

SOUTHERN ALBERTA'S VALIANT COWBOY HISTORY ALONG WITH ITS RUGGED LANDSCAPE OF ROLLING HILLS, HOODOOS AND FOOTHILLS HAS INSPIRED A CERTAIN STYLE OF WESTERN THEMED INTERIOR DESIGN

"When I think of real western interior design I personally think of horses and Calgary Stampede and the ranch lifestyle but really almost anything goes," says Bridgett Winter, show home designer for Baywest Homes. "It is all about evoking a certain type of emotion."

With design guidelines that are as free spirited as the West's beginnings, western themed decor offers a playground for those who love style savvy eclecticism. Take for example ranch owners Tani and John Anderson. They have captured the free spirited and fun loving nature of the Wild West by creating a saloon on their

70-acre property. Nestled at the bottom of hill a short five-minute stroll from the main house, the saloon is nestled amongst stands of aspen groves. Here silence pervades, except for the howling of the coyotes and the whistling of the wind through the trees and prairie grasses. "It has become our getaway place. We've even camped out here," says Tani.

The saloon's beginnings were humble: it was originally a horse shed that the couple found at the top of their property when they first bought it. They moved it to its present location, rebuilt it using rough-hewn pine logs and added a large deck. One side is completely open and

offers stunning vistas of the foothills and prairie sky. "I wanted to make it look like a saloon at the turn of the century," says Tani. Inside Tani and John have used old license plates, wrought iron horseshoes, a Bison head and western and native themed art to create a welcoming western feel. A potbelly stove adorns the center of the room providing much needed warmth on those chilly nights.

Tani and John played up the fun nature of the western theme with their saloon, but when it comes to decorating with a western flair there are a multitude of options. Bridgett Winter suggests that before you begin to decorate your space western style, you

Winter recently outfitted the newest Baywest show home in Crystal Green in Okotoks with a western theme. The 2247 square foot two storey Montana model offers an open floor plan with 17-foot ceilings in the great room, an exposed beam cathedral ceiling in the upstairs family room and a front veranda. "When I did the show home, I dabbled in many dif-



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ferent directions because I wanted it to appeal to everyone. It is not rhinestone cowboy or full of antiques. It is a real juxtaposition of the old with the new."

To give that traditional western feel, Winter introduced a five inch hand scraped Mayan oak floor and paired it with an upscale kitchen that boasts, a huge is-

land with an apron front sink. Cabinetry is a mixture of antiqued ivory and java stained oak. Keeping the design true to those found in turn of the century ranch houses, Winter nixed the kitchen pantry and designed open shelving instead. Details like a brick style ceramic backsplash and a pot filler above the gas stainless steel stove

URBAN COWBOY

WESTERN THEMED INTERIOR DESIGN POPULAR IN CALGARY