

WESTERN FASHION: NEW LOOKS FOR FALL

THE PREMIER MAGAZINE OF THE WEST

COWBOYS & INDIANS

OCTOBER 2008

Kevin Costner

At His
Aspen Ranch

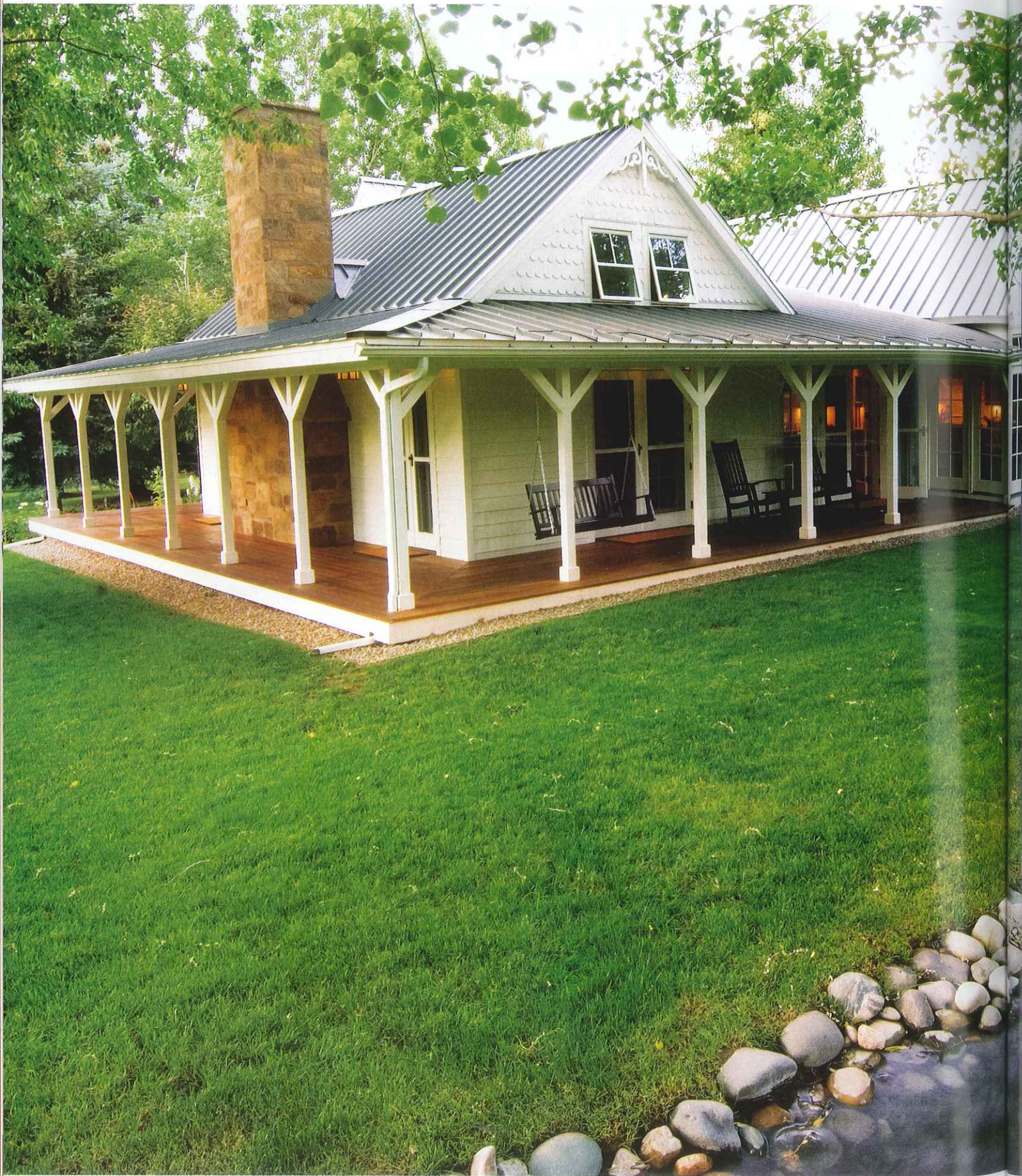
Viggo Mortensen in Appaloosa

Great Western Paintings

Visiting Mesa Verde

www.cowboysindians.com





Aspen Farmhouse

CONTEMPORARY STYLE ADDS TO THE RUSTIC CHARM OF THIS 100-YEAR-OLD FARMHOUSE, CREATING A MODERN RENDITION OF A VICTORIAN CLASSIC.



