



LAKESIDE CABIN STYLE

Deep within a hardwood forest in rural Tennessee lies a hidden spring-fed lake. The place has a wild hush and ethereal beauty about it, one that is only enhanced by the building that seems to hover above its surface near the shoreline. At once graceful yet grounded, fanciful yet weighty, the structure, with its arched stone supports, angled bracing, and overhanging rusted roof with cupola, integrates into its site in a way that is both novel and harmonious.

The design has an unlikely backstory going back half a century to when the owner, Lee Beaman, was a kid on a six-week family road trip through the American and Canadian West. When they reached the Tetons, Beaman recalls, he was so taken with the spectacular mountain scenery he convinced his parents to stay for a week. He has returned regularly ever since, owning homes in Wyoming and Colorado in the process. In the course of his time in Wyoming, he visited a house that was so of the land, and that so perfectly handled the indoor-outdoor nexus, he was struck. "It really brought the outside indoors, and made you feel you were part of the land," he says. When his dream of finding a private lake near his Nashville home came to fruition, he knew which architect he would call.

It didn't take Paul Bertelli and Logan Leachman of JLF Architects and Design Builders long to realize the extraordinary opportunity the project represented. The owner had scoured topographic maps and realtor listings for years to find the site: a 400-acre parcel an hour from Nashville with a 50-acre private lake at its center. Having owned a home on a government-controlled lake, Beaman had been frustrated by the restrictions and sought a place where he could have a dock right near the house. He also was interested in a lake with clear water, not easy to find in Tennessee during the high heat of summer, that he could reach without battling traffic. The owner of the property had been planning to subdivide after creating the lake, but Beaman successfully negotiated to buy the entire property.

JLF Architects, along with its design-build partner Big-D Construction in Salt Lake City, built the caretaker's house first, envisioning it as a gatehouse through which one drives to access the property. The road meanders through woods and meadows for almost a mile, yielding occasional tantalizing glimpses of the lake as one approaches the house, and terminates at a circular drive on the uphill side of the compoundlike home. There, the lake reveals itself in stages, first through a glass-walled connector between two of the

Homeowner Lee Beaman searched for years to find the perfect site for a lakeside home outside Nashville. He found it on a 400-acre property with a private 50-acre spring-fed lake at its center, then retained JLF Architects and Design Builders to design a one-of-a-kind structure that would make the most of lakeside living. The result, he says, "looks like it belongs there."

masses, and then, once inside, through generous windows and glassed-in areas that link the structures.

Originally conceived as the guesthouse, then expanded slightly to become the main house, the four discrete parts relate to each other and the lake in a way that is more organic and less domineering than might have resulted from other approaches. At one end, near the boat dock, storage shed, and naturalistically hardscaped swimming pool, a self-contained structure hosts three guest bedrooms with their own unimpeded views of the water. The other end of the compound is anchored by the master-bedroom suite, which faces north over the lake (in contrast to the guesthouse's western orientation) and enjoys a private limestone terrace with fire pit at water's edge. At the center lies the main living area, from which a glass-walled bridge accesses the porch.

The grace and presence of the floating porch structure belies the hours of research that went into its design. Many

discussions centered on how exactly to build it the way the architects envisioned. Regulations prohibited draining the lake or creating a coffer dam, while lowering the lake level then raising it afterward would have meant a year of exposed banks. Leachman headed the effort to find a solution, ultimately proposing the winning approach: drive steel piles into the lake bed using a barge-based crane, then place precast stone-faced concrete sleeves over them. Both within and without, the building has both gravitas and grace. Usable in all seasons (thanks to interchangeable screens and windows and the introduction of heat), the room can be enjoyed in all weather, for reading, entertaining, or watching the myriad waterfowl that take refuge on the lake.

