

INSIDE: What's Hot and Happening in the New West

JACKSON HOLE

The Magazine of the Tetons

Summer-Fall 2000 \$3.95

Call of the Wild

Roaming wolves
trigger conflicts

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

**Grand Teton Park turns 50
Flatlander tackles the Grand
Geyser gazers love hot water
Tarantula drives trout wild**

Old World meets New West

Designer Bernadine Caruso
blends Old World elegance
with Western lifestyles



Bernadine Caruso

GARTH DOWLING

FOUR YEARS AGO, DESIGNER BERNADINE CARUSO BOARDED the Paris metro for the *Puces de St-Ouen*, an area boasting the city's oldest flea markets. "I was expecting a lot of knick-knack junk," she says. As she strolled through milling crowds, colorful market stalls and high-end shops, however, her heart quickened. "There were a lot of garden elements, from chairs to stone tile to benches and old fountains. Also a lot of hardware and antique furnishings. My eyes lit up."

Creating an Old World style with antiques is what Caruso has done most recently in two family homes. Her current project, her Jackson Hole Elk Camp, shows off fine European antiques inside a rustic lodge designed by local architect Larry Berlin. Caruso wasn't interested in the cookie-cutter Western look of oversized sofas, antler chandeliers and furnishings decorated with bowlegged cowboys. "I wanted the interior to embrace the feeling of the understated elegance of a turn-of-the-century gentleman's lodge," she said. Since European furnishings are limited in this valley, she purchased treasures in New York,

Right, Caruso used antique French bricks to build her pizza oven, the focal point of the kitchen. At four minutes a pizza, she can serve a party of forty-five quickly. Caruso also cooks lamb, birds and salmon in her oven.

STORY BY ELIZABETH CLAIR FLOOD
INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS BY
PETER WOLOSZYNSKI





in London, and at the Paris flea market. Silver pheasants, English bath fixtures, a late 18-century mahogany coat stand, and 20-pound bronze ducks from the Covent Gardens in London help create a sophisticated, but informal ambiance.

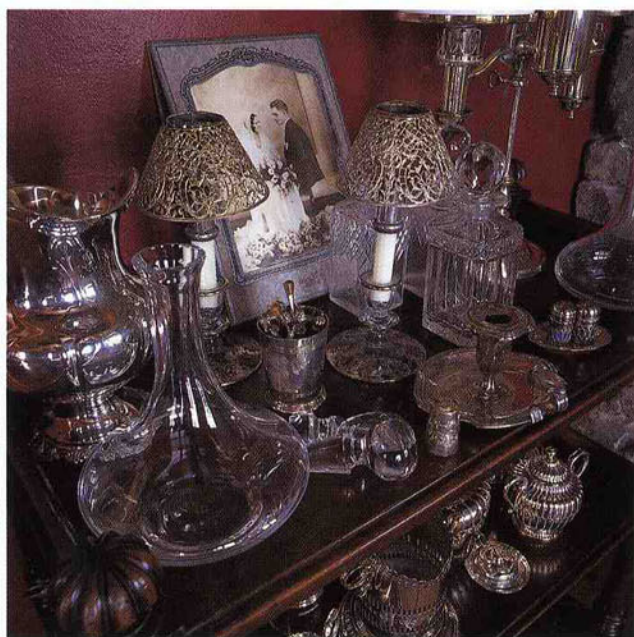
"I love the hunt," Caruso says, of her shopping sprees for antiques.

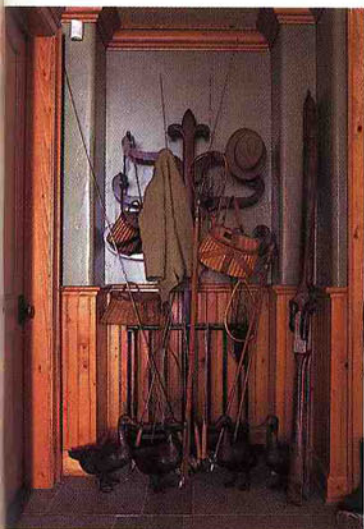
Recently, Caruso established her own Jackson design firm, Interiors By Bernadine. She works with clients and their architects to "select details that can make any home at any budget a unique place." As she discovered, building and designing a home in Jackson can be a daunting project. "Because we don't have much history in Jackson Hole, it is difficult to put your hands on anything here," says Caruso, who discovered that buying Old World antiques and accessories in this valley is nearly impossible.

