

Barn Raising

Jackson Hole. “The next day, Kevin called and brought the napkin sketch by,” shared architect Mark Weirich. “I had been involved in some other projects where there was living space above a barn area, but never as a full-time residence.”

Weirich, as well as LeClair’s father who owns a construction firm, had questions about the project at first. Would you really want your entire living space to be up a flight of stairs? But, one by one, those close to the creation of this unique home space were won over.

“We couldn’t have taken in the viewshed if we’d built a single-level home,” said LeClair. As it is, there are astounding views of the Tobacco Roots, Gallatins and Bridgers. In every room on the main level, windows frame fields and hills with a different mountain range as backdrop.

“It opened another dimension,” said Miller. “You really see the hills.” And you see them with that depth acquired only through a higher vantage point.

The home is in turns agrarian and playfully modern in its sense of historic interpretation. From the start, in true barn-raising style, Miller and LeClair involved many friends and family in the design, building and final finishing of their



A cooking island and rustic hickory cabinets combine in the kitchen.

house. They were deeply involved in every stage of construction themselves.

The main entry features a great granite slab as a natural platform step at the base of the stairway to the living level. Miller recounted discovering this boulder and several others while nearby road construction was underway. He obtained permission to haul the stones to his home, which was being finished at the time. “I kept going over there with a back hoe to pull

those stones over from a mile away,” Miller said. “I spent three months doing that.” Not only did he craft the raised platform as a base for the stairs, other slabs and boulders became pavers in garden paths and were placed to line the pond in back, which regularly attracts wildlife.

Throughout the home, finishing touches and interior elements carry specific memories and historic connection. Every main beam came from LeClair’s grandparents’ ranch in the

says. White seeps into the cranberry. Browns break apart and copper glides between the separations. Like watching raindrops on a window sill, droplets gain momentum and create veins. Colors migrate across the space in a marbled pattern. Playing with the combination of paint and gravity, the final piece resembles a storm-soaked mountain landslide, sluicing and cascading to reveal the darkened and drenched soil beneath.

Beginning Nov. 1, Terfloth will have a show up at the Zoot Enterprises gallery, located just west of Four Corners. Angie Solvie, a member of Zoot’s committee for the arts, and gallery coordinator, says Terfloth’s work caught her eye as a great match up with the space.

“His work is very bright and striking,” she says. “And he had some large vibrant pieces that I thought would fit well in the gallery.” For Solvie, it was important that the paintings were vibrant, but more than that, he presented himself well.

“He’s very excited about what he’s doing and it shows,” Solvie says. “His work was beautiful and accessible to people, you don’t need an art degree to appreciate it.”

Terfloth’s Zoot show will be up until the end of January 2008. ☺



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