

Explore

Big Sky SPECIAL SECTION

House to Home



From foundation to furnishings: Experts in architecture and aesthetics share pro tips on how to build your house into a home

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Grand-scale ceiling mural installed in Yellowstone Club residence

EBS STAFF

On Dec. 14, after seven months of creating, planning and preparing, artist Theresa Stirling installed a 300-pound encaustic ceiling mural in a home theater at the Yellowstone Club with the help of Big Sky's Haas Builders. Taking into account the iron channels used to mount the piece, it weighed a total of 800 pounds.

The installation process required a crew of eight, four mechanical lifts, and meticulous execution to protect its fragile surface.

Stirling, who is based in the Pacific Northwest, was commissioned by Yellowstone Club charter residents to paint a mural with nature imagery. Consisting of four panels totaling 25,600 square inches, the scene incorporates rainbow trout and an eagle swooping down for its prey, as if viewed from underwater looking up.

"The image was a dream the homeowner had," said Stirling, who also finds inspiration in nature and the "dreamy landscapes" that surround her. "This project has been a wonderful chance to work with the teams on all subcontractor levels [to] make the dream come true. This is highly customized art at its finest."

Stirling works closely with her clients and a graphic designer to ensure she gets the base imagery just right. "This piece will tell the stories of its creators who thought of the imagery, the places they have lived and visited, the trout they love, the eagles that preside over nature," Stirling said. "And it will enchant all lucky visitors to the home theater in which it is the [centerpiece]."

Working primarily in encaustic, a beeswax-based medium, Stirling created a mural with luminous depths, a quality that many encaustic artists cite as a reason they are drawn to the organic medium. "I often let the wax take me



With help from Haas Builders, artist Theresa Stirling installed an 800-pound ceiling mural in a home theater at the Yellowstone Club. PHOTO BY JEFF HARTLEY

where it wants to," Stirling has been known to say.

After leaving a marketing career in biotechnology, Stirling experimented with multiple art forms before discovering encaustic. She has now been working with natural beeswax, dammar tree sap resin and oils for more than 14 years and remains enchanted by the medium.

Stirling's encaustic paintings are built slowly. Each begins with an image, over which she paints up to 20 layers of pure, hot beeswax; cold wax; colorful pigments and oils. She calls her pieces "a labor of love and luxe."

She brings a contemporary approach to the ancient technique, while respecting the origins of the painstaking process. Each brushstroke is carefully fused with a blowtorch, creating a textured surface that can capture any mood for a result that is somehow both raw yet sophisticated.

Although Stirling can create works in a wide range of styles and sizes, she's become increasingly focused on highly customized art and installations, with most of her commissioned projects coming from the Big Sky area.

Publicly, her work can be found at The Architect's Wife in Bozeman, and select interior design showrooms in Bozeman and Whitefish, Montana.

Stirling donates 20 percent of all proceeds from her work to animal shelters, education and the arts.

Visit theresastirling.com to view more of the artist's work.



Stirling works in encaustic, a beeswax-based medium, to create custom works for many residents in the Big Sky area. It took seven months for the artist to complete this grand scale commission that was installed on Dec. 14. PHOTO BY ERIC STIRLING

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Mountain modern: A building concept with staying power



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEAK PHOTOGRAPHY

2017 was an incredible year in the building world, with clients, designers and builders collaborating to produce stunning and timeless projects. Some trends that appear to be continuing are the use of steel, exposed concrete and large expanses of glass. That does not mean, however, that reclaimed materials are out of vogue, because in Montana people will always dream of the “little cabin in the woods.”

Teton Heritage has been very fortunate to work on some of the coolest homes in southwest Montana and Jackson, Wyoming, over the past 21 years. In 2018, we’ll have homes in both locations going through the construction phase in one way or another.

