

In true barn-house tradition, the front doors slide on a track, which opens to a direct line of sight through the home to the view beyond. A breezeway connects the living area to the garage.

A rustic wooden cabin with a corrugated metal roof and a porch, set in a forest. The cabin is built with vertical wooden planks and has a prominent gable roof. A porch with two wicker chairs and a small table is visible. The background is a dense forest of tall evergreen trees.

Beauty & Purpose

**Reclaiming Montana's timber-lifestyle heritage,
this home artfully uses salvaged materials,
creating a brand-new house with a whole lot of history.**

BY KAREN MARLEY | PHOTOS BY HEIDI LONG



The great room's expansive space and windows delight the homeowners with displays of natural light that change in tone throughout the day.



Geraldine did all the interior design work for the home she shares with her husband, Frank. She used a cheerful cerulean blue to add bursts of color, such as the kitchen island's reclaimed wood, milk-painted base.

Comfortably settled amidst the pines near a Whitefish Lake subdivision lies a beautiful barn-inspired residence. At first glance, one might easily assume the timber home was part of the Montana development's original homestead, perhaps remodeled from an old outbuilding. With this thought, you'd be wrong ... but only partially.

The 2,400-square-foot, two-story home with a deck, screened-in porch, first-floor master suite and enclosed

loft is a new build. More accurately, it's a newly conceived structure made primarily from repurposed materials.

"All of the reclaimed wood is Montana wood. Mostly fir and larch," says Brad Reedstrom, owner and vice president of Bigfork Builders, the project's contractor. "Most of it came from a really old hay barn southeast of Missoula."

For homeowners Frank and Geraldine, the barn heritage was a perfect fit. They had always found beauty in a barn's structure and purpose. "It's that

practical use for animals and storage. They hold a story we appreciate," reflects Geraldine.

It was up to architect Keith Beck of KBArchitecture to adapt a traditional barn style into something with a lighter feel, suitable for living. "Everything is based on proportion. It's spacious vertically, but the substantial timbers and trusses fill the volume. It has substance," says Keith.

Brad explains, "Historically, when ranchers built their barns, beams were



OPPOSITE: Mixing metals, like this copper basin with an oil-rubbed bronze trough faucet, make this half-bath seem eclectic and curated over time, rather than feeling like a brand-new build.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Details like rough-sawn wood wainscoting and gooseneck lanterns are what make farmhouse style come to life. ■ A low-profile deck doesn't have railings, allowing unobstructed views of the quiet woodland surroundings. ■ The guest bedroom takes on a softer feeling, with its cornflower blue palette and soft linens. However the farmhouse style is still evident in the chocolate-brown beams overhead. ■ The repurposed posts still show the markings and notches from their former structures.



The screened-in porch with fireplace is a favorite spot and provides a cozy space to enjoy being outdoors from spring through late autumn.







home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,400

BUILDER: Bigfork Builders;
406-253-3373;
bigforkbuilders.com

ARCHITECT: Keith Beck,
KBArchitecture;
406-837-2883

simple and straightforward. We replicated that and let the functionality define the aesthetic statement. We chose not to use fancy arches, knee braces or corbels.”

Turning this unpretentious style into a home demanded extraordinary skill. Brad describes incorporating older pieces into the new form as a puzzle. He sought timbers with interesting character and beauty, while being large enough to be structurally sound. Additionally, he insisted on brown tones rather than the more common weathered gray. Timbers, siding, roof, decking and much of the cabinetry are all reclaimed wood.

The indoor and outdoor wood-burning fireplaces are made of locally-sourced stones from a hot springs area. A few are adorned with lichen. Sliding crossbuck barn doors were custom made onsite. The exposed sliding track hardware contributes to the home’s functionally-styled patina.

Energy efficiency was also key. Foam insulation was installed under the siding and framing. The two main exterior entries are paired doors: an insulated, clad interior set and a secondary,


external sliding barn door.

The reuse theme extends to the interior. Custom-crafted cabinetry is a mixture of new and salvage. Reclaimed pieces include the built-in desk, ladder and kitchen island, milk painted in a cerulean blue. All appliances are clad with wood to harmonize within the space, and the finishes and hardware blend seamlessly with old and new wood.

Windows that soar to approximately 16 feet high anchor the great room. The abundant natural light emphasizes rustic details, such as worn remnants of light green paint on the main support beam that was sourced from a granary.

Each room contains furniture from Frank and Geraldine’s previous, more traditional home. “These pieces respect the dignity of the craftsmanship. Many are reupholstered but assert their own formal style. It’s like having an old friend in each room,” Geraldine says.

Despite being brand new, the home radiates the warmth, comfort and security of a house that’s been in the family for generations and shares a kindred spirit with its rich Montana heritage.

A rustic wooden dining table and chairs set on a deck in front of a barn-style house. The house features vertical wood siding, a large window with a dark frame, and a sliding door with a metal track. A wicker basket with pink flowers sits on the table, along with a blue pitcher and plates. A black lantern-style light fixture is mounted on the wall above the table. Tall grasses are in the foreground.

*Turning this unpretentious barn style
into a home demands extraordinary skill.
Contractor Brad Reedstrom describes incorporating
older, reclaimed pieces
into the new form as “a puzzle.”*