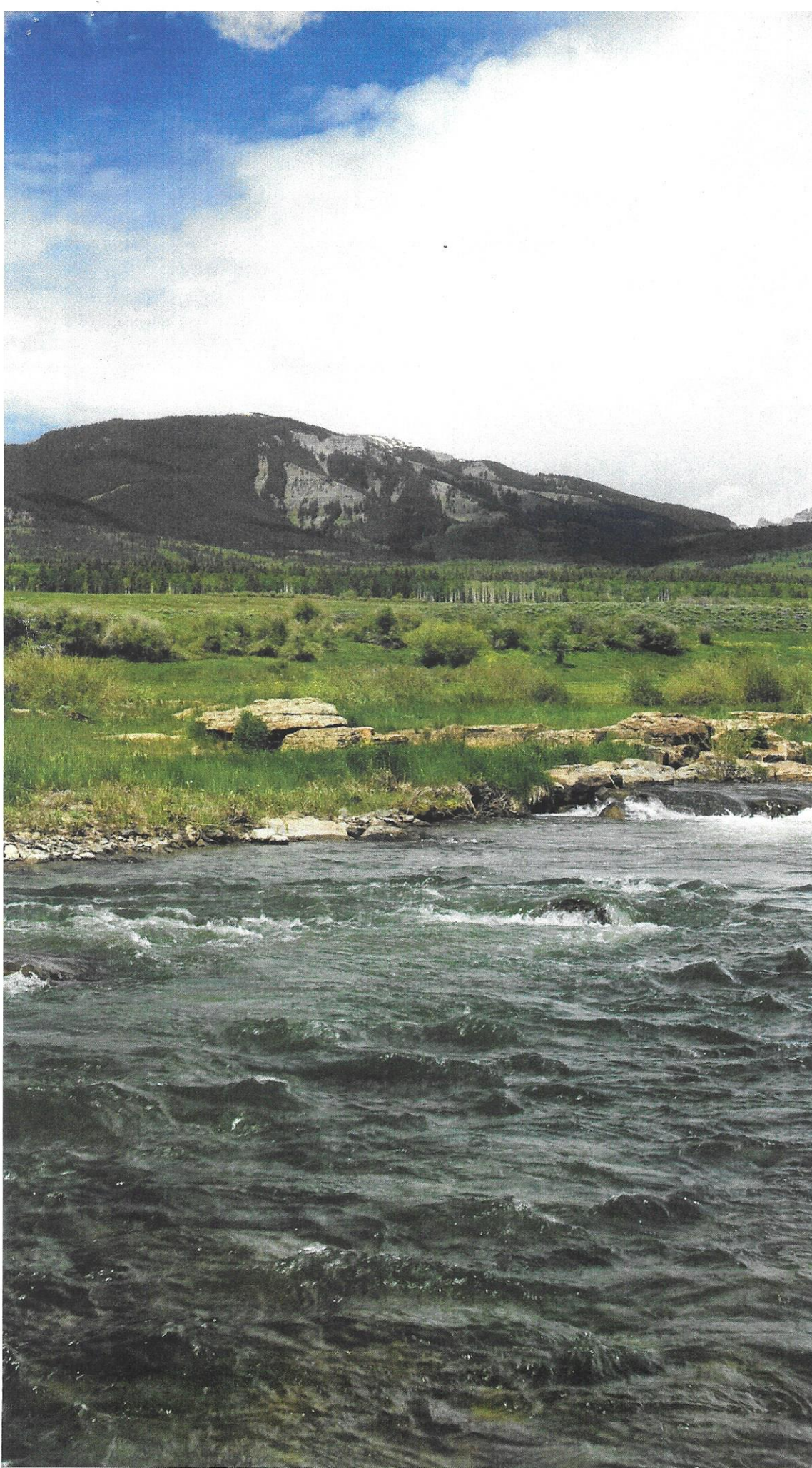


*Colorado*

# INTO THE WEST

MERGING CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL  
AT A FAMILY COMPOUND IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Architectural and Interior Design by Studio Sofield | Landscape Design by Madderlake Designs  
Text by Susan Sheehan | Photography by David O. Marlow