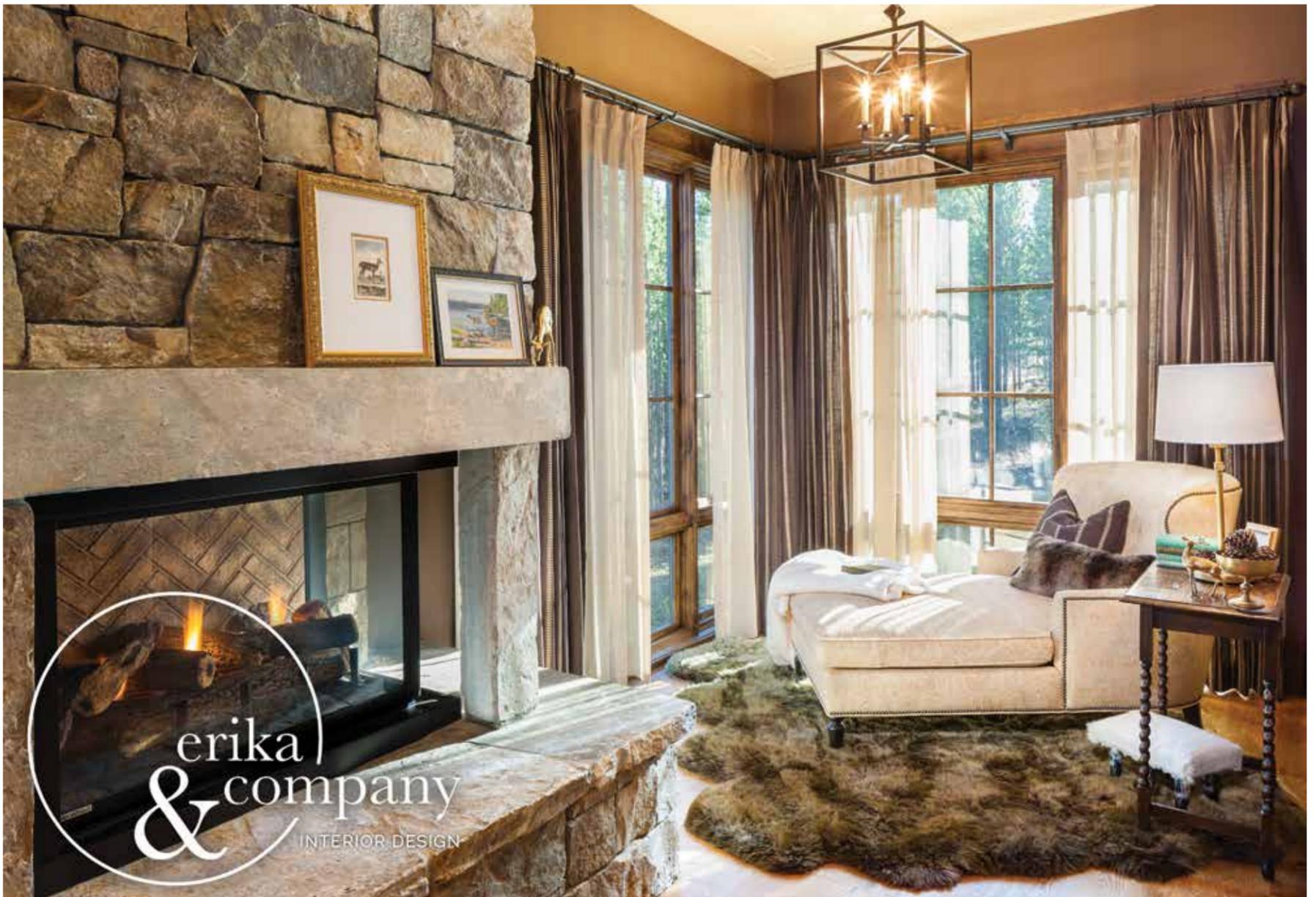
People always ask if the modern home will become dated, like it did in the ‘70s, and our response is not necessarily. Today’s mountain modern concept blends large glass and steel expanses with other materials from the Rocky Mountain palette, which is still stone and wood. The combination of rustic materials and modern structure and glazing is what truly separates this vernacular from the modern trends of the ‘70s.

Teton Heritage Builders loves to build cool homes, regardless of design type and material selections. Get in touch with us as soon as possible to reserve a slot in our 2018 building schedule. If you’re just starting the planning stage of finding property or beginning design, reach out and we can make sure that your dreams and your budget go hand-in-hand.

For more tips and information contact Teton Heritage Builders at tetonheritagebuilders.com or call (406) 522-0808.



