

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST



TED TURNER

On his Armendaris Ranch Wild Animal Preserve, the Media Magnate Builds a Lodge in Tune with the Land

Architecture by Chris Carson, FAIA | Interior Design by Laura Hunt | Text by Gerald Clarke |
Photography by Robert Reck |



“I learned about New Mexico when I first started dating Jane Fonda,” remarks Ted Turner, who built a private desert lodge on Armendaris Ranch, his 350,000-acre wild animal preserve along the dramatic Fra Cristobal Mountains. “I come out here in the winter.”

Photography by Robert Reck





"I wanted a hacienda-type house," says Turner. "I like Mexican architecture." He staked the site of the entrance early on.

Photography by Robert Reck





"I'm not buying land now," Turner says. "I've got enough, though I may buy adjacent pieces of property for expansion."

The *latilla*-covered porch shades the great room.

Photography by Robert Reck



People gather on the west patio to watch the sunsets. Landscape architect Jennifer Bear used native plants, including soap tree yucca, black grama grass and tobosa grass.

Photography by Robert Reck





The portale is open to a courtyard. Mirror and Navajo rug, Christie's. Ralph Lauren Home pillow plaid.

See more Country Homes »

Photography by Robert Reck





It's a nice house, but it's not fancy," says Turner, who hired San Antonio architect Chris Carson and Dallas interior designer Laura Hunt to carry out the design.

For the great room, as throughout, Hunt wanted "European overtones," she says. Paintings by Albert Bierstadt flank the fireplace, and a side table displays circa 1910-40 Navajo copper boxes. Vigas, typical of Spanish colonial architecture, were stained dark brown. John Rosselli lamps.

Photography by Robert Reck



"Ted said, 'Lots of windows,' and he got them," says Hunt, who hung prints by George Catlin in the dining area.

Photography by Robert Reck



Antique Native American baskets decorate the walls of the informal dining room.

[See more Dining Rooms »](#)

Photography by Robert Reck





“The kitchen was based on historic kitchens of Spanish colonial homes in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico,” explains Hunt. Wolf range and Sub-Zero refrigerator, at Abt.com. Faucet from Kohler.

Photography by Robert Reck



“Ted doesn’t require luxurious accommodations,” says Hunt. “He’s very cool that way. He just needs a pillow and a bed, and he’s happy.”

The master bedroom. The paintings over the walnut writing table and the console in the hall are by Bierstadt; the print is by Catlin. Stark carpet. John Rosselli bench. Schumacher lamp.

Photography by Robert Reck





Half my land holdings are in New Mexico," says Turner, who founded the Turner Endangered Species Fund in 1997.

Photography by Robert Reck





He developed the property to raise buffalo (top) as well as to provide a sanctuary for imperiled animals, such as pronghorn antelope (above), bighorn sheep and Bolson tortoises.

Photography by Robert Reck

Related Links

[« Read Ted Turner](#)

[« June 2008's Table of Contents](#)