

# avenue

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## DECOR

BY Kätthe Lemon  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Jared Sych

# Scandi-style Home On the Range

A house on a “gentleman’s ranch” takes design inspiration from the Norwegian owner’s roots as a bull rider with serious Stampede cred.

Ragnar Lyndon Saether has one cowboy boot in each of two worlds: he’s a Norwegian investment banker and a former bull rider. Saether’s maternal grandfather, George Lyndon Crawford, was Stampede president from 1972 to 1973 and played host to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip when they visited for the Stampede’s 60th anniversary. “My grandfather was the stereotypical gentleman rancher and I always wanted to be a cowboy,” says Saether, “but I wanted to *actually* become a cowboy. There were no shortcuts. It meant being accepted into that unique and special fraternity. Once you’ve rodeoed with somebody, you’re friends forever.”

Saether rode bulls for three years and had just earned enough money for Pro eligibility when he decided to give it up and focus on more financially stable ways to make a living. “I’d proven to myself that I had what it takes,” he says, of his decision to stop bull riding. Plus, his bosses at the bank had been impressed having a real live cowboy as an employee, though less so when he took three weeks off to recover from a broken leg.

However, Saether has kept a hand in the bull-riding world as a co-owner of Wild Hogs Bucking Bulls, one of the world’s top breeders of rodeo bulls.

Saether lives on 172 acres near Priddis that belonged to Crawford. The design of his home there, finished in 2013, is a distillation of both parts of his background. “The intent was always to have the marriage of the Norwegian and the cowboy,” says Saether of the home. “It’s 80 per cent Western and about 20 per cent Norwegian.”



LEFT Homeowner Ragnar Saether in the front entrance surrounded by Western wear that is both a decor element and functional in-use outerwear.

Designer Elena Del Bucchia layered new and heritage pieces to create a nuanced look that melds the homeowner’s Western and Norwegian backgrounds into a welcoming and airy central space.







## DECOR



The home's designer, Elena Del Bucchia, notes that the unassuming cedar-clad exterior belies the European sophistication of the interior.

"When you drive up, you wouldn't necessarily expect to find all of this inside," she says.

Over the three years of the design, build and decorating of the home, Saether worked very closely with Del Bucchia. "I'm grateful to have worked with Elena, she steered me right. Having her as my shepherd was invaluable," says Saether. They also worked with architectural draughtsman Gordon Snell on the architecture of the home.

Western elements can be seen throughout in the decor choices — the use of skulls and Western wear as decor elements, and also in the wraparound deck, the barn door to the library and the guest suite that shouts Western hospitality. In fact, Saether has many friends and colleagues from around the world who visit for even weeks at a time. "They can come here and play cowboy with me," says Saether. "It's a quiet, relaxing space. People love it here."

The Norwegian elements include the cedar cladding on the exterior, the stained-wood window surrounds and the white walls. Furnishings such as the wishbone chairs in the dining room and the custom bedroom suite in the main



bedroom are either Scandinavian in design or inspiration. Elements of Saether's extensive art collection are also Norwegian, including the obligatory red Dala horse beside the fireplace in the living room.

The main floor is primarily open-concept, with a central area that incorporates the front-door entrance, kitchen, dining room and living room with a wet bar. It's an open and welcoming space perfect for entertaining everyone from clients to friends of Saether's two kids, aged eight and nine, who are with him about half the time.

The library shares a double-sided fireplace with the living room, and is separated from the dining room by a sliding barn door and a row of interior clerestory windows. "It's a wide-open floor plan, but I still wanted a reading nook. The library is a cozy place," says Saether.

With a balance between open and cozy, Western and Norwegian, old and new, the home feels layered and welcoming. And although it is a new build, it feels rooted in the past and history of the both the family and the land. "My hope is that my kids and their kids will still be on this land long after I'm gone," says Saether.

With the timelessness of the home and the beauty of the area, it's hard to imagine why anyone would want to leave.



TOP LEFT The table in the kitchen makes for a sunny spot to grab a quick bite or do a bit of work. Built-in seating with storage

TOP Plentiful windows take full advantage of the views. Designer Elena Del

Bucchia chose to stain the surrounds rather than paint — a more Scandinavian style.

ABOVE The cozy library off the dining room shares a double-sided fireplace with the living room.



# DECOR

## 5 TIPS FOR DOING WESTERN DECOR

According to designer Elena Del Bucchia, the key to a great Western-style home is to make it feel authentic rather than kitschy.