This mountain modern home just outside of Bozeman was designed by Brechbuhler Architects and built by Teton Heritage Builders. It sits on a private parcel with over 300 acres and has stunning views of the surrounding mountains. PHOTO BY NEUMANN PHOTOGRAPHY



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CARE CLOS

Testimonials from two grateful patients and donors to Big Sky Medical Center through Bozeman Health Foundation:

"We were impressed. It's very nice to know that there is a completely qualified, capable and caring team here in Big Sky, just a ten minute drive from our house. I've been coming out here my whole life and it is now hard to imagine Big Sky existing without this facility in the community – it has been a huge benefit."

- Daphne Chester, Parent of patient

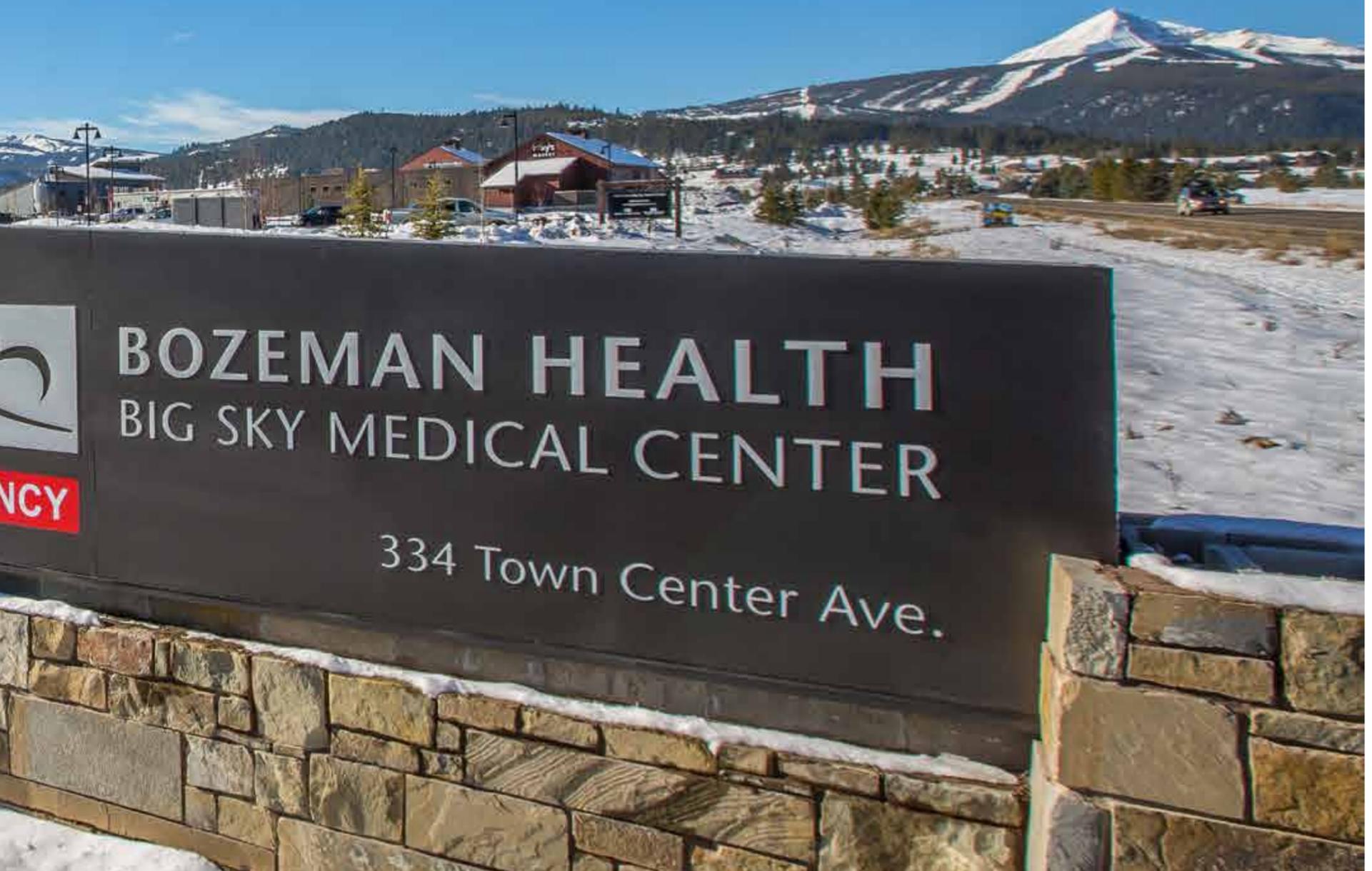
"Your family and support system are right here. My wife was five feet away. She could come and go. The rhythm of her life was not totally disrupted. If I needed her or something from her, she could zip down. She even brought our dog to the window so I could see him and he could see me. Is that a Big Sky moment or what?"

