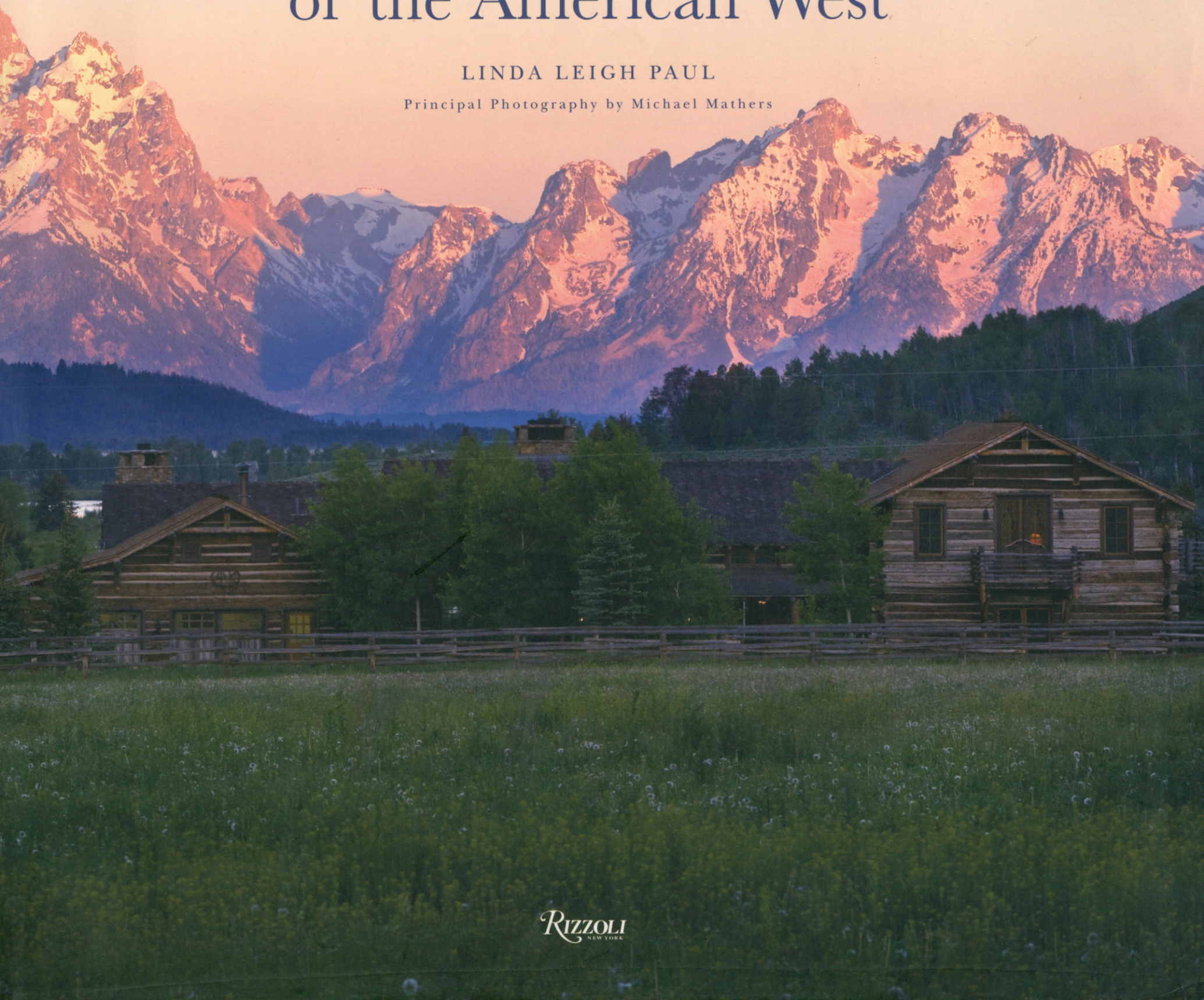


# Ranches

## of the American West

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NEW YORK



# Double D Homestead, *Montana*

The Double D Homestead is a Paint Horse ranch on an inactive placer gold mine, southwest of Bozeman in Madison County, Montana. After hiking the acreage of seventy or eighty ranch sites, Dick and Diana Beattie stumbled upon the Madison Valley ranch and began to buy up the old mining claims from the owner, who had originally purchased it for rock tailings and shipped rock off to Oregon. Eventually, the Beatties ended up with 750 acres, active with creeks, five ponds, some historic barns, and many smaller

