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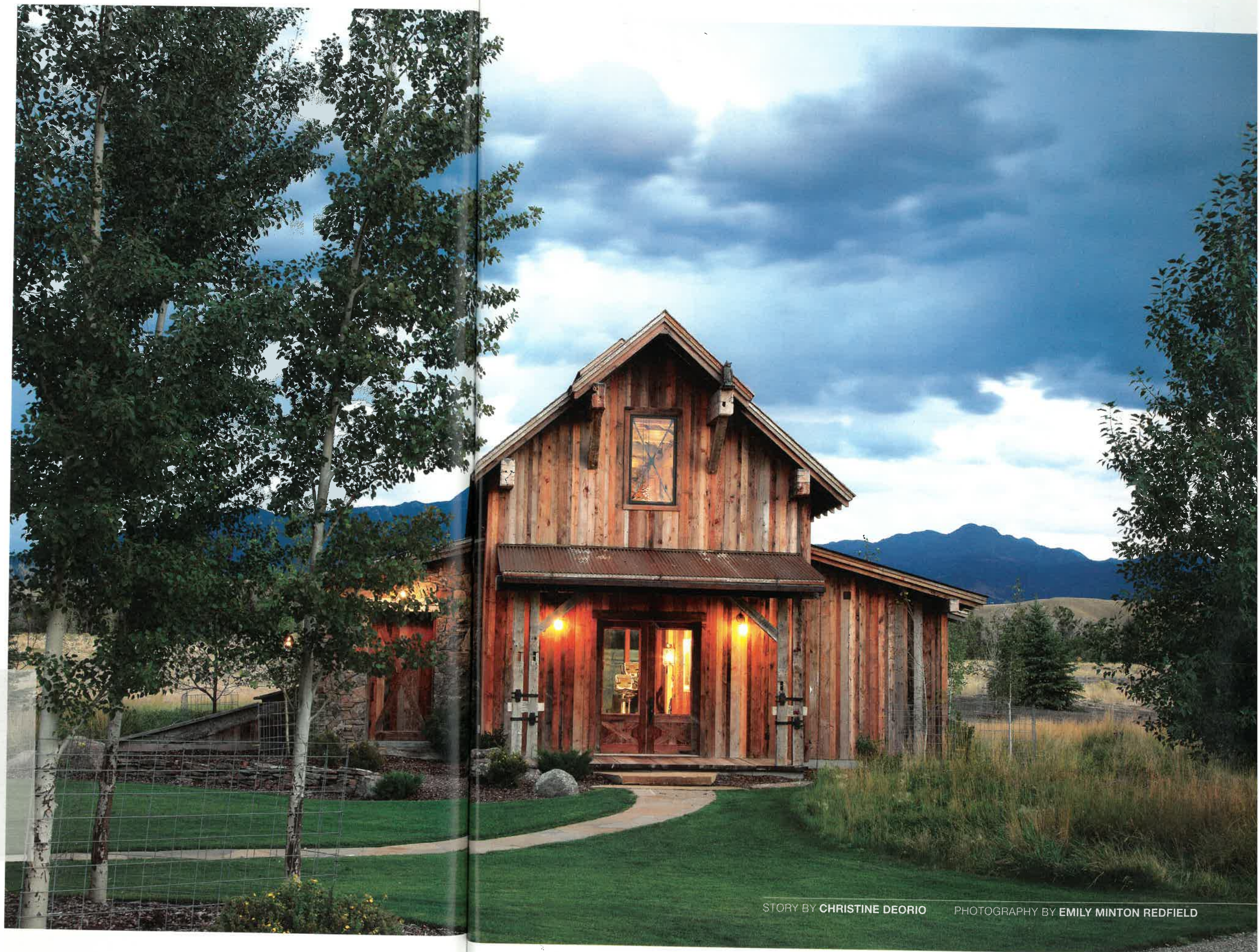
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ULTIMATE ESCAPES

RUSTIC RETREAT

With its inviting spaces and dramatic mountain views, a barn-inspired home office and fitness center makes work—and working out—a pleasure rather than a chore