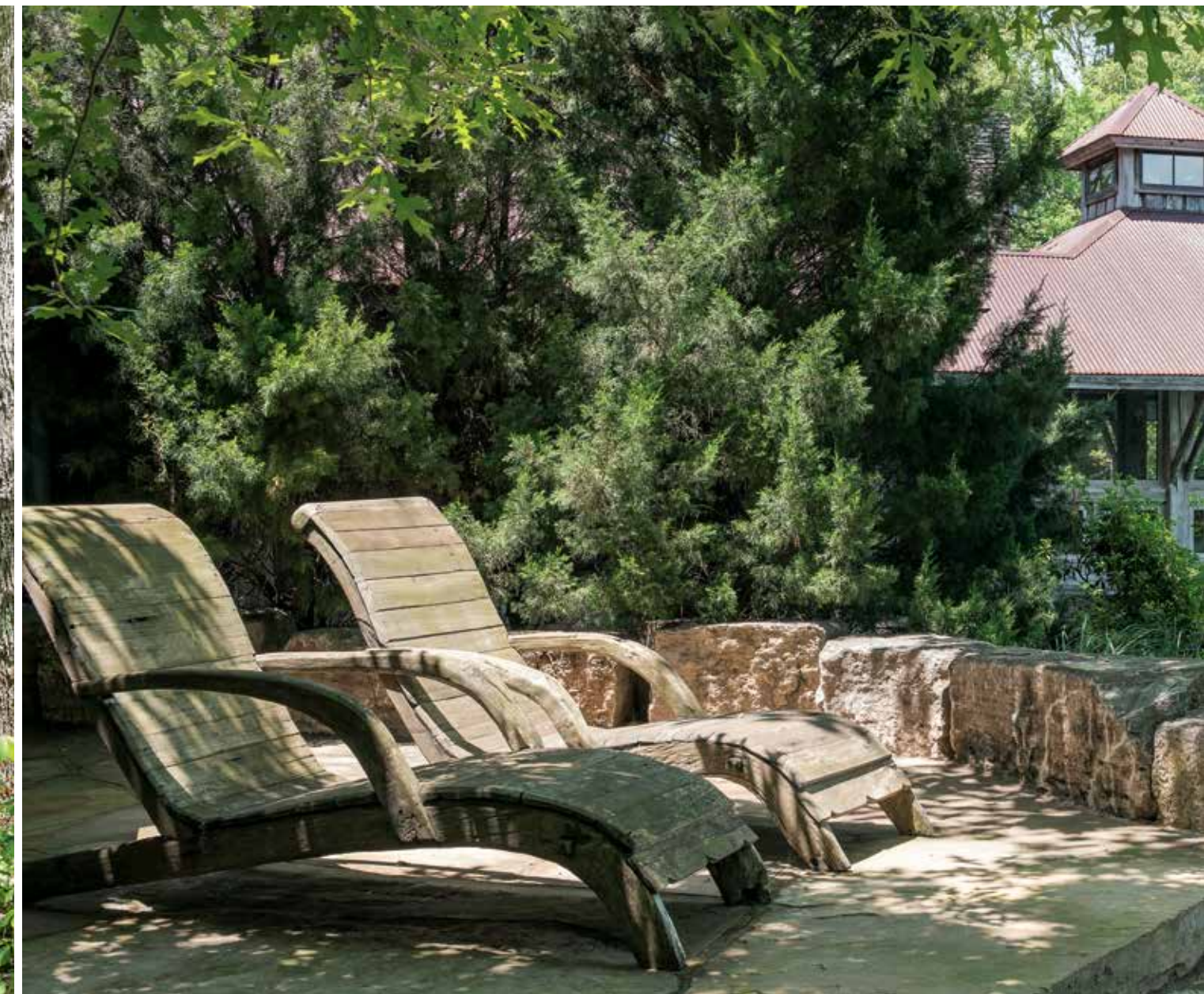
From porch to living room to bedrooms, the material palette is consistent, unifying the forms with exteriors of reclaimed siding and timbers, stacked limestone walls, and overhanging rusted