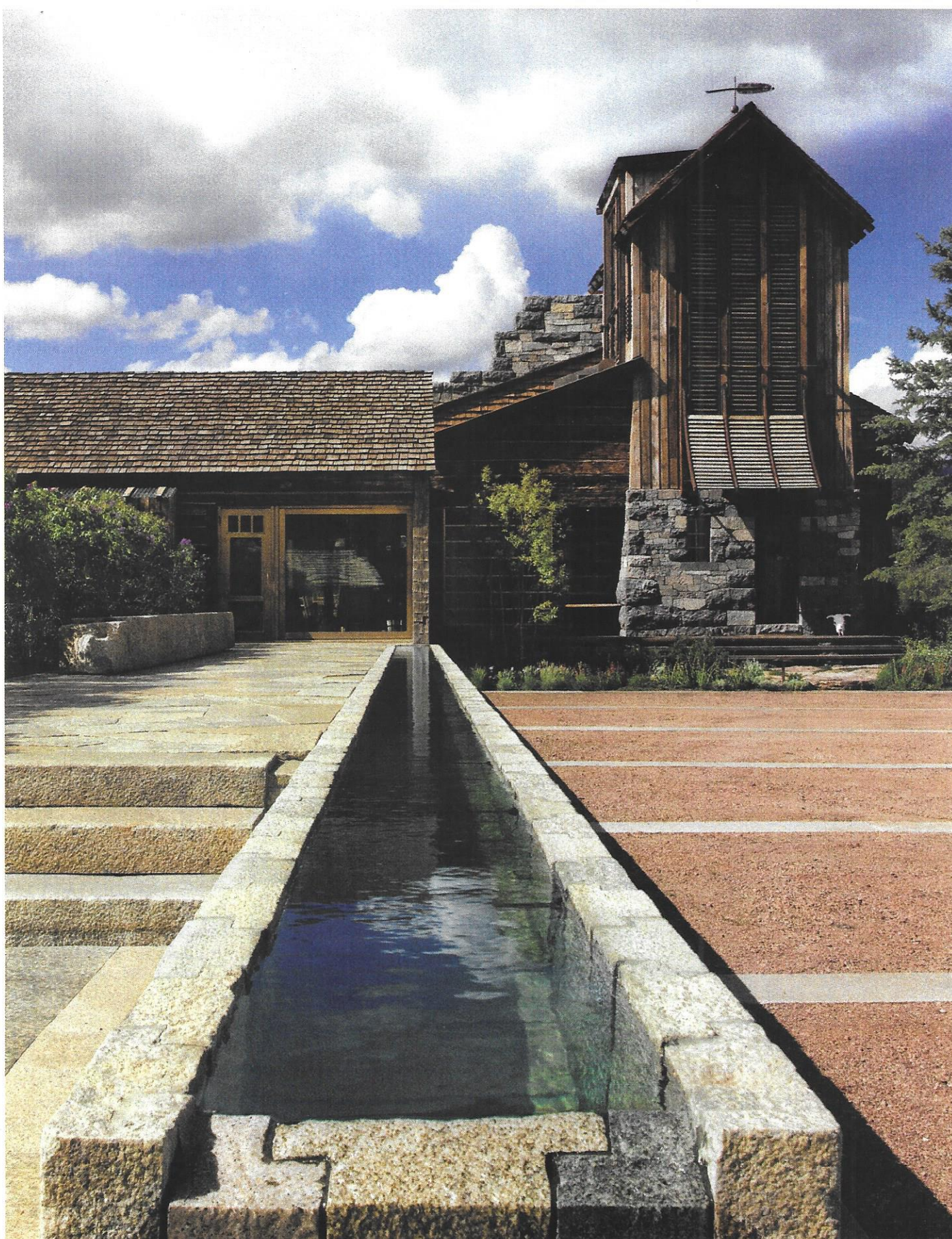
**A**fter deciding he wanted a ranch in the west, a New York financier set out in search of one that would meet the varied criteria of his family. “My wife wanted to be within 30 minutes of a town that had a hospital, restaurants and stores,” he says. “My kids wanted to be within 30 minutes of a major ski resort. I wanted to be in an alpine setting with great views, an abundance of wildlife and a river for trout fishing.” He crisscrossed four states by plane and, two years later, found a 6,000-acre ranch in the Colorado Rockies that fulfilled all of their desires.

