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2014-15





Lucky Jack Farm



RANCHO SANTA FE, CALIFORNIA

There's no better place for friends to gather than within the whitewashed courtyard of Lucky Jack Farm. Horse owner and amateur competitor Patty Brutton conceived the private, 15-acre equestrian facility north of San Diego, CA after years of keeping her horses in dark, cramped boarding barns. For Brutton, Lucky Jack Farm became the antithesis of old-fashioned spaces for horses. Open, welcoming and bright, it is a peaceful, healthy home base for humans and horses alike.

Its centerpiece a 16-stall barn perched on a hillside in the equestrian community of Rancho Santa Fe, the facility is so remarkable that it was chosen to grace the cover of architect John Blackburn's book *Healthy Stables by Design*. Blackburn, who completed construction on the farm in 2010, faced a host of code, environmental and geologic challenges throughout the planning and building process.

But for each problem — strict fire codes, a rocky, sloping landscape and unique property characteristics — an innovative solution was found that ultimately adds to the character of Lucky Jack Farm.

A terra cotta roof and white adobe walls are mixed with timber beams, and in the clubhouse, Douglas fir wood flooring pay homage to the area's Lilian Rice architecture style. Lucky Jack's open courtyards and drought-resistant landscaping are also in keeping with the region. The sloped roof of the barn, lined with skylights from end to end that brighten the aisle way in latticed shadows, is the facility's crown jewel. Brutton's trainer Marcy Gehrke bases her business out of the facility, and a group of friends board their horses there. Brutton has hosted select events at Lucky Jack; the 6,000 square-foot entertainment area with outdoor fireplace and patio is an elegant venue for holding equestrian-related fundraisers.

Opposite: Every stall was designed to avoid the claustrophobic and closed-in. Complete cross aeration keeps the barn fresh; on one side of their stalls, horses can look across the aisle at each other, also relax with their heads outside the barn, creating a peaceful atmosphere.

Above: a dramatic sunshade creates cover in the barn's outdoor lounge area, the clubhouse is seen at right.



This page, clockwise: Lucky Jack Farm was constructed in 2010 as a private facility that the owners could enjoy with friends; Safety was a great concern of architect John Blackburn, who considered the fact that the barn, built on a steep slope, could present hazards in the event of a loose horse. The trellis and resulting landscaping create an attractive visual and physical barrier that keeps horses within bounds of the barn area; Every stall bears the name of its occupant, or if vacant, that of the farm

Opposite page, clockwise: A round pen (pictured) and covered Eurociser create several exercise options for the horses, while a manicured riding path leads down to the full-sized arena, and beyond to the Rancho Santa Fe trail system; The group of friends who enjoy Lucky Jack together: trainer Marcy Gehrke, Cathy Gilchrist, Jan Barstow, Patty Brutton, and Barbara Brown; Antique Navajo Indian rugs, cowhide leather ottomans and a generous picture window give Lucky Jack's clubhouse an inviting atmosphere where the horses are never more than a few steps away; A Deborah Butterfield sculpture at the base of the turnouts greet all who enter Lucky Jack Farm — the drive then slopes to the right towards the entrance to the barn.





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