By traveling, Caruso believes people can expand their imaginations beyond the traditional cowboy look. "It is through travel that you see things and reinvent your ideas," she says. Caruso discovered that items such as a painted French armoire in her daughter's room and a 1920s French barroom mirror in her dining room don't look out of place in her rustic Jackson home. Nor does

Above, Caruso mixes and matches unlikely items. Against a moss rock wall, she hung a 1920s French barroom mirror and sets a Chippendale-style table with family silver.

Left, Caruso enjoys using antique silver. It works equally well in formal and informal settings. "There is no reason why silver can't be used on a simple pine table," she said.



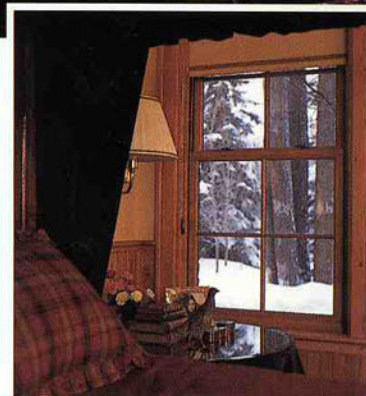
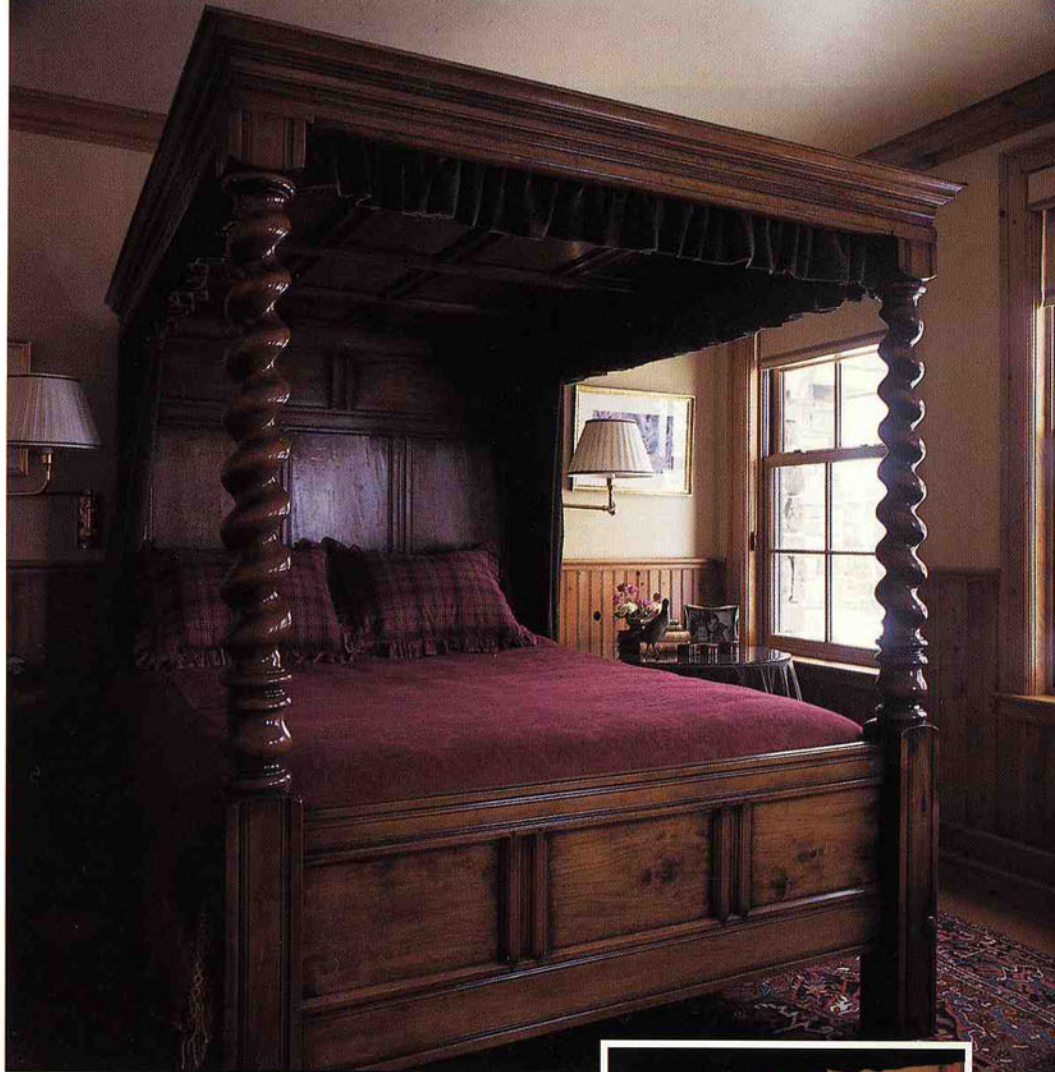


