



**THE BRANDED T RANCH
PARTY BARN –
TEXAS TRANSPLANT**

Photography by Jason Roberts & Associates

Like a lot of other Texans, it wasn't born in Texas, but it got here as fast as it could. The Branded T Ranch, nestled in the hill country of Kendall County, features an English hay barn transported from Glen, New York. Built circa 1870 and measuring 40 feet wide by 100 feet long, the barn was the largest project ever undertaken by Heritage Restoration which managed the barn's move from New York to Texas, where it now enjoys its new life as the Party Barn at Branded T Ranch.

Todd Glowka, president of Todd Glowka Builder Inc., was the mastermind behind pulling all the resources together necessary to update a 142-year-old hay barn into a posh party place.

"A lot of people think they can get into old houses and barns and restore them easily," says Glowka. "But it's really not a simple process. After we located the right barn we wanted to purchase through Heritage Restoration, I got with my architect and my interior designer and created a design that added all the porches, all the stone, all the siding and windows. We put in a commercial kitchen and all the appliances, more than 2,000 square feet of outdoor living areas overlooking the lake, and a vintage saloon bar."

The massive reconstruction of the barn took about eight months. "We were able to raise the barn and stand it up on its old timbers within two to three days after we started using cranes," Glowka says.

"We had a new construction shell built around the barn on the outside, so you would not physically affect the look and integrity of the interior of the barn, and building on the outside



allowed us to insulate and not lose any dimensions or cut into any of the old timbers," explains Glowka. "We added custom barn wood red sliding doors that run on tracks hand forged by Amish craftsmen, and used additional reclaimed barn wood and expansive windows — all the finishing touches to make it as beautiful as it is functional."

But for all the additions to the exterior, the bones of the Party Barn's interior remain. Glowka was able to retain the very large sawn Hemlock timbers, as well as the barn's unique truss design in the three middle bents. "The one thing that kind of baffles me is there's not a nail in the barn," says Glowka of the original carpentry used to construct the barn. "So we had to drill out any of the old rotted dowels, and replace with dowels we created. It was all originally put together with a kind of joinery called mortise and tenon, used by cabinetmakers. There were no nails in the original structure, and we were able to keep it that way."