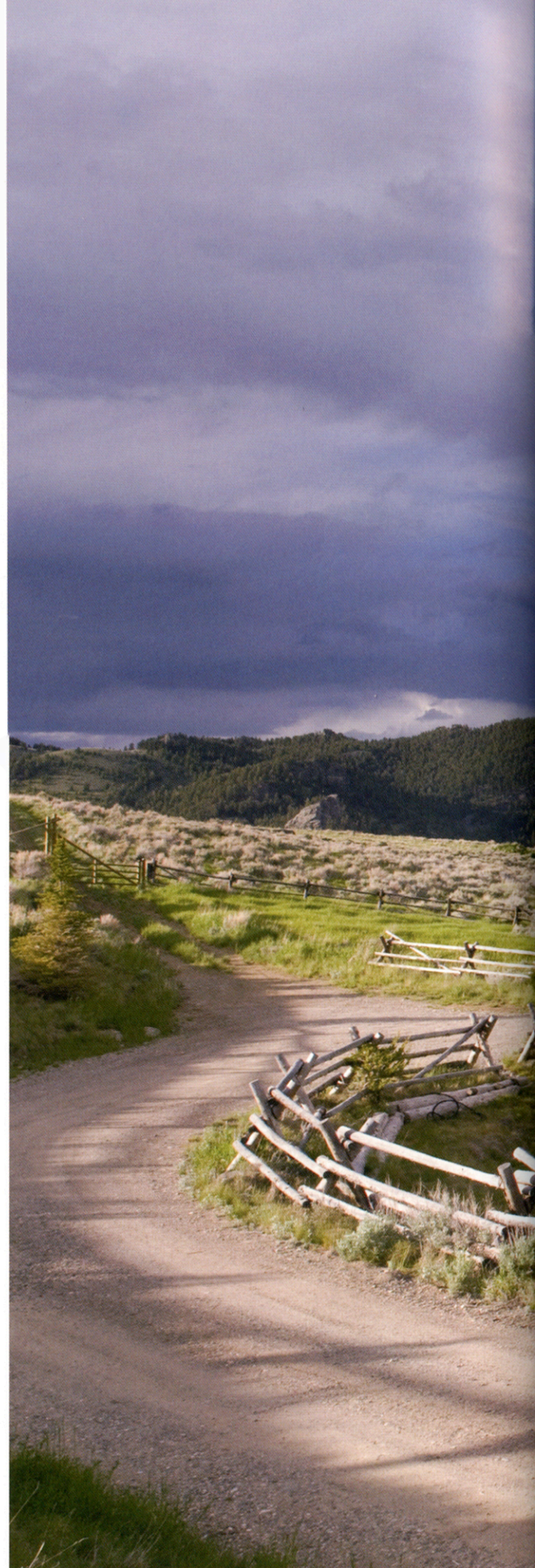
buildings. Three surrounding mountain ranges afford exquisite views. The main house is nestled in a Douglas fir forest commanding views toward the one-hundred-year-old sheep barns with rusted roofs, and beyond to the Big Sky Mountain. The Tobacco Root Mountains wrap behind the house, and the boulder-shaped Revenue Mountains climb toward the north.

The restoration of the ranch began with the owners' assurances that respect would be given to this historic property. They purchased a selection of century-old barns and buildings and made plans to have them moved to the ranch, where they were "restacked." First came three large 1890 barns, bought on a ten-degree-below-zero January day from Ted Turner's nearby Red Rock Ranch property. One barn was thirty by sixty feet and planned for use as a horse barn. The second barn, a twenty-four-by-thirty-six-foot structure, was designated to become the living room of the main house, which contained a small kitchen, a window-side dining area, a library,



LEFT: The rustic and elegant asymmetry of the front entrance to the Double D Homestead.

RIGHT: The restored Swedish guesthouse at the curve in the road, bordered by Montana Jack fencing.











ABOVE: Diana's porch is a gathering place for family and guests.

ABOVE RIGHT: The stone and cedar bark-post fishing soddy is a relief from the late summer sun. Hop vines grow over the sapling-laden pergola-style roof.

RIGHT: The old barn with one of the Beatties' Tobiano Paints in the doorway.

OPPOSITE: A patio and fireplace for outdoor dining at the opposite side of the long, rustic porch.



and an open living room. Diana, herself a talented designer, wanted to have a formal dining room for entertaining, and this second barn was large enough to accommodate such a design arrangement.

