

CHAPTER TWO

A historic log cabin spends years waiting for its rebirth
as a charming fishing retreat.

BY BETH BUEHLER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES RAY SPAHN





A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Holly and Chuck Schiavo's new home at Wilder on the Taylor integrates a historic cabin with plenty of outdoor spaces, including a hot tub, from which to savor the outdoors.



REFINED RUSTICITY

The light-filled living/dining room has an antique potbelly stove, faux antler chandeliers from Restoration Hardware (restorationhardware.com) and a comfy sitting area for games or reading.



Originally built in the 1940s, the Gandy Cabin spent years sitting beside Crystal Creek on the winding Taylor Canyon Road near Almont, a small town between Gunnison and Crested Butte. This rich piece of hand-hewn architecture was actually slated for demolition in 2009. That's when Scott Hargrove, owner of Crested Butte-based Hargrove Construction, decided to dismantle and store it until there was a chance to give it life once again.

Chuck and Holly Schiavo from Edmond, Okla., had just purchased a lot at Wilder on the Taylor, a historic ranch on a 2-mile stretch of the Taylor River not far from the cabin's original location, when they met with Hargrove in mid-2014 to discuss building a fishing cabin. He quickly realized this was the chance to give the structure a new life: Teaming up with Jennifer Hartman, principal and co-owner of Sunlit Architecture in Crested Butte, he merged beauty and nostalgia into an exquisite three-bedroom, two-bath log home.

When the Gandy Cabin was dismantled, each log was tagged and labeled for easy reconstruction. During the years of storage, the plastic tags did not weather quite as well as the beautiful

pieces of aged lumber. Luckily, Hargrove had taken measurements and photographs, and Hartman was the architect for the property when the cabin was removed, so she was well aware of the layout and history.

The bulk of the Schiavos' home, completed in April 2016, comprises the original log cabin plus an addition built mostly on the river side, including a master bedroom and bathroom, a guest bedroom and patios.

Along, rectangular great room, featuring living, dining and kitchen spaces, greets guests as they walk in, and the space is visually divided by trusses that mimic the original design. The kitchen leads to a large laundry room, bunk room, guest room and full bath, and an attached chef's kitchen/covered patio off the living room transitions into a smaller fire pit and "thinking" patios on the short walk down to the river.

"It was such a cool cabin, and I wanted to save it," Hargrove says. "When Chuck and Holly purchased property at Wilder and wanted to build a fishing cabin, I said, 'I have a cabin,' and we talked it through. They had the confidence and faith to

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OLD MEETS NEW

State-of-the-art antique replica appliances from Heartland (agamarvel.com) complement furnishings that add splashes of color and interest in the kitchen.



BLUE ISLAND

A soapstone-topped island with a colorful base provides extra space for casual morning breakfasts. Above are trusses that divide the space and preserve the log cabin's character.

see what might be there and had Jennifer incorporate the old cabin into the new.”

The Schiavos' vision was to keep the home “rustic and intimate,” Holly says. “We used all of the logs from the original cabin and also included lots of windows to enjoy the views of both the river and mountain behind us and the cattle fields in front of the cabin. We also wanted enough beds to host fishing getaways with friends.”

The home has a low profile, with natural wood stains and a natural color palette, and was positioned along the riverbank close to the existing cottonwoods, evergreens and aspens. “The reason folks are drawn to Wilder on the Taylor is the outdoors. An architect would be remiss to exclude fantastic indoor/outdoor relationships and access to the gold-medal waters,” Hartman says.

Reclaimed hardwood floors and ceilings made from barn wood purchased at Distinguished Wood Products in Carbondale enhance the warm and welcoming feel, and painted cabinets and doors “allow the logs to shine and bring a brightness to the space,” Hartman says. “Holly and Alene Davis did a great job with the interior furnishings, colors and accessories.”

Davis, a designer based in Tulsa and a Crested Butte homeowner, teamed up with Schiavo to find many of the accessories locally, and Holly's sister, Robi Jones of Tulsa, created most of the painted furniture.

The appliances in the kitchen are state-of-the-art antique replicas, with the stove placed where a stone fireplace once stood. Hargrove found an antique potbelly stove from an old barn in Michigan at A & M Salvage in Gunnison that now is part of the Schiavos' living room.

His favorite aspects of the property are the porches, privacy and sounds of the river. “You don't know anything else in the world exists,” he says. “The cabin is not overpretentious or overstated; it's very livable and comfortable.” +



WHAT'S YOUR HANDLE?

Antler handles grace doors throughout the home. The powder room door of reclaimed wood operates with pulleys. Inside, the light fixture is from Restoration Hardware and the mirror from Studio West in Crested Butte (studiowestinteriors.com).



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LIGHT AND AIRY

Soft colors and generous windows characterize the master bedroom. The comforter, pillows, leather headboard and small table are from Restoration Hardware; sheets are from Pottery Barn (potterybarn.com). The linen chairs were handcrafted in Tulsa, and the wine barrel stools were made locally.



► **ROCKIN' OUT**
In the bath, a double-sink vanity with a granite countertop complements an intricate stone wall and rustic mirrors.

RESOURCES

Builder: Hargrove Construction Co., 523 Riverland Drive 2A, Crested Butte, 970.349.5816, hargroveconstruction.com

Architects: Sunlit Architecture, 512 Fifth St., Crested Butte, 970.349.5311, sunlitarchitecture.net

Landscaping: Spring Creek Landscape Company, 738 Riverland Drive, Crested Butte, 970.209.4918, springcreeklandscapecompany.com

Floors & Ceilings: Distinguished Boards & Beams, 698 Merrill Ave., Carbondale, 970.963.7326, reclaimedbarnwood.com



THE LAYERED LOOK

A cheerful guest room sleeps four with sturdy beds built by Hargrove Construction and linens by The Company Store (thecompanystore.com).

