

COLORADO COOL

photography by aura marzouk

"Creating the partnership from the dream to the build – that's what we do." – Laura Redd





Laura Redd of Laura Redd Interiors can move mountains. Don't believe us? Well, take a look at the stunning Colorado-style pool and pier she designed at a Greensboro home. Take in the warmth of wood and stone, the vaulted timber ceiling and starry-night lighting and you will swear you're in the Cheyenne Mountains.

And during the heat of a Southern summer, there's nothing better than Colorado cool.

Laura worked with the homeowners on interior design as well, which is likewise mountain inspired: wood ceilings, terracotta tile, beautiful stonework and a freestanding, handmade copper tub in the master bath. "There's no gray in this house," Laura says. "Zero. It's all rich, Colorado colors, inside and out." She redid a music room, dining room, master bedroom and master bath, all in keeping with the Colorado aesthetic.

Her first outside project involved converting an existing greenhouse into a 1,500 square-foot playroom for the family's three sons. It is an open, airy space, but also durable and decidedly, delightfully kid-proof.

And then came the mountain-moving masterpiece. The family wanted a pool and a generous outdoor living space. Their previous home (which Laura also had a hand in) included an outdoor stone and timber structure that they loved and hated to leave behind. Turns out, they didn't have to. That structure, along with the home's interior style and character, inspired the amazing outdoor space.

Laura calls the covered space a pier because it reminds her of a dock overlooking a lake or an ocean. The aptly named pier connects directly to the home's screened porch, master suite, kitchen and a guest room, so views are encompassing and inviting from various angles.

The pier is welcoming and spacious, 53 feet long by 30 feet wide, with organic curves that make it feel as if it's been carved into nature. A massive two-sided stone fireplace sits in the center of the pier with comfortable seating on either side. The ceiling is pitched, rising as high as the stone chimney, supported by timber trusses and finished in beautiful tongue and groove wood.

A gracious dining area is situated to the right of the fireplace, ample enough for two or more tables, perfect for long, meandering meals and gatherings of friends.

At the opposite end of the pier is a rustic hanging bed swing, cushioned and cozy and the perfect spot for afternoon naps or firefly viewing in the evening. This section of the pier is

covered by a shade sail, protecting it from both sun and rain.

That level of thoughtful accommodation can be found throughout the space. "We wanted to do all that we could to make sure the space is usable and enjoyable in pretty much all elements, seasons and scenarios," Laura explains. You can sit by the fire on a rainy night and listen to the steady thrum on the metal roof. During the heat of the day you can find a shady spot to read, work or play games. The mission-style lighting in the dining area is not suspended low in traditional chandelier fashion. That was purposeful, Laura says. She didn't want strictly defined features but rather the ability to move anything around depending on entertaining needs and preferences.

There is clearly a flow and rhythm to the pier that follows the contours of the magnificent pool. As with the pier, Laura and team thought outside the box when it came to pool design. They knew they didn't want it to be square in shape; it had to flow like a river to mesh with the environment being created. So, it winds like a mountain stream, with waterfall features and an infinity edge.

Laura is a great believer in teamwork and creative collaboration, beginning at project inception. "My role is often to hear the vision of the homeowners, review what they've seen on Pinterest or Instagram or HGTV, and then work with builders and contractors to see what is structurally feasible. Creating the partnership from the dream to the build – that's what we do."

The project took a year from start to finish, and Laura couldn't be happier with the result, because her homeowners are so happy. "They tell me it feels like home, inside and out."

You can't have a Colorado retreat without big skies and bright stars, and Laura and team figured out a way to make that happen. They installed lights on the stone deck area surrounding the pool – lights that actually shine up from within the stone. "We call them stars," Laura says, "and they are absolutely magical, big ones and small ones and scattered like stars in the sky."

Laura believes in listening to her clients and designing for how they live. This outdoor space is grand in scale, yet family friendly and Colorado comfortable, thanks to the consideration given to details like the winding river pool, timber and stone pier, inviting bed swing and majestic fireplace. Now close your eyes and feel the mountain breeze.

– Lucinda Trew, editor

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