

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

WINTER 2010

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

Rustic Chic

Luxe Living in the Country

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP:
Outdoor Fireplaces

Jim Schmid Photography





Rustic Chic

Photography by Jim Schmid

IT'S A GRADUAL, BUT RELATIVELY QUICK PROCESS

to distance yourself from the hustle and bustle of Charlotte as you head North on Highway 321 toward the sleepy town of Lincolnton. The mountains begin to reveal themselves beyond the gently rolling pastures and rural scenes that dot the landscape as you head away from Charlotte. Then, you exit the freeway, drive through a quaint little downtown that you'd swear was where Michael J. Fox went back to the future, make a few turns here and there, driving past historic Victorian homes then more farmland, and the road opens up, as one last separation between a smaller city still and your destination.

Then, one last turn off a winding country road, over a gravel driveway, past a pond, and there you are... in the middle of 125 beautiful acres. The house sits on a slight hill toward the back of the property. As you approach the home, two things immediately hit you. The first thing you notice is the home resembles an old country train station. A cupola sits above a low hipped, slate roof, and a screened porch faces a Western exposure—perfect for sunsets and Pinot Noir on crisp fall evenings.



...and so it goes throughout the rest of the home. A juxtaposition of old and new. High couture and rustic elegance.



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ne of the next things you notice is the beautiful cottage garden that surrounds the home. The eclectic colors, fragrances and shapes almost force you to slow down one last time before you enter the home. It's as if the home is asking you slow down one last time before you cross its threshold. Then, you enter the home, and you are surrounded by a sense of beauty and style that is anything but, what you might expect in a mountain or country home. This place is chic—Rustic chic.

It is the masterpiece of several creative minds—the two homeowners that have a passion for art, one of which is a furniture designer by trade, the other a banking professional with a penchant for art and antiques. The house designer was Allen Brooks of ALB Architecture, the contractor was Marilyn “Pete” Mangum of M. Pete Inc., and the interior designer was Aida Saul of Luxe Home Couture.

“The home was originally designed to be a guest house,” said Pete Mangum. “But then the homeowners started using the home and enjoying it, and then the recession hit. By then, they were used to the smaller scale and luxury of the home, so they decided to use it as a weekend home, and delay the construction of the larger residence.”

The house is roughly 2,000 square feet. You enter through a covered vestibule. To the right is a small, but open kitchen with white-washed maple cabinets, granite countertops and a red glass tile backsplash. An antique pot rack is surrounded by high-tech task lighting.

Beautiful artwork that was collected locally and through the homeowner's extensive travels draws you into the home's living space and invites you to study its details.





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The home's interior walls and ceilings are covered in reclaimed antique barn siding. The master suite is off to the right, a dining and living space in the center and guest bedroom is off to the left. A loft overlooks the living room below and is accessible by a ladder.

The first thing you notice as you enter the living room is the oversized fireplace. Standing five feet tall, it is the dominant feature of the living area.

"The fireplace was redesigned to be larger than originally planned, to accommodate the scale of the antique fireplace end irons," said Aida Saul, the interior decorator on the project.

Other inspiration came from the chandelier in the dining room. Originally a flea market find, the piece features three colored glass globes surrounded by wrought iron. "The colors of the globes are so beautiful that we chose to use similar colors throughout the living space and a style that is slightly more contemporary," said Saul. Two beautiful translucent fabric panels with multi-colored leaves etched in a gold piping hang from the ceiling of the living room, separating the dining room from the living area.

A mixture of eclectic and antique furniture is found throughout the home. There are no cute bears with fishing poles in this space. Many of the pieces were made by one of the homeowners or collected from the St. Eulalie antique district in Quebec, near where the couple has a second home. Artwork is from local artists and several Charlotte galleries. "One of the homeowners is a passionate art collector," added Pete Mangum.

But you get a sense that the decorating is incredibly well thought out despite the relaxed and inviting nature of the space.