Corten steel roofs. Cupolas and stacked stone chimneys add visual interest to the rooflines. The interiors are defined by doors, flooring, and timbers of richly hued reclaimed chestnut sourced from a dilapidated barn the architecture team located and purchased near the Tennessee-Kentucky border. In furnishings, Beaman was seeking comfort and a timeless appeal. This was achieved with the help of designers Roger Higgins and Ann Shipp, who decorated the rooms with antiques, hooked rugs, flea-market finds, and comfortable leather-and-chenille-upholstered furniture.

The compound has a palpable, time-standing-still quality. When you enter the property, notes Leachman, "you feel like

you've left it all behind. You don't see any other structures or power lines—nothing." Then you reach the house and contemplate the porch element as it appears to float over the surface of the water. The grounded strength lent by the stone base balances with the cantilevered floor and overhanging roof, which serves both a practical purpose as protection from sun and rain, as well as an aesthetic one. "From the heavy base to the roofline the effect is delicate yet substantial," says Leachman. "We wanted it to look like it wasn't going anywhere." In that they were successful. The home not only looks as though it has always been there, as Lee Beaman notes, "It looks like it belongs."

Struck by the strong sense of place exhibited in a Wyoming residence designed by JLF Architects, Beaman recruited the Montana-based firm and its design-build partner Big-D Construction to design his home in Tennessee. "I really liked the idea of architect and contractor working hand in hand," he says. Sited in multiple components linked by glass connectors and limestone patios along the edge of the private lake, the home makes the most of its water's-edge placement while blending with the landscape rather than dominating it.





The home, built with reclaimed wood and timbers, stacked limestone and Corten steel, roofs with cupolas, and stacked chimneys is comprised of four main components: three guest bedrooms on one side facing west over the water; the master bedroom suite facing north on the opposite end of the compound; the living area in a larger central structure; and a distinctive floating porch where the stone base, explains JLF project manager and architect Logan Leachman, gives it a “grounded strength.”