1. **Go for lifestyle not look.** Think about what attracts you to the Western look and how you can meaningfully add elements that are part of your life. For example, if you attend rodeo or Stampede events, keep an eye out for items you can use to create a shadow box. “You can go buy a bunch of cowboy gear but it needs to be authentic to look good,” Del Bucchia says.
2. **Start with the finishes.** Brass, leather, antique or unfinished wood and locally sourced stone can all help convey a Western feeling without being overwhelming.
3. **Think in layers.** For Del Bucchia, the success of this home design is the layering of styles and elements. “Pull out stuff you’re attracted to,” she says. “Think about your own past, where you were born, what your history is.” Here, items from the original Crawford ranch home sit alongside family antiques from Norway, newer art works, Persian rugs and custom furnishings.
4. **For art’s sake.** Western art doesn’t need to be the stereotypical bronze bucking horse. Images of horses or prairie landscapes in any style can create a strong sense of local connection.
5. **Make it a seasonal thing.** Do you *really* love Western style, but only from about the middle of June to the middle of July? Don’t be afraid to add decor elements just for Stampede season. Pull them out when you start to see bales of hay on street corners and then put them away again when the “ya-hoo!” window paintings have been washed off local storefronts. 🐾



TOP Much of the furniture, including the bed, side tables, bench and bureau in the main bedroom suite, was designed by Elena Del Bucchia and custom made by Mandate to echo the Danish-modern style.

ABOVE Throughout the home cattle skulls are used as decor, but for the guest suite Del Bucchia selected more whimsical wooden deer mounts.



## SOURCE

### DECOR PAGES 56 TO 60

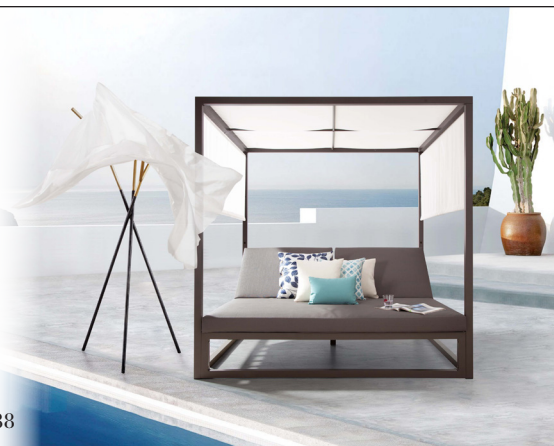
Design by **Elena Del Bucchia Design**, 403-605-2865, edbdesign.ca  
 Fixtures throughout (unless specifically stated) from **Cartwright Lighting & Furniture**, 7301 11 St. S.E., 403-270-8508, cartwrightlighting.ca  
 Dining table custom designed by **Elena Del Bucchia Design**, made by Domicile, 403-262-9780  
 Alban dining chairs by Nuevo from **Manndate Group**, 1-866-333-8020, manndate.com  
 Rug from **Dasan Interiors**, 5836 Burbank Rd. S.E. 403-512-0034, dasaninteriors.com  
 Chandelier from **Restoration Hardware**, South-centre, 403-271-2122, restorationhardware.com  
 Sliding barn door custom designed by **Elena Del Bucchia Design**; hardware from **Banbury Lane Design Centre**, 1301 10 Ave. S.W., 403-244-0038, banburylane.com  
 Chief Body of the Blood painting by Nicholas de Grandmaison, from **Loch Gallery**, 314 12 Ave. S.W., 403-209-8542, lochgalleries.com  
 Horse painting by Andre Petterson, from **Wallace Galleries**, 500 5 Ave. S.W., 403-262-8050, wallacegalleries.com  
 Kitchen-nook table from **Restoration Hardware**  
 Caesarstone quartz countertop in London Grey from **Alberta Marble & Tile Co.**, 2020 Pegasus Rd. N.E., 403-287-0944, albertamarble.com  
 Millwork by **Legacy Kitchens**, 2980 Sunridge Way N.E., 403-291-6868, legacykitchens.com  
 Custom living-room sofa designed by **Elena Del Bucchia Design**, supplied by Manndate Group  
 Custom burnt-orange leather chairs supplied by **Manndate Group**  
 Sheepskin throws on chairs from **Costco**, multiple locations, costco.ca  
 Coffee table from **Montauk Sofa**, 617 10 Ave. S.W., 403-265-6777, montauksofa.com  
 Arco floor lamp by Flos from **Kit Interior Objects**, 725 11 Ave. S.W., 403-508-2533, kitinteriorobjects.com  
 Douglas fir doors and windows from **Loewen Window Centre of Calgary**, 1108 55 Ave. N.E., 403-569-8282, loewencalgary.com  
 Stuv two-way wood-burning fireplace from **Hearth and Home**, 5740 1A St. S.W., 403-258-3732, hearthandhomefireplace.com  
 Eldorado stone on fireplace from **I-XL Building Products Inc.**, 4900 102 Ave. S.E., 403-243-6031, ixlbuild.com  
 Skulls sourced through **Shelley Repka-Willard** from her Okotoks-area farm  
 Custom main-bedroom bed designed by Elena Del Bucchia Design, supplied by **Manndate Group**  
 Rugs from **Dasan Interiors**  
 Pillows from **Kit Interior Objects**  
 Longhorn skull from **Restoration Hardware**  
 Guest bedroom bed frame designed by Elena Del Bucchia Design, supplied by **Manndate Group**  
 Wood deer heads from **Restoration Hardware**  
 Side tables from **West Elm**, 868 16 Ave. S.W., 403-245-1373, westelm.ca



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