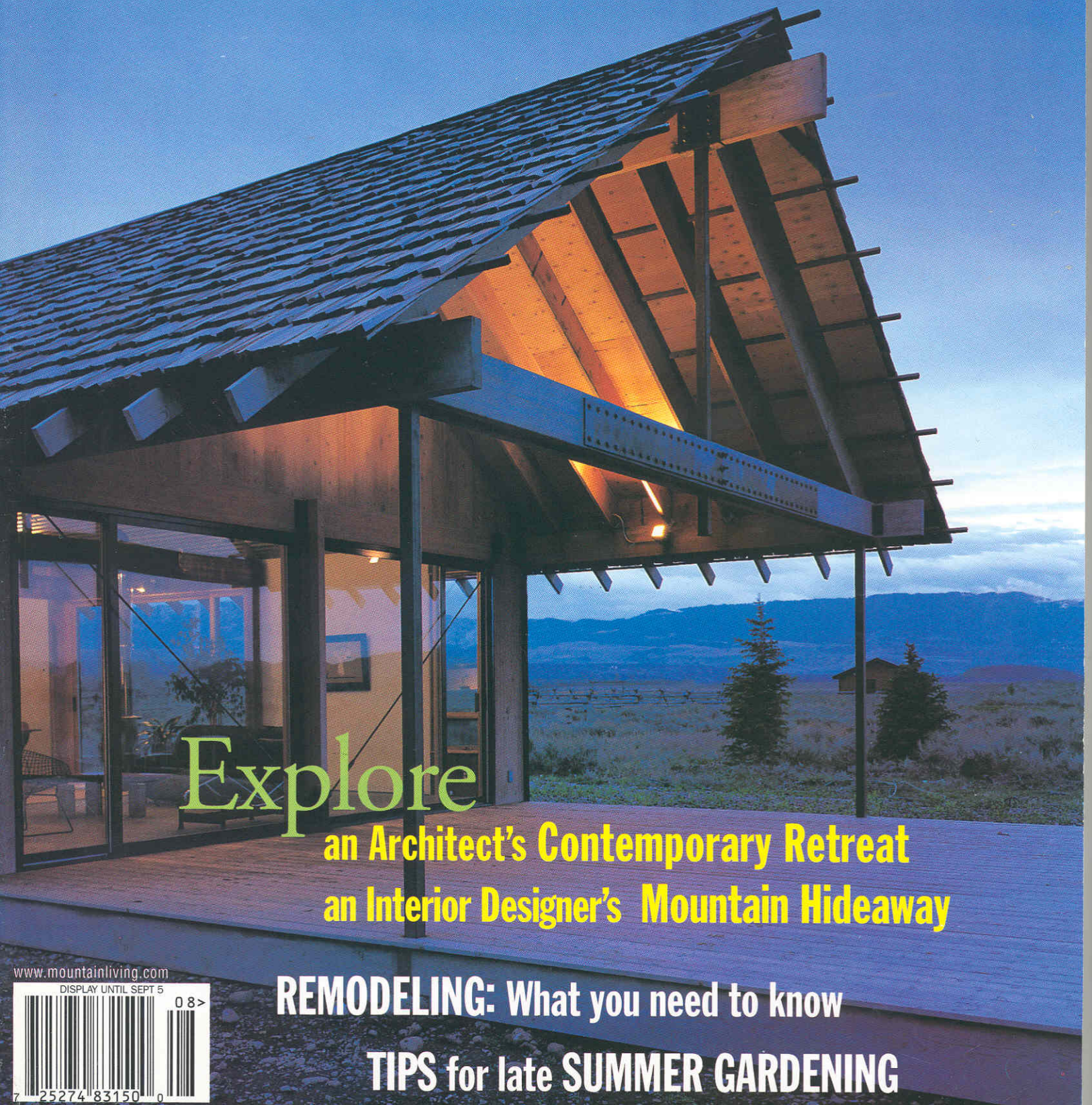


INSIDE: HOME OF THE YEAR CONTEST WINNER

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# Home of the Year

WE WELCOME YOU INTO FISH LIP LODGE—AN ARTS & CRAFTS BUNGALOW NESTLED IN THE MOUNTAINS SURROUNDING LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA.