A late 18th-century mahogany coat stand is a beautiful and functional addition to the mud room. The cast bronze ducks are from the Covent Gardens in London.

the silver on the table. "We use our silver every day. The silver actually looks better with use. Life is too short to just look at it," she says.

"I'm a sponge when I travel," Caruso continues. "There are so many design elements one can absorb." From architectural accents on a European farmhouse to the silk wallpaper in Puccini's house in Italy, Caruso captures ideas that can be incorporated into homes out West. Even observing camels dressed in vibrant blankets crossing a sea of sand in Morocco inspires her interior style.

Caruso finds that the success of a project is always in the details. "It is the details that transform that massive hunk of house into



Top, an antique four-poster bed makes an inviting retreat for guests. Above, a comfortable balance between indoors and outdoors makes a western home special. Left, Caruso uses antiques to create a timeless decor. A whimsical vanity holds bathroom accessories. She discovered the parrots, made from butterfly wings, at a Paris flea market.

Some people think Teton Valley
is just a tiny blip on the map.
...are we that big already?



This land is your land.

(208) 354-2348

189 N. Main Driggs, ID 83422

Fax: 208.354.8125

Email: arwest@arwest.com

www.arwest.com

Teton Valley, Idaho, is not Jackson Hole. It is not Vail. It is not Aspen. It is a quiet, secluded valley, nestled at the base of the Grand Teton mountain range. So, while you won't find congested roadways, exorbitant land prices and overcrowded home sites, you will find beautiful hiking trails, secret fishing holes and unbeatable views.

American Realty West is proud to offer private showings of beautiful ranch and home sites for sale in this area. Give us a call today at 208.354.2348.

a personal expression," she says. Recycled wood, antique hardware and old nails; all make a difference. And juxtaposing weathered antique beams, barn wood and moss rock stone with quality furnishings makes a house interesting. "In our house," she says, "there is layer upon layer of details, from the old-fashioned bent glass used in the kitchen cabinets, to the crown moldings, coffered ceilings and wide plank recycled flooring secured by old style square nails."

Caruso appreciates architectural details such as an archway or the way brick is used on the floor of a Paris bistro. In her own home, she designed a pizza oven with old bricks she discovered in France. The mustard color and shape of the pizza oven were inspired by ancient, irregular French brick designs.

"I don't want to scare people off who might think that antiquity is too costly," she says. "Often old things are comparable to new, but the old has a wonderful patina that a new product doesn't." With a little lead time and planning, a person can find something spectacular rather than a predictable reproduction. Because period items hold their value, "they are an investment," she says.

Caruso says people shouldn't worry about bringing antiques to the dry air of Jackson Hole. State-of-the-art humidifiers can be added to any house. Or, for a less-expensive option, "you can buy a little humidifier at the hardware store that sits in any room," she says.

When designing a home, Caruso suggests plotting the interior design simultaneously. She advises drawing a map of the interior and sketching in furniture you have and furniture you would like to acquire. "If you don't plan for certain pieces, you can get lost," she says. "To do it this way, you need to have a little patience."