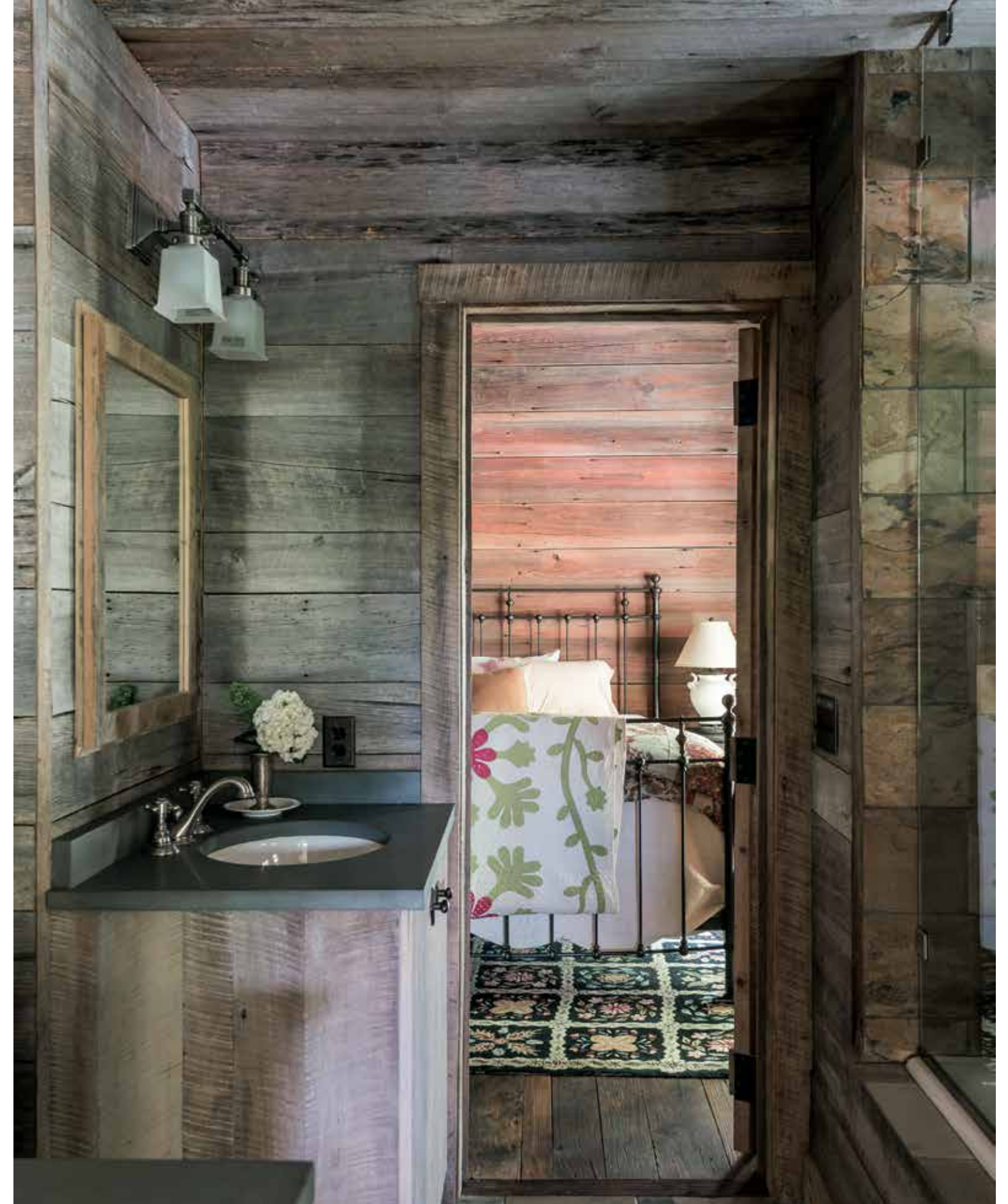
FACING: The interiors are characterized by richly hued chestnut boards used for the floors, doors, and timbers. The wood came from a dilapidated barn near the Tennessee-Kentucky border.

ABOVE: The homeowner and designers Roger Higgins and Ann Shipp sourced antiques, hooked rugs, and found items to lend a sense of history while also upholstering furniture in textural fabrics and leather for comfort and durability. The large oil painting is by Chris Reilly.

RIGHT: An antique daybed provides the perfect fall-asleep-while-reading spot. Antiques like the Dutch chairs around the dining table give the lakeside camp a feel of timelessness.

FACING: The vaulted-ceiling porch, accessed by a glass and timber bridge, extends over the water. Protective overhangs shield the room from the heat of the southern sun in the winter, while screen panels allow the air to flow freely, aided by vintage-looking fans. In the winter the screens can be swapped out for glass and the heat turned on for year-round comfort. Palecek ottomans provide extra seating yet can be tucked out of the way when not in use.



