

"If the dining room is the heart and soul of the home," the homeowner says, "the living room is its stage." The stone fireplace retains its spot as the living room focal point and is the backdrop for rowdy family game nights. Interior designer Cassy Kicklighter Poole extracted the palette from the owners' Navajo rugs, threading it here and throughout the home with accents of red, navy, black, and white.

On Mountain TIME

A historical home lightens up without straying from its deep roots on the shores of Colorado's Grand Lake.

If there were a theme for this family's Colorado lake home, the owner says it would be, "I want a house with a crowded table," borrowing a song lyric from The Highwomen. In the tight-knit community on Grand Lake, neighbors are family even if they're not related, and it's not uncommon to squeeze in 20 people for dinner.

But before the dinner parties could start, the family had a long list of overdue structural and aesthetic renovations. The goal was to bring their 1908 house up-to-date for modern living while honoring the house's roots and generational ties to the lake. A team of local pros, including interior designer Cassy Kicklighter Poole of Kaleidoscope Design, helped with the "new old home" vision.

The first phase of the remodel focused on making the house sound and leveling the floors, then some of the interior walls came down to expand gathering spaces



● The goal for opening the back of the house was to create a flexible dining and entertaining space, which is anchored by a 12-foot-long table made of Douglas fir. “It’s still too small,” the family jokes. A wool rug inspired by Native American motifs, a slim iron chandelier with star details that mimic boot spurs, and leather-strap side chairs come together to give the space its Western vibe, with a cowboy painting by Denver artist David Kammerzell as the finishing touch.



THE ORIGINAL HOUSE HAD A LOT MORE WOOD ON WOOD, BUT PAINTING SOME OF THE WOOD WHITE ENHANCES THE ARCHITECTURE AND GIVES THE RECLAIMED WOOD A LITTLE MORE NOTICE.”

—CASSY KICKLIGHTER POOLE,
interior designer

on the main level. A small kitchen and a glassed-in porch on the back of the house were traded for the open-plan new kitchen and dining area. The owners also added a deck with views of the lake and beyond to Mount Craig, the 12,000-foot peak the locals call Baldy.

Throughout the home, natural wood walls remain, now lightened with white-painted wood accents and softened with comfy upholstered furniture and pale linen curtains. Original handcrafted details, like the stone fireplace and rough-hewn ceiling beams, recall the cabin’s primitive beginnings. The homeowners’ collection of 1920s Navajo rugs and Western paintings are woven into the home’s visual narrative and further a sense of place.

“We did as much as we could to preserve the natural integrity of the home, and then any areas that needed to be replaced or improved, we kind of laced back in to look like the original,” Poole says. “It has the history that always existed, but now it’s a fresh new version of itself.”

A classic walnut countertop on the island adds a sense of history to the modern kitchen.



The kitchen's new lake view is echoed in the watery blue Shaker-style cabinets and polished backsplash tile that sparkles as the light changes. "The tile has a little bit of movement to it, and so do the light fixtures above the island," Poole says. Mixed metals—bronze, brass, and iron—on hardware, faucets, and barstools add a collected-over-time look.

decorate

● In the primary suite, *right*, painting the walls off-white helps the small bedroom feel larger, as does tucking the bed into an alcove; reclaimed wood on the ceiling ties to the main spaces downstairs. “Everything here is quaint,” Poole notes. Narrow tables and wall-mounted bedside sconces are practical but don’t take up much room.

● A walnut vanity outfitted with utilitarian brass fixtures anchors the primary bath, *below*. As in the bedrooms, Poole says, “we have the inverse of finishes from downstairs, with the wood as accents in the cabinetry, windows, and around the large mirrors.” □