When artist Katherine MacFarlin first saw the spacious Squaw Valley, California, home that would eventually become hers, it was love at first sight. "I had looked at a lot of mountain homes but none was so well situated or had such good views," she says. Her family loves to ski and her daughter is a passionate snowboarder. The house was large enough (4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms) for family and guests and

had that lovely morning light she needed for her painting studio.

The house was sturdy and well built. The design was based on the 1930s WPA lodges and the Arts & Crafts bungalow tradition. In fact, it was originally designed and built by developer Greg Dorland of Dorland Properties as a weekend ski cabin for himself. But, as Katherine recalls, it was not very well decorated. The walls were white. The furniture was

The Arts & Crafts-inspired chairs, *opposite*, were created by designer Mimi London. An antique canvas and tin fish buoy hangs above the stone fireplace, *below*.



PHOTO BY DAVID LIVINGSTON



PHOTO BY DAVID LIVINGSTON



PHOTO BY DAVID IRVINGTON



## How to Mix Old and New

DECORATING TIPS FROM CATHERINE MACFEE

- **Match the color values** in your old pieces with similar hues in your new pieces.
- **Use natural fabrics** because they have the warmth and texture of the old ones.
- **Have things play off each other.** If you have red paint on an antique piece, use a bit of red as an accent somewhere else in the room to pull it all together.
- **Achieve balance.** If you have a large, heavy sofa, cover it in a heavier texture or print. Smaller, lighter chairs can be covered with softer fabrics for balance.
- **Lighting needs to be subtle** and done at a human level. Good lighting makes a space more inviting. The color of light depends on the color of the shade. Mica, rawhide and parchment give a warm glow.
- **Wall colors should be** four or five shades lighter than the floor covering. This creates a sense of lightness within a space.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL SHOFFER

brown. The carpet was a wall-to-wall neutral synthetic. There were no window coverings. Still, the shapes of the rooms, the height of the ceilings and the lines of the windows gave the home plenty of appeal.

Interior designer Catherine Macfee of Catherine Macfee & Associates was commissioned to decorate the MacFarlins' home. She immediately sat down with the MacFarlins to discuss their wants, needs and take detailed notes about how they envisioned using each space in the house. "It's always fun to come up with a theme for the house," she says. "And we began calling it Fishlip Lodge because Katherine is a gourmet cook and because her son



PHOTO BY MICHAEL SHOFFER

Curtains around the twig four-poster bed, *opposite*, make the bedroom cozy. The small tramp art cupboard, *top*, was a lucky flea market find.



PHOTO BY DAVID LIVINGSTON

is an avid fly fisherman." Then, an Adirondack hunting and fishing lodge theme began to emerge.

Almost immediately afterwards, Katherine MacFarlin found an old canvas and tin fishing buoy in a junk shop. It was an old bait shop sign from Nantucket. The buoy went over the fireplace and the fondly coined name, "Fishlip Lodge," became permanent.

The designer didn't make many structural changes to the house. Instead, she concentrated on making it warm and snug. She changed the carpet, choosing a terra cotta-colored wool because "it gave a feeling of warmth." The walls were given a light faux finish that looks like suede, again warming the rooms. The ceilings were "snugged down" to bring them into scale with the furnishings. The window treatments in most of the rooms are a felted wool which gives them a sleek but simple look.

Catherine Macfee and Katherine MacFarlin went out hunting for antiques and other unique objects

with which to furnish the house. Both do a lot of traveling and "never know what we'll run across." They ran across some tramp art pieces from the 1920s, a Welsh dresser (in Santa Fe, New Mexico), a French wedding chest with bun feet...to name a few.

Although many of the fixtures and furnishings were custom-built, work was completed in less than a year. "I'm very spontaneous," says Katherine MacFarlin. "I don't like to take a long time to do anything." However, she remarks that her artistic collaboration with interior designer Catherine Macfee gave her "more time to take a picnic and my easel out into the mountains...to go sit by a river and paint." ▲

The dining room table, *left*, was found in a Santa Fe antique shop. The Welsh cupboard is filled with French dishes. New Old Hickory chairs, *below*, provide seating in the kitchen.

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Greg Dorland

DESIGNER: Catherine Macfee



PHOTO BY MICHAEL SHOPEN



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