

HAUTE HUNTING

BY ROBERT DEWITT | PHOTOS BY PORFIRIO SOLORZANO

It used to be that a typical hunting camp was an old trailer moved for the third or fourth time or the former home of a sharecropper. It was a place to lay your head on a lumpy bed at night and rise before daylight, shivering from the frigid air until the fire was lit.

For years, that's all hunters wanted. They didn't care what it looked like, what it smelled like or how cold it was.

But today, creature comforts are creeping into private hunting camps and commercial lodges. Carefully decorated interiors, expensive art and taxidermy, central heat and air, satellite TV, matching china and silverware, oriental rugs, fresh matching linen and private baths are becoming more commonplace.

Hunters who know they will spend a lot of time at their camp begin to think about how

comfortable they'll be there. Since brothers Terry and Sonny Bunn are on their farm in Fosters just about every day during hunting season, they decided to make their camp house a bit more comfortable.

"You can't beat a 15-minute getaway," said Sonny. "It's 15 minutes from our office, and it seems like you've gone 50 miles. I think that's why we enjoy it so much."

The camp house is built on stilts deep inside the river bottomland that features hardwood swamps and large agricultural fields. They call it a farm, but it's all about the hunting. And they wanted their camp to reflect that.

"We wanted a camp house that would reflect the outdoors," Terry said. "Everything is finished natural."

With ancient heart-pine floors brought in

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Luxury lodges in West Alabama offer enthusiasts the thrill of the outdoors with the creature comforts of the indoors.