A diminutive structure on the ranch dates back to the 1800s. New York designer William Sofield named it “the relic” and says it would have been easy to tear down. “But I loved that trellislike ghost building nestled at the edge of a river,” he says. “A homesteader would have chosen that site because he needed the water. I put the 21st-century main lodge next to it because it was perfectly oriented, even if you lived in less difficult times and wanted to be close to the river simply to enjoy it.”

The original premise was that the main lodge would be built in a log cabin idiom. Sofield preferred a house in three parts: At one end is a great room that features two sitting areas and two fireplaces, with windows and views on three sides, two of which look out to the river. A blackened-steel light fixture, almost 22 feet long and over 10 feet wide, presides monumentally above the space.

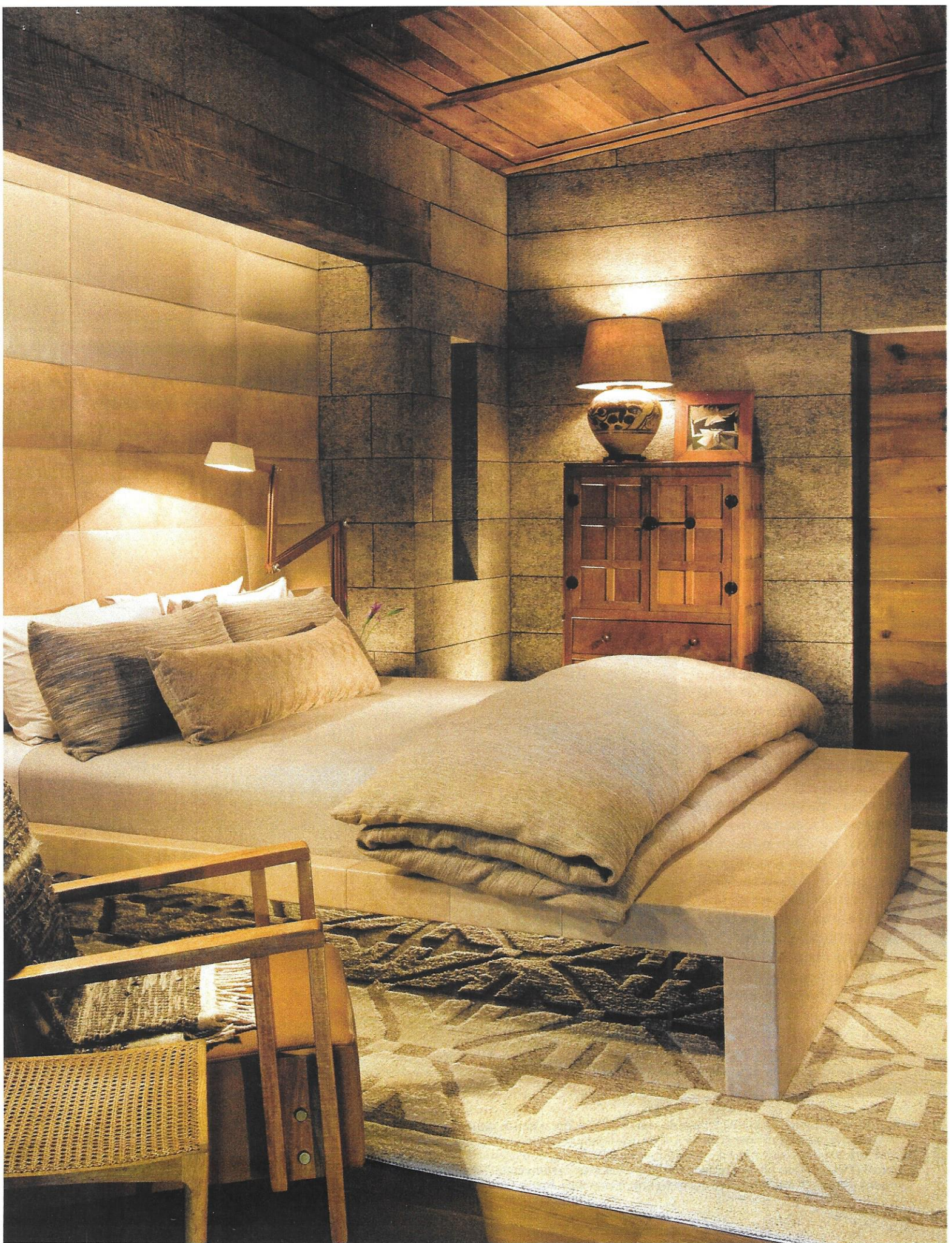
Between the great room and

“Fly-fishing is the main activity on the river,” remarks New York designer William Sofield, who combined ancient stone from China with a western aesthetic for his clients’ 6,500-square-foot ranch house, situated on pristine, rugged acreage high in the central Colorado Rockies.



