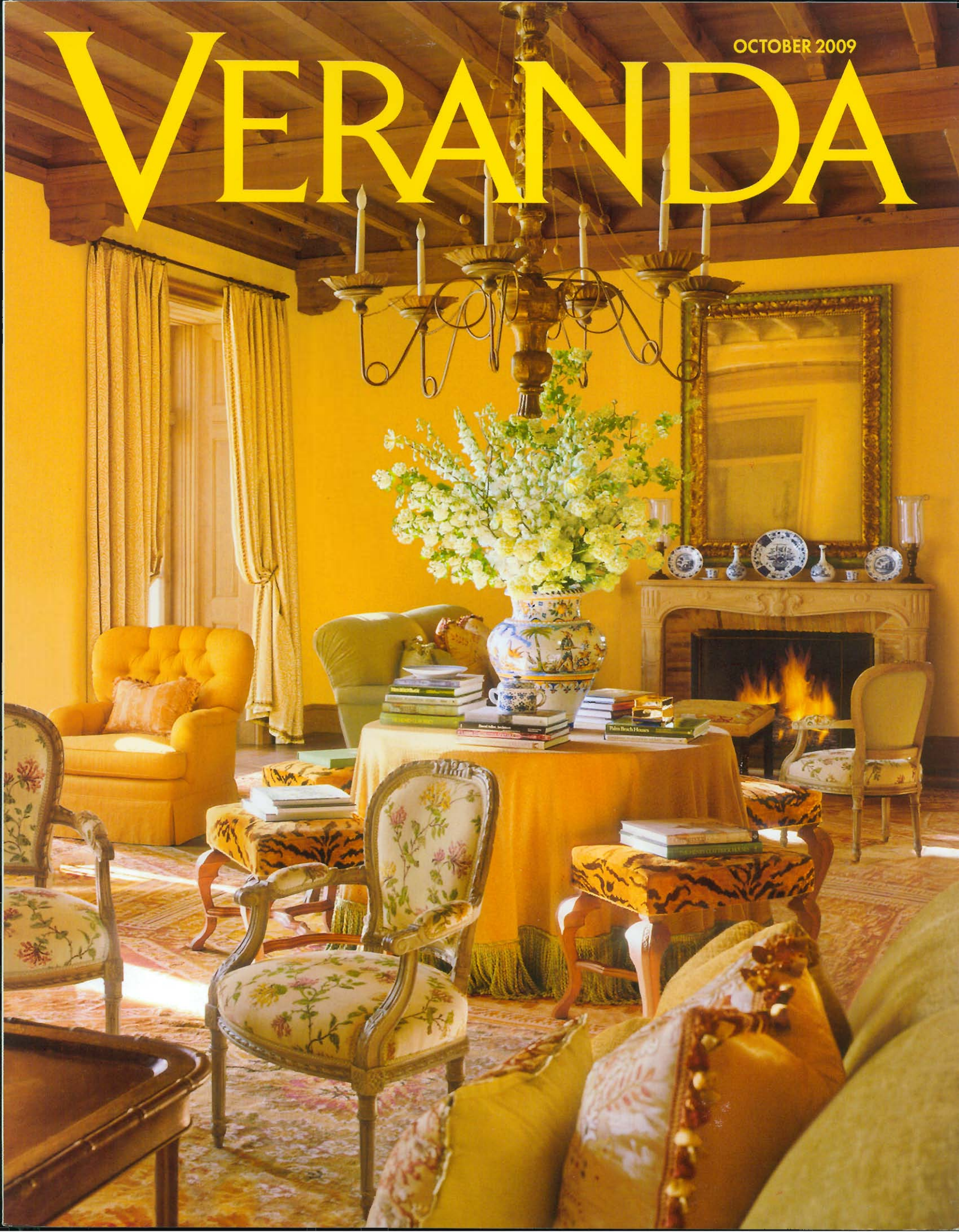
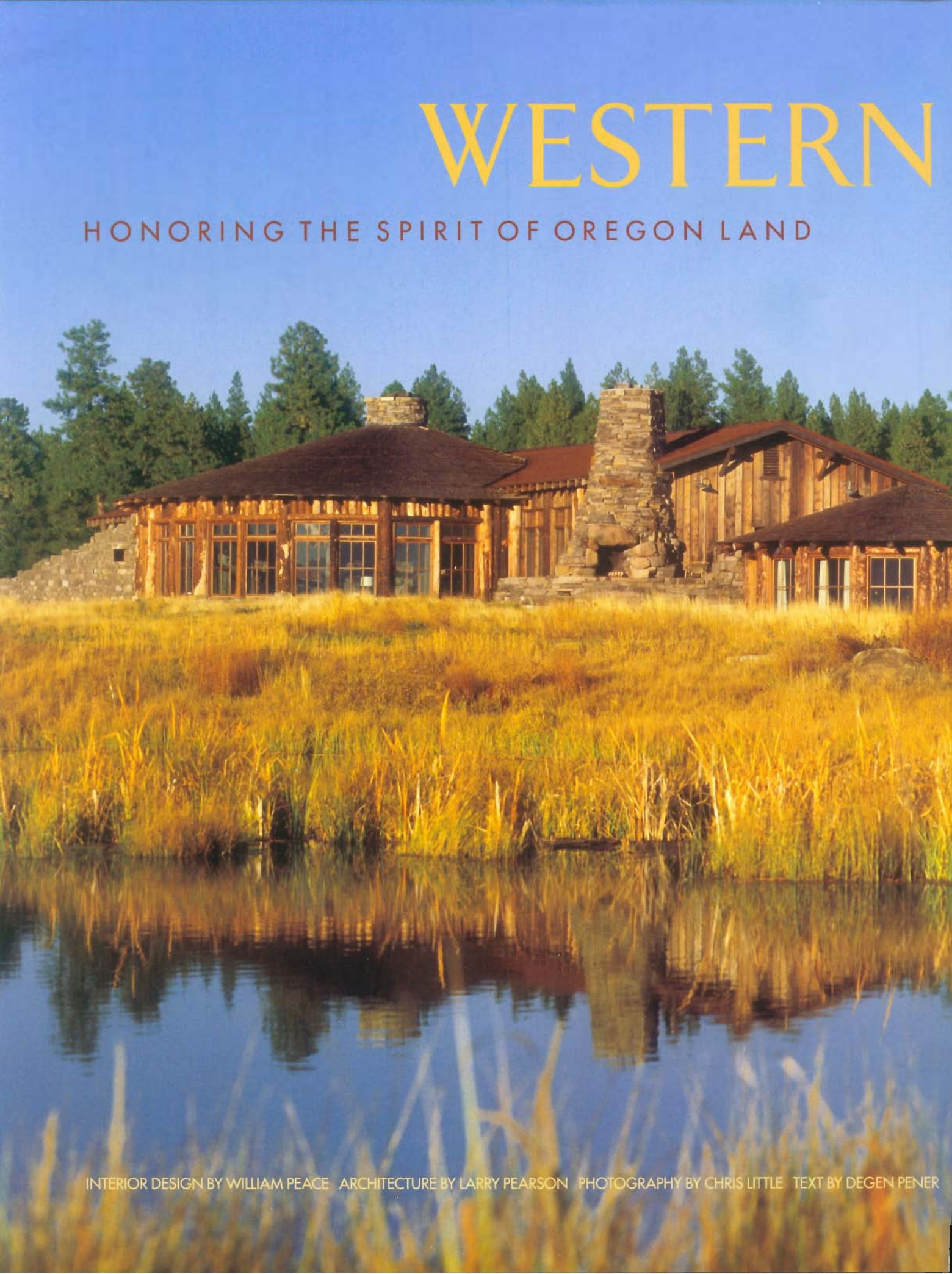