By Allyn Calton
Photography by Daniel Nadelbach
Styling by Gilda Meyer-Niehof

PERCHED NEATLY ON 3.5 ACRES OF WELL-MANICURED lawn, the charming turn-of-the-century white farmhouse looks like it should be on a postcard. This exquisitely renovated Victorian farmhouse is located just a few miles from the bustling resort of Aspen, Colorado.

"I fell in love with this old farmhouse 20 years ago, but it wasn't for sale," says Jane Smith, an interior designer and the home's present owner. Smith eventually settled for a different house on the same road, but she continued to admire the classic cottage. "My route took me past the farmhouse nearly every day; I imagined how I might renovate the place." In 2004, the farmhouse became available, and Smith jumped at the opportunity.

Originally built in 1902 as a small log cabin, the home had been added onto by various owners over time. "When I bought the property, it was in tragic shape," she says. The home had been remodeled in the 1980s, but that work was now dated. Part of the structure still had old electrical wiring that wasn't up to code, and the logs in the original section of the home were covered by four layers of wood that needed to be painstakingly peeled away. "That was just the start of things," Smith says.

Smith teamed up with architect Gary Ferguson, who helped craft a master plan for the renovation. "I took one look at the place and told Jane it was a jewel waiting to happen," Ferguson says. Smith had a good idea of how she wanted the farm home to look after renovation; Ferguson sketched her ideas on paper. "When we finished the home, it didn't deviate very much from my original drawing. We were both extremely pleased," Ferguson says.

This 1902 Colorado farmhouse has been completely restored inside and out. The wraparound deck, massive stone fireplace, and walls of windows were all part of the exterior renovation.





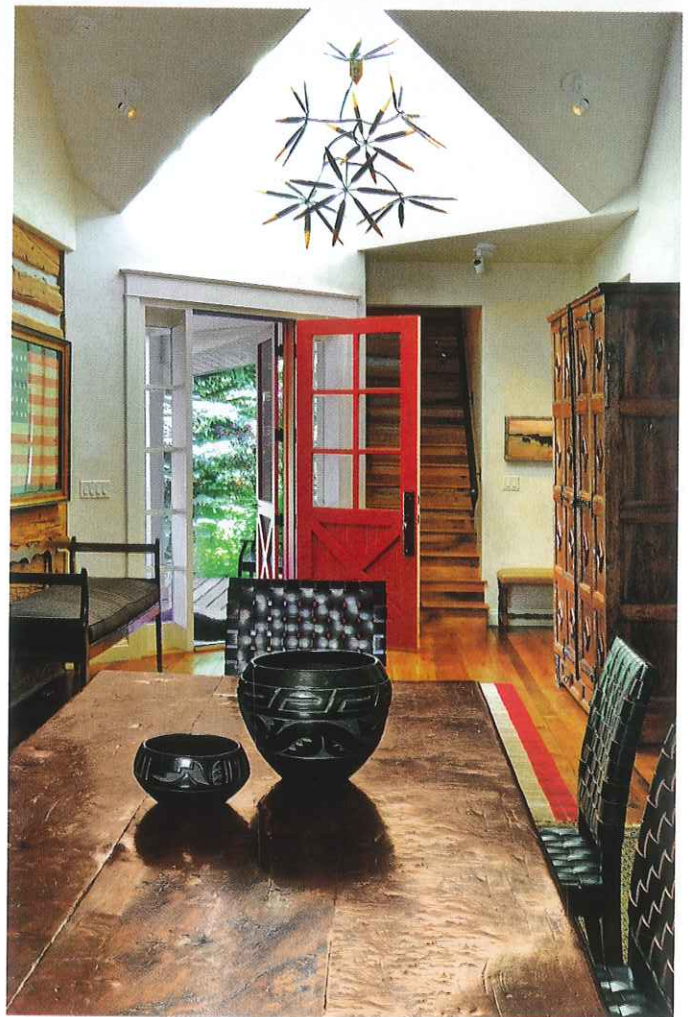


The exterior of the home had some basic appeal, but after more than 100 years it was ready for a facelift. To start, the entire farmhouse had to be lifted off the ground and fitted with a new foundation. Then, a wraparound porch was added, extending from the front of the home along the side, all the way along the back to a set of French doors. Smith also took advantage of a natural pond nearby to create a tranquil watercourse across the grounds. The goal, Smith says, was to create “an inviting and comfortable look for the exterior of the farmhouse that would set the tone for what guests could expect to experience inside.”