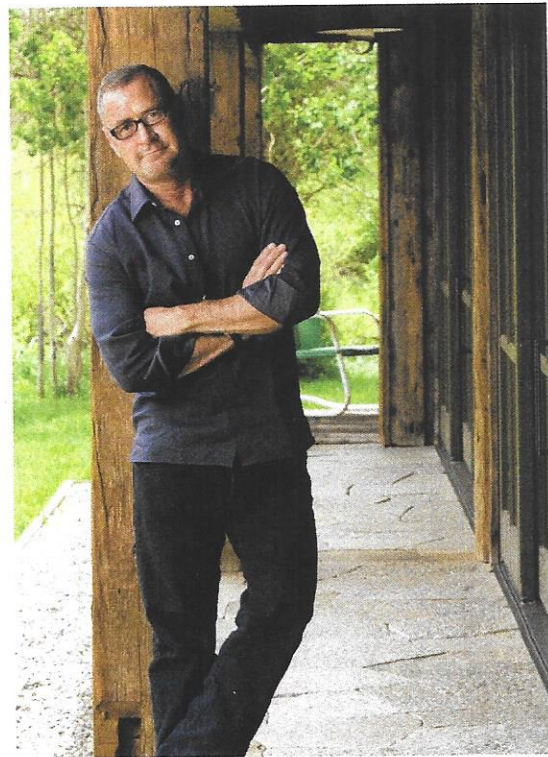
The goal was to reinterpret the vernacular of traditional western homesteads. ABOVE: Madderlake Designs landscaped the grounds and extended a water feature from the front of the main house to double as a trough for horses. Housed within the tower is the client's office; Sofield installed a hand-operated louver system that regulates light intake.

OPPOSITE: Leather-clad furniture predominates in the great room, where Sofield also placed club chairs covered in chatoyant silk. "The fabric has a trompe l'oeil effect that makes it look remarkably like pony," he says. The clients have collected Edward Curtis photographs and Christopher Dresser vases (foreground). Doris Leslie Blau wool-and-silk rug.

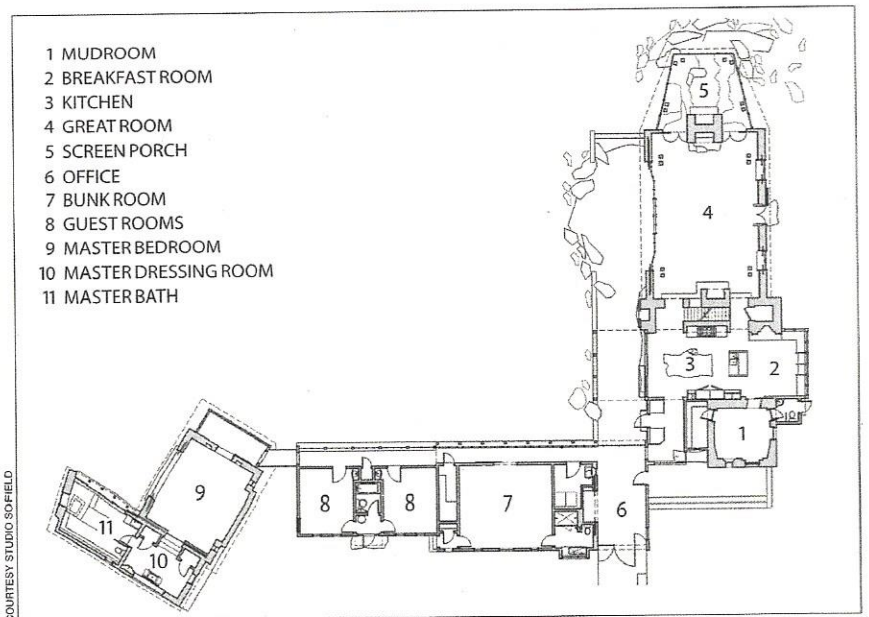








“The buildings are respectful,” declares Sofield (left). “It’s insane to compete with the magnificent landscape you really come out to see.” ABOVE: A patio off the great room commands views of a vast lawn and the distant mountains. Lelièvre fabric on seating. BELOW: Plan of the main house. OPPOSITE: In the master bedroom, with its 12-foot ceilings, walls are made of salvaged granite. Holland & Sherry duvet fabric; Larsen fabric on bolster.



with a rain shower and a plunge pool. “The owners didn’t want a swimming pool,” Sofield says. “They swim in the river, but they ride horses often, and after riding, your muscles ache. A plunge pool suits.”