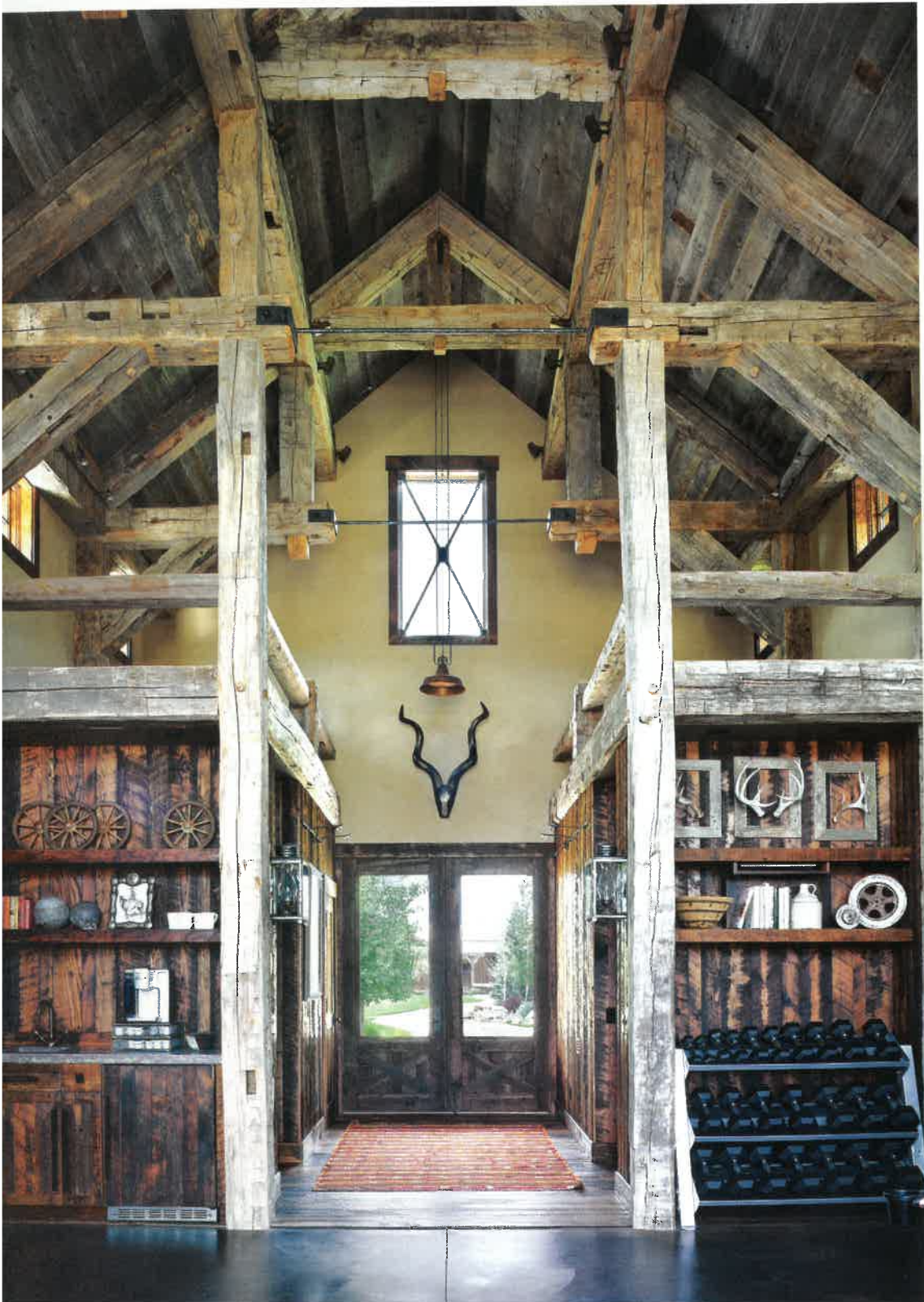
"A PRETTY GRAND MAN CAVE" is how architect Van Bryan describes this barn-inspired structure, part of a vacation-home compound near Ennis, Montana, owned by two Dallas families. Designed to help the husbands keep up with their work and exercise routines when they aren't enjoying the great outdoors, the structure houses a lofty fitness area—complete with sauna and bath with steam shower—flanked by two private offices.



