



2008 Award of Excellence
AIA Montana Design Awards Program
Honor Award



Architects of Record:

Tad Tsukamoto, AIA
Intrinsic Architecture, Inc.
111 North Tracy Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-582-8988
ttsukamoto@intrinsicarchitecture.com

Montana Modern Prefab Cabin

At 8,600 feet elevation, essentially the rooftop of Paradise Valley, a small 'folded tent' form nestles into a natural clearing. This 800 square foot prefabricated cabin on stilts, consists of two predominate programmatic volumes. One, a sleeping core, provides an external stair for access to a rooftop deck for sleeping under the stars. The larger volume acts as a wet unit and gathering space with overflow through three 12' sliding patio doors opening onto a large deck for varying family occupancies and views in three directions down to the valley floor below. The enclosed breezeway between the two larger volumes acts as a 'dogtrot' for passive cooling known as the 'dog's tooth' across the valley.

This structure is truly in keeping with the expression that 'necessity is the mother of invention' as its remote location, extreme snow demands, wildlife interaction and the desire to keep all trees on site intact, controlled the design and logistics of construction. As a rigid material that could hold up through the seasons, steel was used predominately throughout the cabin. All walls, floor, and roof panels were prefabricated with 2x construction and sprayed with urethane foam off site. The entire structure was lifted above the common heavy snow pack onto steel columns to both create a floating effect above the sloping grade, while providing protection for a 'family camp' type sleeping platform. In addition the building acts as an armadillo shell in the off season as all openings are equipped with rolling shutters, pivoting gates, or sliding doors to protect from elements and curious wildlife.