The master bedroom’s gra-

nite walls are made of street planks from a Chinese city that was flooded by the construction of the Yangtze dam. It’s an elegant variation on the theme of reclaiming materials. The floating platform bed’s tall, saddle-stitched leather

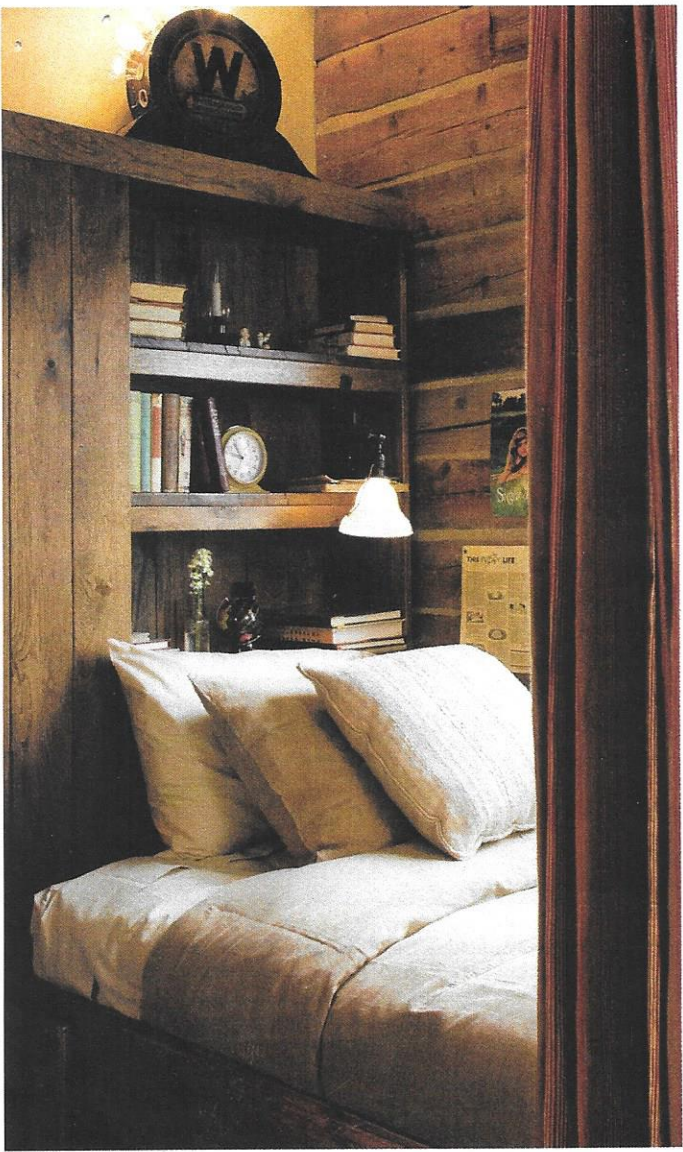
headboard is camel-colored on the bottom portion, pale blue above. This stripe of earth and sky echoes the vista seen through a wall of glass across from the bed.

“Every room in a house should be distinctive,” Sofield

says. “The master bedroom is the most modern, and its ceilings are higher than those in the other bedrooms. Its roof isn’t peaked and shingled, it’s low-pitched sod. Wildflowers grow on the roof. What a glorious sight it is in spring.” □



“When you walk the site, the



### GUEST CABINS

BELOW: The “caboose” guesthouse bears an antique sign announcing Goods, in reference to the sundries stocked in the foyer—bath products, postcards, first aid supplies, soda pop and candy available to guests of the ranch. Over a bunk (above) is a vintage Westinghouse light bulb display. Rogers & Goffigon drapery fabric. RIGHT: A single-room cabin made from reclaimed timber.

