TO THE POINT

Bringing family and friends together is the basis for pair of newly built structures on a rural historic farm.

Written by Patti Bailey / Photography by Andrew Kung

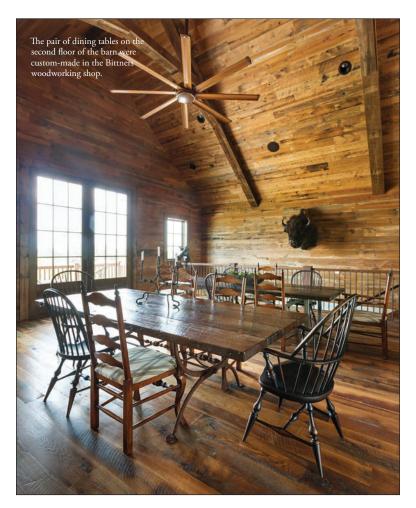


Deep in the heart of the Bluegrass, two families came together to create a unique compound on a 1,000-acre farm that is dually utilized for recreation and agricultural pursuits. Scattered throughout the undulating landscape, which is graced with an 80-acre lake and numerous ponds, are several structures, the oldest being a restored cabin (parts of which date to the early 1800s), and the newest, just a few years old, are a workshop/bunkhouse and a large barn/bunkhouse. The new kids on the farm, which boast interiors artfully composed by Amy Cimba of Bittners, are appropriately rustic, while maintaining comfortable and chic touches that reflect the personal tastes of the families that inhabit each.

Sharing a similar floorplan of a central two-story living space flanked by garages and storage space on either side, both the workshop (designed by architect Tim Winters), and the barn (credited to Tennessee architect Steve Durden), were built by Aaron Esposito of Esposito Construction. While the pair of structures also share a number of interior design elements (a given in this rural setting), it is the scale and site placement of each that makes them truly unique. The cozier workshop is nestled among the trees just below a small rise that falls off sharply to a creek; the barn is located at the heart of the farm, and its scale appears even more grand in this pastoral setting.







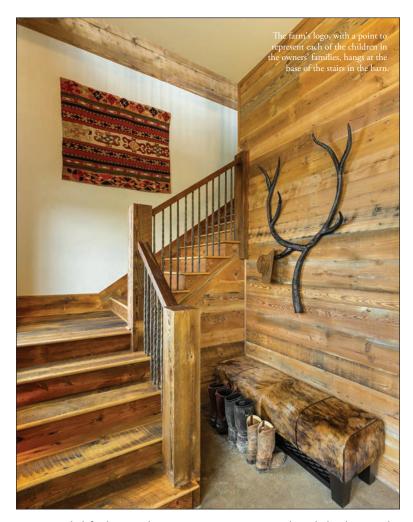
The workshop's open concept floorplan includes a combination kitchen and living space on the first floor and an upstairs bunkroom that is able to accommodate up to eight guests, via built-in bunkbeds and a queen-sized bed with a custom headboard fashioned from exotic hardwoods by the Bittners woodworking studio.

On both floors, Cimba balanced more rustic elements—stacked-stone fireplaces with live edge wood mantels, reclaimed hardwood floors from Longwood Antique Woods, and a kitchen island wrapped in weathered barn wood—with polished details, including blue leather upholstery on the sofas in the living room, stainless steel appliances, and gleaming glassware etched with the farm's logo. Resembling a cross between a tree branch and deer antlers, the logo is designed with a point to represent each of the seven children in the owners' families.

The understated appearance of the barn belies the luxurious living spaces concealed within its monochromatic exterior. From floor-to-ceiling, there is an extensive use of reclaimed wood, sourced from both Longwood Antique Woods and salvaged from other structures on the farm.

On the ground level, the walls in the more "formal" living room are clad in wood salvaged from a barn on property. The elevated hearth is fashioned from a slab of limestone. Cimba chose to cover the traditionally styled sofas in linen-colored Sunbrella upholstery for durability. She selected a pair of leather armchairs with fringe detail to "add a little bit of cowboy" to the room.





Intended for large-scale entertaining, a commercial-grade kitchen on the second floor is adjacent to a sprawling vaulted living and dining area, with nearly every surface covered in reclaimed wood. Alternating Windsor and ladder-back chairs pulled up to a pair of Bittners-made dining tables lend a casually collected feel to the thoughtfully designed space. An iron faux bois chandelier is centered overhead between a pair of ceiling fans from Lexington's Big Ass Fans. Natural variations in the barn wood planks make them ideal for concealing doors to storage spaces and the elevator. In order to accommodate additional overnight guests beyond the lucky few who call dibs on the second-floor bedroom, Cimba selected a sleeper sofa from Lee Industries to anchor the seating area in the living room.

In similar fashion to its newly built neighbor, Cimba worked with the owners to find creative ways to work the farm's logo into varying aspects of the interior design. Its most direct application can be spied as soon as you enter the residential portion of the barn. Made from forged iron, the logo-turnedart hangs on a wall near the stairs to the second floor, serving as a poignant reminder that the property is above all a treasured family retreat.

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