

ELLE DECOR®

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Under a blanket of California's fluffiest powder lies a laid-back Lake Tahoe retreat that is equal parts homespun and old-world.

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The cedar shingle-clad exterior of a vacation home near Lake Tahoe, which was designed by architect David Horan and decorated by Palmer Weiss, mixes the local vernacular with an Adirondack look.



In the husband's study, the A. Rudin sofa is in a Donghia velvet, the cocktail table is by Made Goods, and the sconces are by Visual Comfort. The 1950s kilim is Turkish, and the artwork is by Sharon Montrose.

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NESTLED IN THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS,

Lake Tahoe has a majestic setting rivaled only by its history of famous denizens. Howard Hughes owned a home here; Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis, Jr., vacationed on its shores; and Marilyn Monroe allegedly spent her last weekend at the Cal Neva Lodge before her death in 1962. Today, it is a second- (or third-) home mecca for billionaires like Steve Wynn and Oracle chairman Larry Ellison, as well as wealthy Bay Area residents. Palmer Weiss, a South Carolina–born transplant to San Francisco, has devoted her career to translating a Southern-driven, lived-in-chic aesthetic for the latter group, as in her design for this vacation retreat in Martis Camp, a 2,177-acre gated community on Tahoe’s California side.

“People who didn’t grow up with antiques have this misconception that things need to be pristine and perfect to be pretty,” says Weiss, who has built a loyal clientele of prominent West Coast families. She embraces the mores of Northern California culture: “There are very few rules here, and formality and pretense aren’t really valued.”

Weiss worked with architect David Horan from the ground up on this cedar-shingle home. The owners, a financier and his wife with their brood of kids and dogs, wanted an old-meets-new-world vibe. Weiss obliged, mixing antique furniture picked up in North Carolina with seersucker, paisley, and ikat fabrics to help the house look more mature than its years. A guest bedroom has black bobbin beds and a verdant Bob Collins & Sons wallpaper; a tableau in the vestibule features an assemblage of mounted antlers and a painting from the Alameda Point Antiques Faire; and the dining room is grounded by an Alex Katz floral artwork and an antique French chandelier. “My worst nightmare,” Weiss says, “is for someone to walk into one of my projects and say, ‘Oh this is new! And newly decorated.’ I am trying to evoke an older world.” ■



A covered outdoor dining area takes full advantage of Tahoe's relatively mild winters. The dining table and chairs are by Country Casual Teak, the chair cushions are in a Perennials fabric, the pillows are in a Jasper stripe, and the pendant is by the Urban Electric Co. The ceiling is sheathed in clear cedar, and the columns are wrapped in stained Douglas fir.



In the master bedroom, the hickory-and-cane four-poster bed by Rusticks has a bed skirt in a Pindler fabric and is dressed with Julia B. shams, an RH, Restoration Hardware blanket, and a Nuraxi throw. The pendant is by the Urban Electric Co., the sconces are by Visual Comfort, the window shade is in a Robert Kime fabric, and the wall paneling is painted in Benjamin Moore's White Dove.



The kitchen's backsplash tile is by Exquisite Surfaces, and the countertop is by Caesarstone. The ceiling beams are reclaimed barnwood, the flooring is stained white oak, and the artwork was painted by the owners' young daughter.



The living room's love seat in a Casamance fabric and armchairs in a Katie Leede & Company fabric are by Lee Industries. The custom cocktail table is by Mecox, the Charles Stewart ottoman is in a Claremont velvet, the side table is from Mrs. Howard, and the 1850 spindle-arm chair was purchased at the Antique & Art Exchange in San Francisco. The rug is by Niba Designs, and the artwork is by William Skilling.



In the powder room, Weiss says she “took the governor off the design engine and let it rip.” The poppy wallcovering by Trustworth Studios is a reproduction of a 19th-century C.F.A. Voysey Arts and Crafts design. The vanity is by Bradley, the fittings are by Waterworks, the sconces are by the Urban Electric Co., and the towels are by Pottery Barn. The wall trim is Farrow & Ball’s Hague Blue. For details, see [Resources](#).