The entrance of the home has been turned into the formal dining room, with the dining table directly in line with the main entrance. “The entrance is a huge space that connects the original home to the addition,” Smith says. “It’s unusual to have such a large entry area, and the vaulted ceilings make it look even bigger.” The space is large enough to easily accommodate a 7-by-7-foot mobile made by Colorado-based artist James Surls. “The mobile moves gently with even a slight breeze, creating a nice play of energy,” Smith says.

Above the entrance on the inside of the home, a new turret and skylight provide abundant natural light. To the right of the foyer is the great room; to the left, a stairway leads up to the guest bedroom, and further left a hall leads to the master suite.

OPPOSITE: The great room occupies the original log cabin structure. Four layers of wood paneling had to be removed to reveal the original logs, which were refinished by hand. **TOP:** The kitchen was expanded and framed with floor-to-ceiling paned-glass windows. **RIGHT:** The home’s oversize entry connects the original structure to the addition and is used as the formal dining area.





TOP: Upstairs, the exterior wall of a small bedroom was pushed out to create a large guest suite. **ABOVE:** A Victorian-style bathtub is the focal point of the master bath. **OPPOSITE:** The deck offers 180-degree views of the lawn, horse pasture, and Crown Mountain.

Located in the original structure, the great room is a combination of rustic elements and hints of modern refinement. A wood-burning fireplace was added to the room, complete with a massive farmer's stone chimney rising up through the roof. Unusual pairings dot the room. "I used rustic pieces to honor the age of the home but spiced it up with a scattering of contemporary elements," Smith says.

The oversize leather sofa is softened with comfortable linen cushions. Smith used an antique door from Mexico for the coffee table top and an old oxen yoke for the base and placed two contemporary bronze and red leather stools designed by Christian Liaigre on either side. To the left of the French doors is a contemporary photograph of Canyon de Chelly by famed photographer Jean Pagliuso; to the right, on top of the armoire, sits a primitive-style painting by Paul Pasarella.

The kitchen, which is located in the rear of the house, was pushed out roughly 600 feet and then framed on two sides with walls of paned windows. Outside, the well-manicured grounds and stream create a pastoral scene. "I love the view outside the kitchen," Smith says. Across the way is a picturesque horse pasture with Crown Mountain in the background. Inside, sunlight pours through the windows, highlighting ivory-painted alder cabinets and gleaming oak floors. "I designed the kitchen to draw in and reflect back the surroundings and incorporated natural elements in the décor," Smith says.



For countertops Smith chose Romano verbena granite, which duplicates a natural stone color commonly seen in the area. The table is an antique French pastry table with a marble top and iron and brass base. “People gravitate toward the kitchen—guests want to be in here, relaxing, cooking, enjoying conversation—it’s a wonderful space for entertaining.”

Upstairs a small attic-like space was enlarged to create a charming guest suite. “We pushed the outside wall out a few feet and added a shed dormer, which made enough room to create a sitting area,” Smith says. Antique painted doors from Mexico lead to the suite. Inside, a palette of brown, taupe, and beige warms the room. Along the far wall sits a comfortable brown velvet sofa, and a pair of antique sugarcane-press gears from Indonesia serve as unique accent tables.

The master bathroom combines elements of vintage décor with a full suite of modern convenience. The room’s focal point is an oversize cast-iron bathtub reminiscent of Victorian-era design. To the left, Smith uses a Rajasthan marble decorative bowl from India to hold soap, oils, and salts. Right of the tub sits a tufted brown leather chair.

From every vantage point the inviting farmhouse has been lovingly restored. “It took nearly two and half years, but no detail was overlooked,” says Smith, reclining on the back porch swing and looking out at the peaceful view. “It’s so serene and pastoral here—truly a haven for all seasons.”



Resources

Jane Smith Ltd.

Jane Smith, Interior Designer
(970) 618-1221; www.janesmithinteriors.com

Ferguson Studio Inc.

Gary Ferguson, A.I.A., Architect
(970) 366-6855

Planted Earth

(970) 963-1731; www.plantedearthgardencenter.com