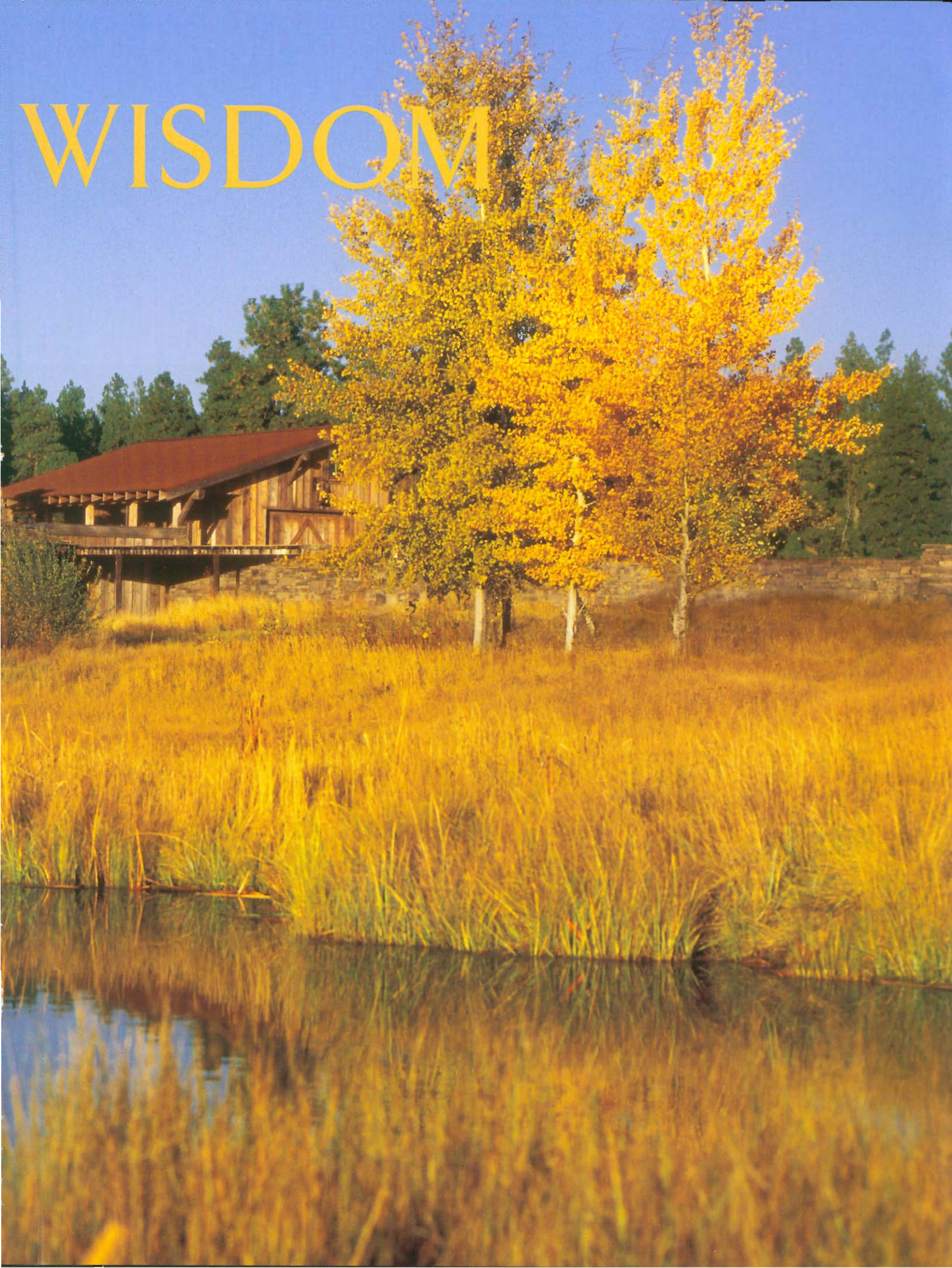

