

## Merit Award



AIA Montana  
2001 Award of Excellence  
Merit Winner

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The Vetter Boathouse is 3,042 square feet located in the heart of the Betterroot Valley and is one of several buildings that create a getaway designed to meet the owners' personal flare. Although the entire project includes a bunkhouse, pole barn, and main residence, the boathouse is the center of activity.

The owner requested a building that could serve as a guesthouse and recreational center for the ranch property. The design goal from the beginning was to create an atmosphere of vernacular relaxation. The white clapboard siding and wraparound decks emulate established 'boathouse' designs while the floor plan and interior layout show the creativity of both the owner and architect.

# The Vetter Boathouse

The main level is encircled by windows creating a constant connection between the

interior and exterior spaces of the building. The high ceilings, which house a small loft over the north portion of the building, help to further generate the open feel of the main living area. The combination of 360 degree view, the ship's ladder to the loft and stark white interior siding leave no question about the building's typology. The white exterior is carried inside and again, creates a sense that the interior and exterior spaces are connected. The furnishing resemble that which you might see poolside and are made primarily of wicker, glass and soft fabrics.

To complete this summer getaway, a system of docks was constructed over a pond and stream at the rear of the house. A windmill was also constructed coming out of the pond: Originally for character and later to serve as a prime location to put the rope swing. This serves as a project icon as well as the base for rope swing and diving platform.