

farm fresh

WHEN HOUSTON COUPLE MARY LOU AND WALT DECIDED TO BUILD A RETIREMENT HOME WHERE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN COULD HAPPILY GATHER FOR YEARS TO COME, THEY CHOSE THE TINY, HISTORICAL COMMUNITY OF SPRINGHILL, MONTANA.



BY DEBORAH DONOHUE PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROGER WADE




A sleepy enclave—with not much more than a church and school—is located just north of Bozeman at the base of Ross Peak and the Bridger Mountains. The Houston couple strongly identified with the ancestry and landscape of Montana’s Gallatin Valley, which included many old apple orchards, remnants of Springhill’s former agrarian history. And the views were enchanting. The cold and pristine Gallatin River was the breathtaking locale for much of Robert Redford’s award winning 1994 film, *A River Runs Through It*. This classic story of two brothers, a family, and the romance of fly-fishing fostered environmental awareness and renewed respect for Montana’s beloved rivers, along with the critical importance of keeping their fisheries viable. The film also sparked interest in the area as a place to live. Springhill itself dates back to 1871, nearly two decades before Montana became a state. The Springhill Pavilion, whose original dance hall was built in 1872, was the site of a romantic dance scene in another of Redford’s films, *The Horse Whisperer*. Cognizant of the area’s rich history, the couple wanted the design of their home to reflect the architectural language of a farmhouse. The result

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PREVIOUS TITLE SPREAD:
“MONTANA WEATHERED EDGE,” A LOCALLY QUARRIED SANDSTONE WITH A TUMBLED LOOK AND TIMEWORN FEEL IS USED THROUGHOUT THE PROPERTY. EXCEPT FOR A SOD ROOF ON THE PORTION OF THE HOME MADE TO LOOK LIKE A GRAIN ELEVATOR, ALL ROOFING IS CEDAR SHINGLED OR GALVANIZED, CORRUGATED TIN. THE PURPOSELESSLY FADED WHITE TRIM IS REMINISCENT OF STRUCTURES THAT HAVE WITHSTOOD YEARS OF HARSH MONTANA ELEMENTS. THERE ARE TWO GUEST SUITES ON THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE BARN AND A DINING AREA BELOW. WINDOWS FROM MONTANA SASH AND DOOR OF BOZEMAN ARE FRAMED INSIDE AND OUT WITH A WIRE-BRUSHED CEDAR PRODUCT THAT AGES BEAUTIFULLY. (SOURCED FROM ARCHITECTURAL TRADITIONS OUT OF TUCSON) MAYVILLE LANDSCAPING PROVIDED NATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN.

THIS PAGE:
THE HEARTH SCREENS FOR THE GREAT ROOM AND THE WOOD BURNING FIREPLACE IN THE KITCHEN ARE HAND FORGED IRON BY BLACKSMITH BILL MOORE. CHANDELIERS ARE FROM CIRCA LIGHTING.



A rustic living room featuring a large, multi-tiered stone fireplace with a fire burning inside. The fireplace is set against a wall of rough-hewn stone. Above the fireplace is a thick, dark wooden mantel. To the left, a large window with multiple panes offers a view of a green field and mountains. The ceiling is made of dark wood with exposed beams. A chandelier with several lit candles hangs from the ceiling. In the foreground, there are several light-colored armchairs and a coffee table with a vase of white flowers and some books. A small round table with a woven basket sits next to the coffee table.

“The couple and their three sons first fell in love with the area when a friend offered them the use of a cabin outside of Bozeman, complete with a pond for fly fishing. The pond turned a shimmering gold as the sun was setting and two moose meandered by. The family was smitten.”





RECLAIMED FIR AND HEAVY TIMBERS FOR THE TRUSSES AND CUT-BEAM WOOD CEILINGS WERE SOURCED FROM MONTANA TIMBERS IN BOZEMAN. MOUNTAIN HIGH WOODWORKS, ALSO IN BOZEMAN, CREATED THE CUSTOM CABINETRY, DELIBERATELY DIVERGENT IN COLOR AND SHAPE, TO GIVE THE FEEL OF A TRADITIONAL HUTCH HERE, A GLASS FRONTED CABINET THERE. THE RESULT BEAUTIFULLY DISPLAYS THE OWNERS' IMPRESSIVE POTTERY COLLECTION. TILE WORK IS TUMBLED TRAVERTINE. SHADED PENDANT LAMPS ARE BY CIRCA LIGHTING. RUSTIC CHAIRS WITH A WHITEWASHED FINISH AND MILK-COLORED CUSHIONS ADD A FRESH AND CASUAL AMBIANCE.

RIGHT: WHITEWASHED WALL PLANKING OF RECLAIMED FIR KEEPS A LIGHT FEEL IN THE MASTER BEDROOM. SIDE TABLE LAMPS ARE FROM RESTORATION HARDWARE. DOUBLE PANE, HIGH-PERFORMANCE WINDOWS AFFORD A SPECTACULAR VIEW OF THE BRIDGER RANGE. FLOORING IS WIRE-BRUSHED, DURABLE SOUTHERN PINE. GEOTHERMAL GROUND SOURCE HEATING THROUGHOUT THE HOME IS BOTH GREEN AND HIGHLY EFFICIENT, MINIMIZING USE OF PROPANE.



is a home that not only pays homage to the sensibilities of previous generations, but looks as though parts of it could have been standing for a hundred years, lovingly added onto through the decades. Greg Dennee, a native resident of Bozeman and innovative partner at Locati Architects, helped shepherd the project. Dennee instinctively understood the territory and rendered the design, enlisting Chad Bottcher of Schlauch Bottcher Construction to execute the shared vision. Along with precise attention to architectural detail and the marriage of new and old materials, the home is equipped with forward-looking technology and amenities that include a seamless yet unobtrusive distribution of sound and video throughout. The result is an effortless and serene sanding of the rustic edge of the past with luxurious modern comforts.

LEFT: A FOLD OUT BED, TUCKED NEATLY INTO THE WALL WHEN OUT OF USE, PROVIDES A COMFORTABLE ALCOVE AND SANCTUARY FOR A LUCKY GUEST.



SALVAGED BARN WOOD REPURPOSED INTO CABINETS AND DRY BRUSHED A VINTAGE RED GIVE AN OLD WEST AMBIANCE TO A BEDROOM. SLIDING BARN DOORS MADE OF METAL—COMPLETE WITH AUTHENTIC HARDWARE—ALONG WITH A TROUGH STYLE BASIN IN THE ADJACENT WASHROOM COMPLETE THE LOOK OF YESTERYEAR.





resources

Architect:
Greg Dennee
Locati Architects
www.locatiarchitects.com

Builder:
Chad Bottcher
Schlauch Bottcher Construction
www.sbconstruction.com

Interior Design:
Home Owners
&
Amanda Heys, Locati Interior Design
www.locatiarchitects.com/company/the-team/amanda-veys
&
Jane Osborne
A Feathered Nest

Landscaping:
Mayville Landscaping
www.mayvillelandscaping.com

THE OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING AREA, WITH THE REQUISITE ROCKING CHAIRS, PROVIDES AN EXPANSIVE VISTA OF THE SURROUNDING PRAIRIE. A TROUT-STOCKED POND IS HIDDEN BY A STAND OF ASPEN TREES JUST BEYOND VIEW, OFFERING LAZY DAYS ALONG ITS PEACEFUL BANKS. IN THE DISTANCE, MAJESTIC ROSS PEAK (NAMED FOR PIONEER MELVIN ROSS WHO PLANTED A FLAG ON TOP OF IT IN 1863) STANDS WATCH IN THE DISTANCE.