OCTOBER 2009
VERANDA

WESTERN

HONORING THE SPIRIT OF OREGON LAND

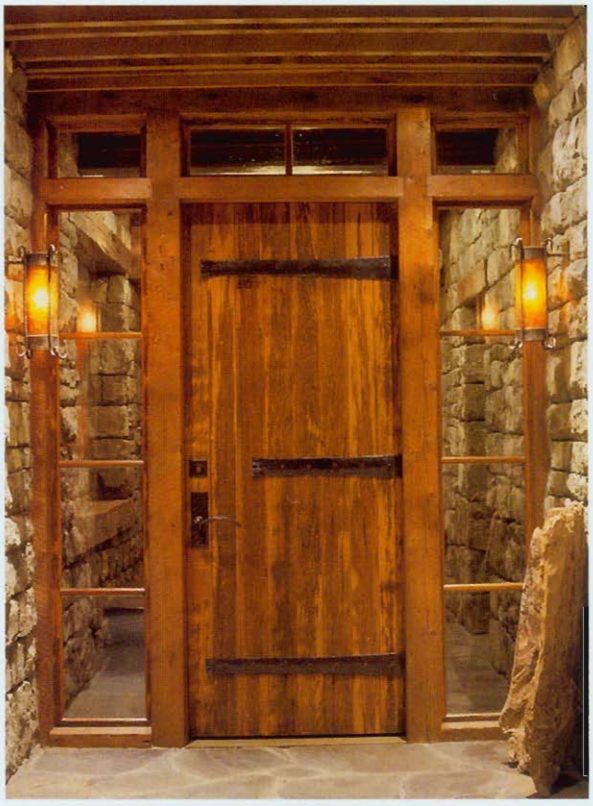


INTERIOR DESIGN BY WILLIAM PEACE ARCHITECTURE BY LARRY PEARSON PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS LITTLE TEXT BY DEGEN PENER