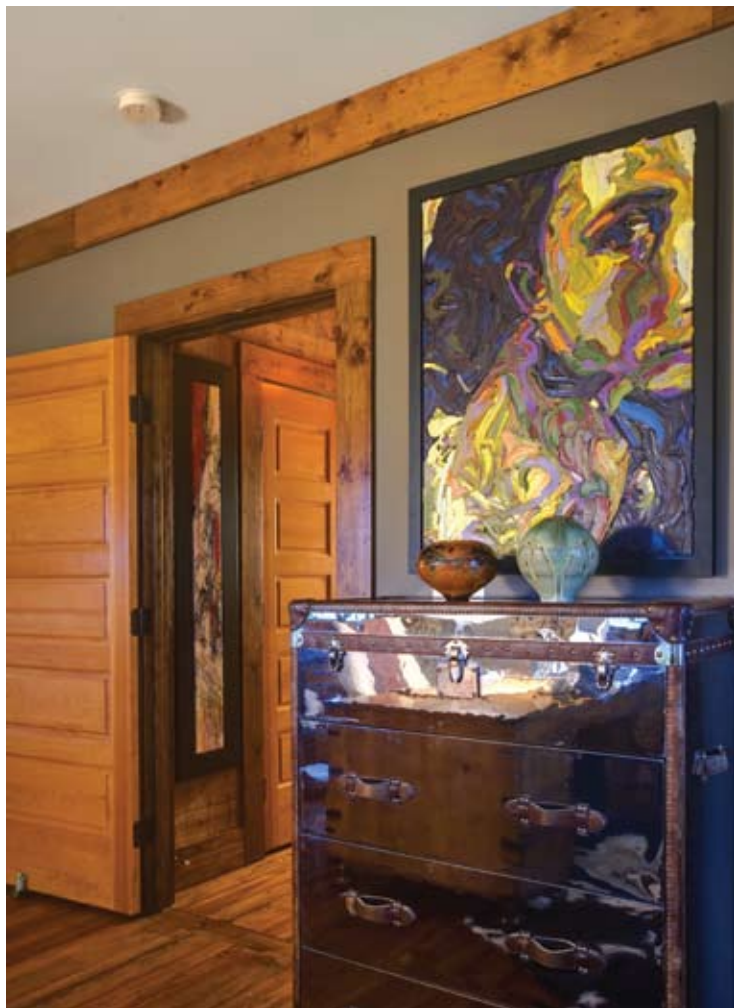




“Good interior design should start with pieces that anchor a space then it should be progressively layered with items that add beauty and the finishing touches. I like to create spaces that are very fluid and that comes from creating tension and contrast between items,” said Saul. “Layering accomplishes this. Good interior decorating is not about creating matchy-matchy spaces. What’s especially nice about this home is the eclectic style of the homeowners is reflected in their garden and it then carries into the home with their artwork and handmade furniture.”

The end result is an incredibly comfortable yet stylish retreat. ❖







BUILDING RESOURCES

Interior Designer: Aida Saul, Luxe Home Couture
General Contractor: Marilyn "Pete" Mangum, M. Pete Inc.
Architect: Allen Brooks, ALB Architecture

DESIGN RESOURCES

Pool Area

Sculpture: Thomas Sayre, Artist. Joie Lassiter Galleries

Dining Room

Table: Homeowner. City Supply Custom Woodworking
Light Fixture: Flea Market Find
Chairs: Mitchell Gold
Wire Bird Sculpture: Joie Lassiter Galleries

Living Room

Side Table: City Supply
White Arm Chairs: Baker
Sofa: Restoration Hardware
Stone Light: Custom Made
Cocktail Table: Baker

Guest Bedroom

Armoire: Homeowner. City Supply Custom Woodworking
Bed: Homeowner. City Supply Custom Woodworking
Rug: Luxe Home Couture
Side chair and table: Luxe Home Couture

Master Bedroom Sitting Area

Lamps near bed: Luxe Home Couture
Mirrored chest: Luxe Home Couture
Rug: Spinneybeck
Sofa: Baker
Chair: Mitchell Gold
Drapes: Luxe Home Couture

Master Bedroom

Bed: Baker with custom leather
Bedside Table: Homeowner. City Supply Custom Woodworking
Lamps: Tuesday Morning

Miscellaneous Light fixtures

Hallway: Dilworth Antique Lights

Porch

Sofa: Frontgate
Lamps: Luxe Home Couture
Turquoise Pots: Luxe Home Couture

