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Citation Award



Sawtooth Mountain Ranch / Lumsden Residence

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This project presented a challenge that is repeated throughout the development of the West today, the challenge to sensitively place a building in a spectacular, but highly sensory environment. It was important to recognize the desire to locate the building in relationship to the views, but it was also vital to include larger issues such as the natural migration routes of big game. It is a particularly special property near Yellowstone National Park, which enjoys a close proximity to big game migration corridors.

In choosing a site for the main residence, we decided to remove it from the direct affects of a country road for privacy, delicately settling the building within a grove of aspens that bordered a large meadow. The meadow opens onto views of the commanding Gallatin Range and also provides a wonderful vantage point from which to spot the animals on the mountain slopes. It was a conscious balance between privacy for the owners and minimal intrusion to the big game population.

The thrust of this project was to create a private family compound that could be enjoyed by an outdoor-activity-oriented family of four. The scope included upgrading several existing buildings on the ranch and introducing a main residence, which is the focus of this submission.

In approaching the main residence and in response to the existing historical nature of the ranch, a traditional western vernacular was employed to weave the new construction fabric into the existing homestead. Recycled hewn chestnut logs, vertically applied barn board and indigenous stone were the materials of choice in appreciation of the subdued palette and textural qualities of the existing buildings. Wood windows and doors and a cedar shingle roof were the only materials introduced that did not already have a weathered patina. We knew the affects of the environment would quickly mute the shingles, and the doors and windows were stained to blend tonally with the surrounding aged materials.

- Two log barns were purchased; one two-story barn was

used for the main living structure, utilizing its height for two children's bedrooms above the kitchen/dining rooms. The second log structure was used for the master suite.

- The main entry, with the exterior sheathed in moss stone, was used as a connection between the master suite and main living area, separating public from private areas.
- At the vaulted ceiling of the living room a large barn door opening in the original hewn barn layout was utilized for oversized windows looking out onto views of an expansive meadow and the rugged mountains. A commanding fireplace in the living room is large enough to be enjoyed from the dining room and the kitchen.
- A billiard room is prefaced with a hall from the living room that looks onto a patio area outside.
- The dining room and kitchen were compressed in height with a hewn beam coffered ceiling.
- The kitchen is designed for the serious cook and leads to a screened porch for easy outdoor eating in the summer months.
- The living spaced lead to outdoor areas that are semi-protected with a shed roofed porch or a screened porch.
- There are three fireplaces, one on the screened porch for crisp nights outdoors and two fireplaces back to back at the living room and billiard room. The fireplaces oppose one another and help anchor the building to the site.
- Patio spaces in two locations allow for wind protection and sun protection depending on the time of day.
- The bedrooms are not overly large, and each is accommodated with a private bath.

Sustainability goals that were attained in the design are:

- 1 Utilizing reclaimed materials
- 2 No off gas paints or carpets
- 3 Energy efficient windows
- 4 Super insulated envelope
- 5 High efficiency hydronic heating system
- 6 Minimum exterior lighting for low light pollution