WISDOM

THE NIGHT BEFORE DESIGNER WILLIAM PEACE AND HIS ASSOCIATE ARRIVED TO COMPLETE THE interiors of a new home in Oregon, two feet of snow fell on the 700-acre working ranch. "Their truck could barely get in," says Valerie Root, who owns the property with husband Jim, a fellow native Oregonian. "We were digging pathways for them, and then the power went off. If it could have happened, it did. But they just smiled the whole way through."

The elemental site, blessed by world-class redband trout and eagle habitat, provided inspiration for this authentically Western home with its rustic interiors of recycled redwood and regional granite rocks. The stewardship-minded Roots, who also own a home in nearby Medford and until recently ran a family fruit-processing company, bought the land in the 1990s from a local member of the Klamath Tribes.



After spending years restoring the property's pond and stream, replanting native vegetation, reducing cattle overgrazing and assessing factors such as views, wind patterns, snow drift and angles of sunlight to site the structure, the couple enlisted architect Larry Pearson of Bozeman, Montana, to design the home.

"We started off with the idea of a log cabin," recalls Jim Root. But, over drinks at the local cowboy bar, the concept evolved.

The architect, who is known for using regional and recycled materials, says, "We had the proverbial napkin in front of us, and I remember drawing a circular form with a vertical plane that became a stone wall slicing across one side."

Inspired by ancient tribal design, the house is dominated by the "Gathering Room," the couple's name for the spacious living room. "The circular Gathering Room relates to Native American circular homes," explains the wife. "Since this room is several steps lower than the dining room, it feels very connected to the earth." Conversational areas are warmed by a massive stone double fireplace, which also blazes away in the dining room.

Both rooms glow under the same ceiling of recycled redwood. The architect had heard that an old flume—a six-foot-diameter pipe of redwood—was being dismantled in the town of Prospect, and he bought sections, putting them together like a jigsaw puzzle. "Rooms were laid out on the ground," Jim says. "We moved boards back and forth to visualize how they'd look for walls and the ceiling." Some walls in the home are made of large rocks reclaimed from dilapidated buildings circa 1880 to 1920 that once stood on the Roots' land.

To complement the rugged setting, Peace and design associate Hillary Linthicum, both based in Atlanta and Bozeman, used soothingly finished furnishings such as Art Deco-style club chairs in aged, supple leather, as well as sofas, ottomans and pillows in mohair, suede and velvet. "All of it is very welcoming," says Peace.

In an unexpected touch, the Roots, who frequently travel to Argentina, hired artisans there to make wooden tables, iron hardware and light fixtures, many designed by Pearson. Throughout, the rough and the refined share space. Explains Peace, "These interiors are all about the contrast of the polished and luxurious with the rustic. I was very conscious of not overdecorating. Larry and I also wanted to honor the spirit and materials of the past. This house has integrity." □

OPENING PAGES: Architect Larry Pearson and interior designer William Peace reclaimed regional materials to honor the Old West at this wood-and-stone home in Oregon. Exterior building materials recycled from structures slated for demolition. Hand-split shake roof. Restored trout pond. ABOVE: Main door and sconces designed by Pearson and made in Argentina. OPPOSITE: In entry, *Resplandor en la Hierba* oil by Milagros Argüello. Antique rug. Custom sconce. Walls of recycled stone. Ceiling of reclaimed redwood boards. Floors of band-sawn hardwood and flagstone.

INSPIRED BY NATIVE AMERICAN DESIGN, THE CIRCULAR

SPACE FEATURES A CENTRAL DOUBLE FIREPLACE.

ABOVE LEFT: Jean de Merry leather chairs. Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams leather sofa. Pillows in Great Plains fabric. Landon Cole ottoman in Edelman Leather suede. Draperies in Holland & Sherry fabric. ABOVE RIGHT: Sculpture by Frederic Remington. Antique Argentine poncho and saddle. BELOW LEFT: Sealed redwood sinks and counters by architect. BELOW RIGHT: Jean de Merry leather chairs. Pillows in Great Plains fabric. Old Hickory bed. Draperies in Malabar cotton twill. OPPOSITE: Heartland Appliances stove. Custom sconces, bar stools and copper counter.