Caruso suggests looking at magazines and identifying what you like. "Then start buying, piece by piece. Pick pieces over time, pieces that you like. One great piece can make a room. An



Char-Ral Floral
Jackson Hole's only full service floral shop

180 North Center, Jackson, Wyoming
(307) 733-2500 • (800) 950-3877



old stone sink can be the focal point of a simple kitchen," she says. "From there you can add accessories such as old plates and neat containers for utensils." Accent pieces are often inexpensive, yet they can pull the look together.

Even the simplest home or condo can benefit from a few carefully selected details. "There are choices you can make in tile and flooring and even in accessories, plumbing fixtures and hardware that don't have to read so 'everyday,'" Caruso says. A free-standing antique can often substitute for built-in cabinets, or the doors on new cabinets and cupboards can be replaced with more rustic ones. "The choices are there," she says.

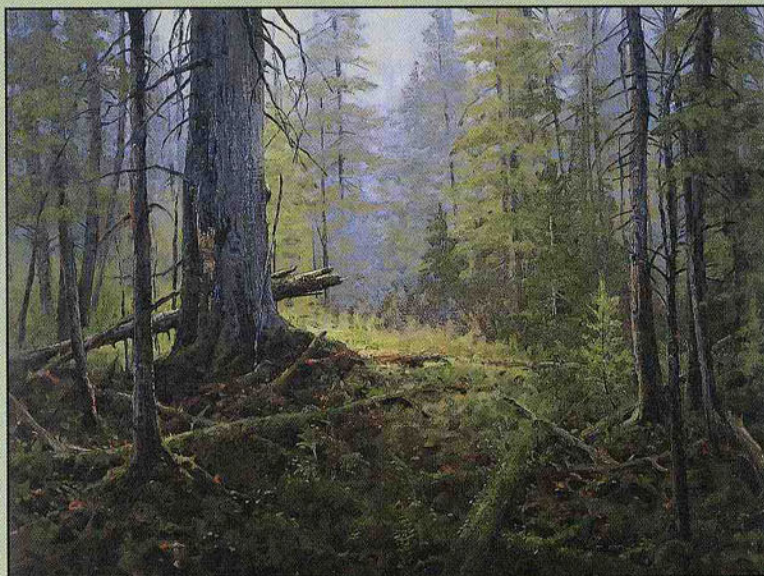
One of difficulties of shopping globally is knowing the ins and outs of the shipping business. If you fall in love with a 1930 Art Deco leather couch in Paris, how on earth do you get the piece home without spending more than you paid for it? Happily, Caruso has created a rapport with certain dealers abroad and has had enough experience that she can arrange for things to be shipped in a cargo container or by air mail. Again, patience is in order. But in the end, a number of antiques or one quality piece can transform a predictable western interior into a unique and personal space.

While Caruso doesn't embrace trendy Western elements, she does believe a Western home should be comfortable, not intimidating. "The warmth that you create by having the quality of craftsmanship and good furniture around you is not restricted to a formal atmosphere," she says. "Sometimes people try too hard to create high-quality interiors without the warmth of antiques and custom features, and they get that I-can't-touch-it approach.

"I still want people to feel they can walk into their home in waders or boots."

Elizabeth Clair Flood lives in Wilson and is author of Cowboy High Style, Rocky Mountain Homes and Cowboys & The Trappings of the Old West.

JIM WILCOX



"Generations"

30" x 40" Oil

Wilcox Gallery

"A GALLERY APART"

Showing works by 25 nationally known artists

Jackson's largest gallery now in its 32nd year

Open 9a.m. - 6p.m. • Monday-Saturday

Phone: 307.733.6450

P.O. Box 712 • 1975 N. Highway 89 • Jackson, WY 83001

1 mile north of Jackson

WorryFree



Rendezvous Mountain Rentals offers worry free property management and lodging services. If you are looking for a great vacation rental, or an experienced company to take excellent care of your new Jackson Hole property, call or e-mail today!



**RENDEZVOUS
MOUNTAIN
RENTALS**

& PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

888.739.2565 • 307.739.9050

P. O. Box 11338 • Jackson, WY 83002

Website: www.rmrentals.com • E-mail: lodging@rmrentals.com