



2008 Award of Excellence
AIA Montana Design Awards Program
Merit Award



Architects of Record:

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Apple 8 Infill

Known as the 'Apple Tree House' for the distinct apple tree in the front lawn preserved throughout planning, design and construction, this small footprint structure (1200 SF) catches the eye of passersby through its brilliant presence on the street. As a result of a subdivided lot from an underutilized lot, Apple 8 takes advantage of the unique opportunity to rise above the neighboring rear yards to both capture views and the solar window while offering an important and welcomed infill frontage along Peach streetscape. Programmatically, the house is two levels with a compact and flexible garage on the ground floor and flexible living spaces on the upper levels. Three exterior decks act as solar shades for areas below, contributing to a passive cooling effect from the thermal mass of concrete ground floor slab. A unique counterbalanced steel stair offers access to a third floor loft while maintaining efficient circulation below.

Structural insulated panels were utilized for all elements of the building envelope. Low V.O.C. paint was used throughout with formaldehyde-free MDF cabinets, bamboo floors and cabinet tops.

One of the best aspects of this home is its employment as a grid-tie, net-zero power plant. Through the use of photovoltaic roof panels, solar hot water systems and passive heating/cooling design strategies, more power is given back to the system than is taken in. In addition, a xeriscape lawn calls for little to no watering or maintenance.