

TOUR 6 STUNNING WESTERN HOMES

THE PREMIER MAGAZINE OF THE WEST

# COWBOYS & INDIANS

JANUARY 2013

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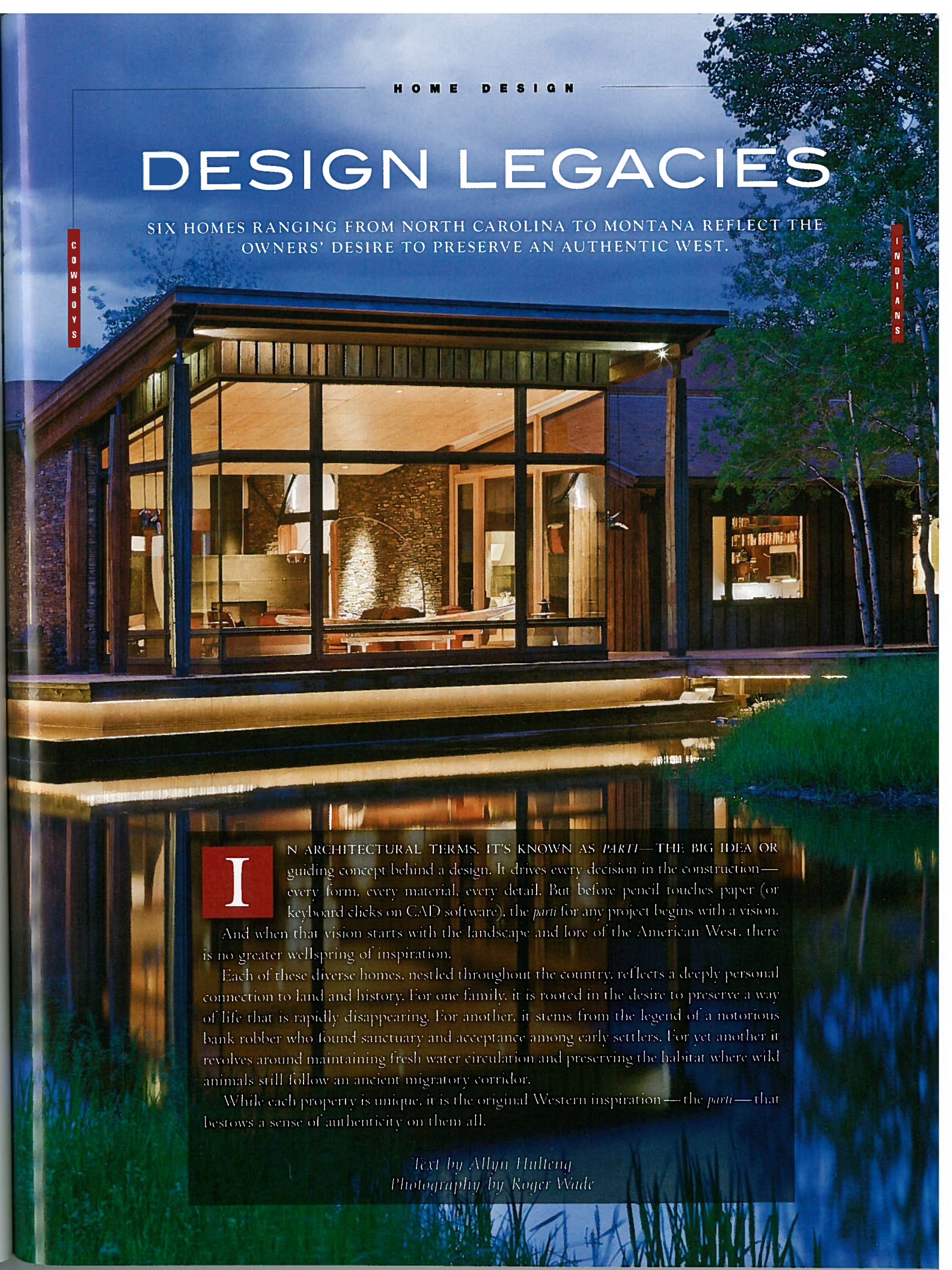
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## DESIGN LEGACIES

SIX HOMES RANGING FROM NORTH CAROLINA TO MONTANA REFLECT THE OWNERS' DESIRE TO PRESERVE AN AUTHENTIC WEST.

COWBOYS

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**I**N ARCHITECTURAL TERMS, IT'S KNOWN AS *PARTI*—THE BIG IDEA OR guiding concept behind a design. It drives every decision in the construction—every form, every material, every detail. But before pencil touches paper (or keyboard clicks on CAD software), the *parti* for any project begins with a vision. And when that vision starts with the landscape and lore of the American West, there is no greater wellspring of inspiration.

Each of these diverse homes, nestled throughout the country, reflects a deeply personal connection to land and history. For one family, it is rooted in the desire to preserve a way of life that is rapidly disappearing. For another, it stems from the legend of a notorious bank robber who found sanctuary and acceptance among early settlers. For yet another it revolves around maintaining fresh water circulation and preserving the habitat where wild animals still follow an ancient migratory corridor.

While each property is unique, it is the original Western inspiration—the *parti*—that bestows a sense of authenticity on them all.

*Text by Allyn Hulleng  
Photography by Roger Wade*



# WYOMING MODERN

**H** IRED TO REINTERPRET WESTERN DESIGN IN A modern way on land that was originally part of a ranch, architect Tom Ward had to abide by covenants requiring homeowners “to follow a traditional style of architecture.” The resulting design consists of a main residence connected by a glazed breezeway to a barn-shaped structure, which makes up the garage and guest quarters.

Every element of the structure’s innate flow orients people to the natural beauty of the site. While breathtaking, the



riparian property posed a challenge with a high water table. To resolve the issue, Ward raised the structures 4 feet from the ground and created a unique water feature around the home. A sluice resembling an old-timey mining apparatus channels the water along the length of the deck. “The water is in motion all the time, circulating fresh and algae-free, providing a good habitat for wildlife,” Ward says.

Though the home’s exterior is a nod to the historic West, the interior is a bold departure. “The owners went to extraordinary

measures to create a classically minimal space where they could display their extensive art collection,” Ward says. “No giddyup, no artifacts—it’s very modern with volume, space, and natural light.” **Wow factor:** Glass banding was substituted for traditional chinking in between the exterior logs of the game room, allowing natural light to filter in.

**Design surprise:** In the living room, the suspended wood ceiling features a collage of tiny points of light that replicate the night sky on the evening the homeowner was born in Sydney.