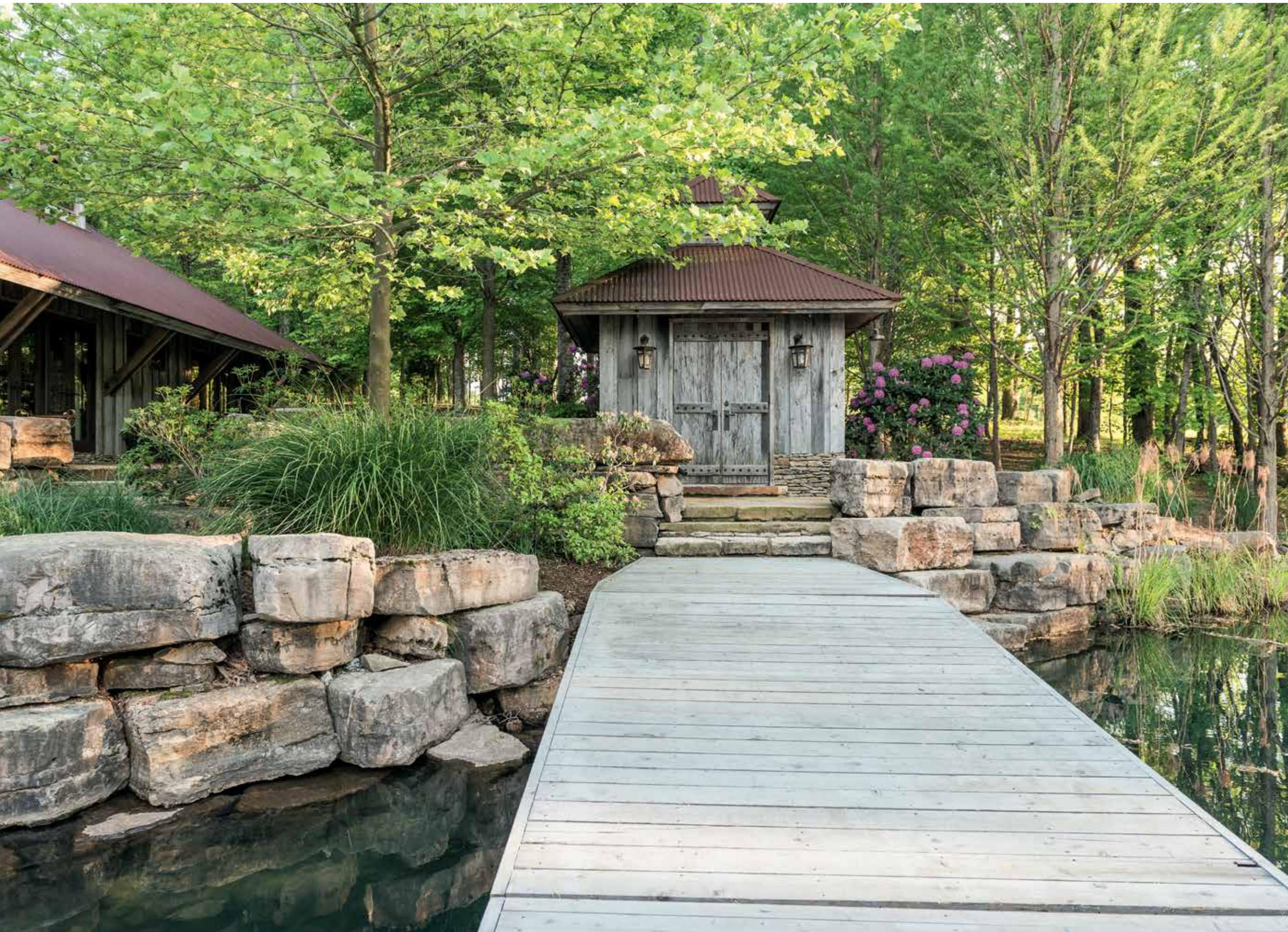


FACING: An efficient kitchen keeps everything within reach. The custom cabinets, made of beech by Big-D Construction in Salt Lake City, set against the darker chestnut floors impart a light and airy feel.

ABOVE: In a simple bed and bathroom with a clean design, an antique brass bed and vintage textiles convey a country charm.



“In the winter, it feels warm and inviting with the fireplaces,” says the owner. He wanted to decorate with old pieces, many of which were found at flea markets. “If we wanted the house to feel like it was old,” he explains, “the furnishings needed to look old and fit right in.”



Local builder James Humphrey dug the 55-foot-deep lake and unearthed the rocks and boulders used around the property. Natural landscaping helps the buildings integrate into their site on the edge of a hardwood forest. The property attracts a multitude of wildlife and birds species, including bald eagles.