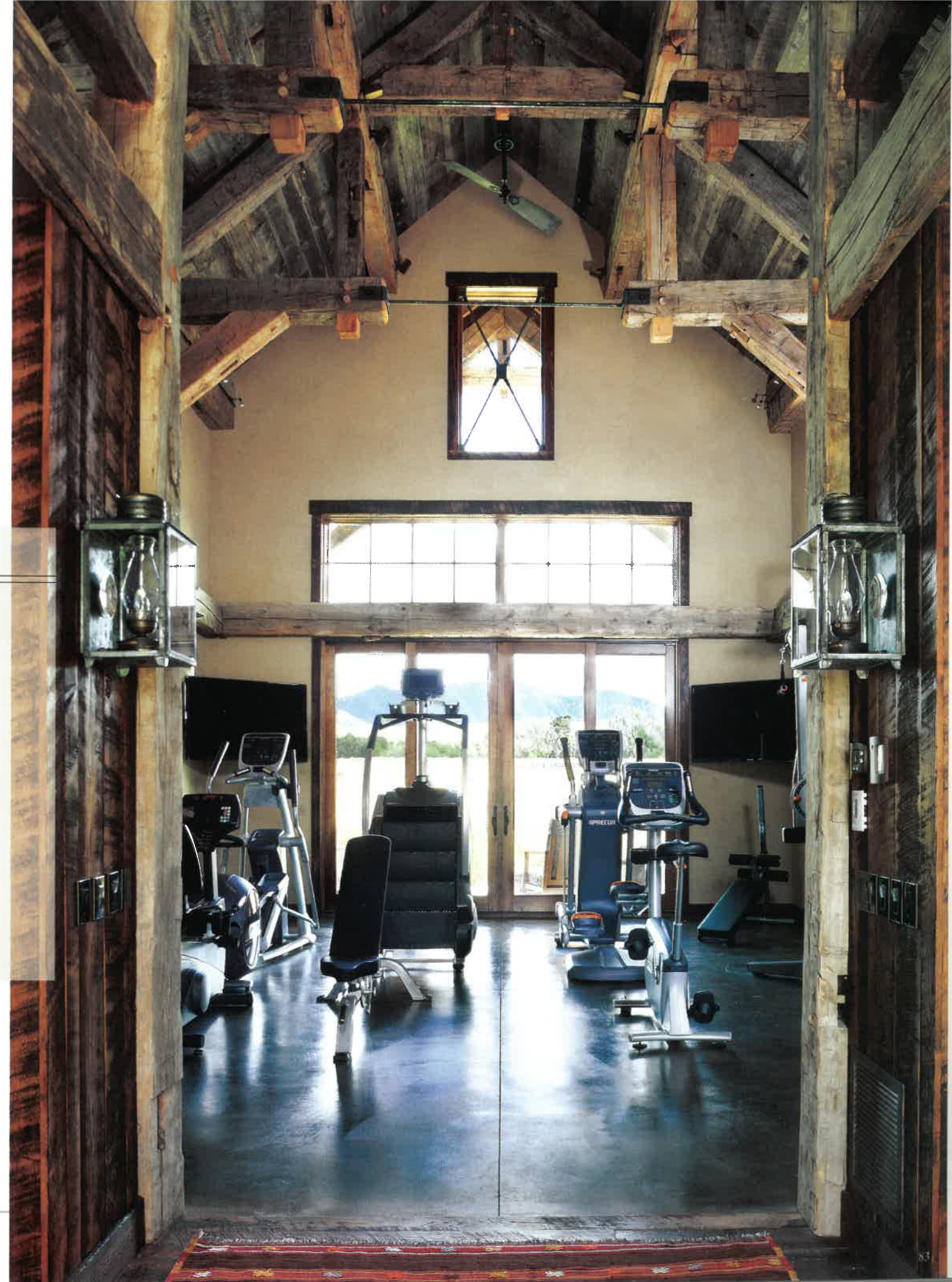
STORY BY CHRISTINE DEORIO

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY MINTON REDFIELD

ARCHITECTURE BY **VAN BRYAN STUDIO ARCHITECTS**
INTERIOR DESIGN BY **CARTER KAY INTERIORS**
CONSTRUCTION BY **JDL CONSTRUCTION**



WITH CLASSIC BARN FORMS in mind, Bryan designed the fitness area to “feel as if it had once been a structure where stock was kept down below and hay bales up above.” A palette of rustic materials warms up the expansive space: reclaimed ceiling boards and beams, skip-sanded and waxed reclaimed fir paneling, and concrete floors stained a deep black umber hue. Built-in shelving and cupboards accommodate a mini refrigerator, washer and dryer and coffee station. Interior designer Carter Kay added color and texture with a lively kilim rug, a collection of rusted metal wheels and cogs, and horns hung in empty wooden frames—“a fun play on mounting your kill,” she laughs.





EACH OFFICE PULLS DOUBLE DUTY, offering space for hard work and serious relaxation. Custom iron-and-zinc desks are paired with Aero desk chairs, and built-in file storage is cleverly hidden beneath the daybed-size window seat, which Kay dressed with oversized cushions and pillows covered with African kuba cloth-inspired fabric. Antique Oushak rugs add warmth “and gently draw the eye without drawing too much attention to themselves,” she explains.

“I DIDN’T WANT TO INCORPORATE A LOT OF HORNS AND COWBOYS HERE. I PREFER A SUBTLE NOD TO THE BASIC MATERIALS FOUND IN THE WEST.”

Carter Kay

RUGGED, RUSTIC MATERIALS, including reclaimed fir corral boards, local moss rock and rusted corrugated metal, allow the new barn to blend seamlessly with the other structures on the property. “Our goal was to create buildings reminiscent of those that might have been on a historical operational ranch,” Bryan explains. “Incorporating some stone on the exterior gives the barn a sense of permanence and makes it feel like it’s been here for a while.” The single door to the left of the main entry leads to a storage room where the homeowners keep their outdoor gear. Another storage space, for mechanical equipment and outdoor furniture, is cleverly disguised as an old root cellar.