A friend, David Laitinen, spent months making a front door, embellished with tiny twigs and featuring a stick man. Two stone corner fireplaces fit cozily into the small rooms, which house a master bedroom and dressing room both in the upstairs and main levels. On the main floor, the living, dining, and kitchen areas are well appointed with Swedish antiques of the nineteenth century.

A "dog trot"—a building of two equal barns under one roof with a space in the center for the dogs to trot through—functioned beautifully as two twenty-by-twenty-foot bedrooms: a guest bedroom and the master bedroom. Nearing completion of the project, architect Candace Miller was challenged with













the inclusion of an office for Dick. It was located just off the master bedroom and tucked into the landscape, so the view from the desk chair grazes over the tops of fescue grass to the valley. A radial entry stair descends into this exceptional space. Connecting the three structures is the stone structure that came from the mining excavation. The rounded rocks arrived with lichen growing on them, adding to the sense of elapsed time and the authenticity of the ranch. Stone and aged logs also set the tone. Reclaimed and restored materials were used as often as possible.

Candace used an architectural approach to govern the way she wanted the spaces to work in articulation to one another. The concept of compression and expansion was used repeatedly, such as in the small, cottagelike entry space, opening into the larger, unanticipated interior space, which grants a full and expansive view of the valley. The main living area has a taller, vaulted space, with bedrooms and a library that contract the scale back down to an appropriate volume. There are cozy spaces such as the grandchildren's nursery and an upstairs bedroom and office.



OPPOSITE: The interiors were done by Diana Beatie. Woven rugs and leather are accessorized with antique scales and a moose antler chandelier.

ABOVE LEFT: This custom branch-and-rod desk is perfectly scaled to fit the entry. The slender rods were made from fly-fishing rods, which add color and pattern to the piece. The delicate pieces and placement of the rods contrast with the logs and chinking backdrop.

ABOVE RIGHT: A patterned sideboard is the focal point for a vignette of Old West artifacts.







The Beatties had been living in their homestead building and entertaining their many family members and friends when they discovered they really needed a guesthouse. Laitinen, who was working with them on the horse barn, found an original Swedish homestead located deep in the Bridger Mountains. Unlike the three bold, timbered log buildings from Red Rock, this homestead, believed to have been built in 1886 and reworked in 1910–11, was in grave disrepair, nearly a complete loss. It stood at two stories and was about twenty-one by nineteen feet in size. The parts were restacked over a gold-mine ravine, and a lower level of stone was added. Rusted red corrugated tin was used for the roof as a historic tribute to the region. The guesthouse is one of the first buildings to be seen when approaching the property and houses two entire guest suites. The main floor and the lower level extend to the outdoors with porches and patios, to capture an expanded view of the main homestead, which stands a half-mile away. These outdoor areas are designed to ensure the house never becomes confining.

The outdoor space is, of course, as important on a ranch as the interior space. The extension of living outdoors with a covered porch that leads to an open patio, where activities engage the landscape, is essential. Montana is the great outdoors, and creating outdoor living spaces often results in several buildings in a number of select spots. Laitinen built a “garden shack” of stone and hewn timbers for daring children to camp out in. A trapper’s cabin was moved to the ranch and converted into a playhouse. Reviewing a favorite historic encyclopedia of parks and recreation buildings, Diana found an Oklahoma pump house, which she had reproduced using boulder stones a few steps up from the pond that sits closest to the

main house. The fishing cabin is a “soddy,” with a roof of sod—a mix of wild grasses and wildflowers that sprout in June. The cabin provides relief from the ever-present summer sun, whether one is sitting on the porch, where the vines of hops wrap themselves around cedar bark-on posts, or inside, where in the cool stone surround there is a fireplace for winter sojourns.

OPPOSITE: The compact dining area features a tall, elegantly carved highboy and a branch-and-twig dining set. Chairs were upholstered with leather and a decorative fringed saddlebag flap dropped over the back.

BELOW: The simple pressed-back wooden spindle chair and willow bed offer a balance to the rough texture of the walls.







ABOVE: The designer's sense of whimsy and love of color are evident in this guestroom. The scrolls of the wooden bed share a patina from the walls. The crewelwork on linen adds a period feel to the room.

OPPOSITE: The master bedroom has a classic four-poster bed and leather chairs.



