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# Living Large on the Ranch

The romance of the range hasn't changed,  
but the lifestyle just keeps getting better.



By Lynne Long

## Ranch Style Source

Ranch homes/offices require a special savvy to complete a unique design package. For over 12 years, Hill Country Interiors has filled a niche that offers their clients an inventory of Western, Hill Country, and Old World styles that will change the everyday into a celebration of the good life. Beautiful iron and antler chandeliers, mirrors, artwork, and rugs will intensify your décor and add the perfect finishing touch. Free design services are available and



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## The Ross Angus Ranch

The Ross Angus Ranch is a 193-acre, working cattle ranch located in southeast Texas. Situated just south of historic Montgomery, this handsome spread is about an hour from Bush International Airport. The land is fenced and cross-fenced and includes a stocked lake, several ponds, improved pastures, and scattered hardwoods. Also included are two barns and cattle handling facilities.

The ranch's spacious 4600 square foot, Texas style home boasts a great room with a soaring, wood-paneled ceiling and stone fireplace, which opens to a large dining area and an island kitchen with a walk-in pantry. The master suite has a large window overlooking the pool, a roomy master bath, and a huge walk-in closet. Each of the other three bedrooms has its own full bath. The third floor includes a crow's nest. This extra room offers panoramic views of the ranch. A colonnaded porch completes the welcome for this premium property.

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## Rocky Mountain Ranches

A rustic ranch nestled in the heart of the Rockies is a home that pays homage to some of the most beautiful natural handiwork our world has to offer. These mountain homes offer all of this and more.

The Sound of Music Ranch is an awe-inspiring location. Just minutes from Telluride, Colorado, it is situated at 9,000 feet with the high prop-



Lush alpine meadows  
and groves of aspen  
provide a habitat  
for elk, mule deer,  
and coyotes.

erty looking down on river valleys and looking up to Wilson, El Diente, Ophir Needles peaks, and the Saint Sophia Range. The property, which includes 1,724 acres, is a picturesque, chaste, slice of the mountains that can only be described as breathtaking.

When the owner, William Carstens, first visited the ranch, he was inspired by the majesty all around him. "I had traveled in the Austrian Alps and had seen the location where The Sound of Music was filmed," he relates. "When in 1986, I first stepped out on Wilson Mesa and began to take in the panoramic view of the 14,000-foot San Juan Mountain peaks surrounding it, I expected Julie Andrews and the children to pop out of an aspen grove and begin singing. It's about that spectacular."

The area includes lush alpine meadows and groves of aspen and pine which provide a habitat for two resident elk herds, mule deer, coyotes, an occasional black bear or mountain lion, and countless small mammals and birds. Once used as a cattle ranch, the property has not been grazed in the past four years. This fertile environment has produced a vibrant mosaic of plant life.

The abundant wildlife, especially the elk herds, impelled Carstens to overlay the property with San Miguel County's first conservation easement. The easement, which is in favor of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, is designed to ensure healthy elk habitat and minimize

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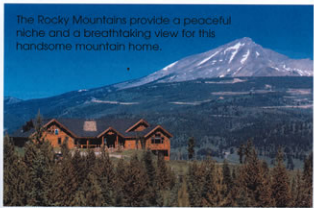
development. The existing development can be broken into five units, each ideal for a spectacular home site. The conservation easement also allows the owner to keep the ranch's agricultural tax status in perpetuity, locking in a very low property tax rate.

### Mountain Meadows Ranch

Mountain Meadows Ranch is one of Big Sky, Montana's most magnificent recreational ranches. It is located just three miles south of the Big Sky turnoff on Highway 191. The ranch is seven miles up the private, electric-gated Beaver Creek Road. Only forty-five miles south of the Bozeman airport, all of the comforts of the city are less than an hour's drive away. If you prefer natural surroundings, the property is only eighteen miles north of Yellowstone National Park.

This ranch includes a 160-acre spread of rolling hills, and spacious grassy meadows awash with wildflowers in the spring. The lodge and cabins are situated on 20 acres in the southwest portion of the ranch. From every vantage point, the panoramic views of Lone Mountain and Big Sky accentuate the vastness and wonder that is Montana. The expansive acreage of wilderness and ponds provides a home for moose, elk, deer, and eagles.

The Rocky Mountains provide a peaceful niche and a breathtaking view for this handsome mountain home.



For the snow skiing enthusiast, Big Sky Ski Resort remains one of the Rocky Mountains' hidden treasures. The resort attracts families and world-class skiers alike to its uncrowded, challenging, diverse terrain. With over 400 inches of annual snowfall, and 3,600 acres, it features the country's longest vertical at 4,350 feet. Bridger Bowl Ski Area is another local downhill mecca, just 16 miles north of Bozeman.

If you long for a location to design the ranch of your dreams, Green River Trout Ranch is an ideal choice. The property includes 1,785 acres of productive hay and cattle land and is 25 minutes from Pinedale, and 90 minutes southeast of Jackson Hole. Fabulous fly-fishing, hiking, biking, kayaking, wildlife viewing, and many more outdoor pursuits abound. The ranch is near the Wind River Mountains, which claim the highest peaks in Wyoming, several of which are over 15,000 feet above sea level. The private Green River stretches for three miles on both sides of the land, providing additional beauty and great fishing for rainbow trout and wild, brown cutthroat. **1**

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**Historic Texas Homestead**  
If you're the Texas type, but a farm is what you fancy, consider The August Ebers Farmstead. This antique, limestone home, built in 1860 has been restored to rustic elegance. The property also boasts a smoke house, pump house, cabin, and barn converted to guest house. The Fredericksburg, Texas farm is located in the historic community of Grapetown and includes nearly 4 acres of land, graced with 300 year old oaks.

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