- Les Loble, Patient

YEARS IN BIG SKY



BOZEMAN HEALTH
BIG SKY MEDICAL CENTER



WE TO HOME

5,716

number of emergency room visits

130

number of total admissions of inpatients

11,474

number of outpatient visits

50+

number of jobs created

\$2.48M

number of donor dollars contributed to BSMC

From mid-Dec 2015 – Oct 2017, a total of 8,125 patients were seen at Big Sky Medical Center. These 8,125 patients generated 17,198 encounters/visits to BSMC, implying that a total 34,396 roundtrips through the canyon were avoided.

Mortise + Tenon showcases Montana's rustic side

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BOZEMAN – Rustic furniture is in vogue in southwest Montana. One need only drive south on Highway 191 from Four Corners, past the many shops and lumberyards advertising reclaimed barn wood.

Mortise + Tenon in Four Corners has been riding that wave since Rory Egelus opened his shop, Rory's Rustic Furniture, seven years ago. The reclaimed wood business was so brisk that in June 2015 he opened a showroom called Homestead '89 in the same building—in October 2017 he merged the businesses under one name, Mortise + Tenon, to avoid confusion between the two. They've also expanded into bunkrooms, kitchen cabinets and on-site built-ins, “expanding our horizons,” he said.

The showroom features Egelus' furniture—made from reclaimed barn, fence and corral wood—as well as custom work from other Montana craftsmen. Featured artists include Bozeman metal sculptor Brad Van Anderson, Big Sandy landscape photographer Craig Edwards, as well as custom sinks from Missoula's Mountain Copper Creations.

Egelus says they're now showcasing 35-plus Montana artists, with work ranging from pottery and sculpture, to oil painting and photography. He's also been collaborating recently with Belgrade's Crucible design and fabrication studio, which specializes in customized metal work.

“From what I see there's a lot of people that come into Big Sky that want that rustic Montana feel,” Egelus said. “Whether [it's their style] at home or not, they want their getaway to be rustic.”

The term “rustic furniture” can be traced back to the Great Depression and other hard times in U.S. history, when people used any material they could find to build tables and chairs. However, the intended use of reclaimed materials for aesthetic purposes likely began in New York's Adirondack Mountains in the 1800s, where wealthy Americans of the time built their “great camps.” The ubiquitous Adirondack chair originated during this period.

Egelus grew up in Palmer, Alaska, and says woodworking has always been a hobby. Before moving to Montana he made bent-willow furniture, and peeled logs part time while earning a degree in construction engineering technology from Montana State University.

Before the showroom opened in 2015, Egelus' work was exclusively direct-to-customer—by word of mouth, through his website, or to those who found his shop on Highway 191.



The Mortise + Tenon showroom just before it opened as Homestead '89 in 2015. The space showcases Egelus' woodwork, as well as 35-plus other artisans from around the state. PHOTO BY RORY EGELUS



Rory Egelus in his Four Corners showroom in 2015. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

Bob von Pentz has owned a log home for nearly 20 years near the mouth of Gallatin Canyon, and did a comprehensive remodel of the building beginning in 2014. Egelus built and installed a bedroom cabinet, three bathroom vanities, a custom bar, a fireplace mantle, kitchen shelving, and an entertainment center.

The custom bar wood was reclaimed from an old granary on nearby Axtell Road and that's part of the appeal, von Pentz said. “I get a psychic pleasure knowing where the materials came from.”

That's one reason Mortise + Tenon stands out from other reclaimed-wood craftsmen, Egelus' said, because they reclaim all the wood themselves and can tell customers the story of its origins. While he and his team handle the whole process from start to finish, it's not without its challenges.

“I call it angry wood,” said Chris St. Don, one of Egelus' five full-time employees. St. Don said the old wood can be full of knots, or twisted from decades of exposure to sun, wind and rain. “You have to know where to use it, and a vision of the project from beginning to end.”

Egelus says the green movement has encouraged people to use reclaimed material, and their work isn't limited to one aesthetic—Mortise + Tenon experiments with other reclaimed material like metal, as well as stains and burning techniques.

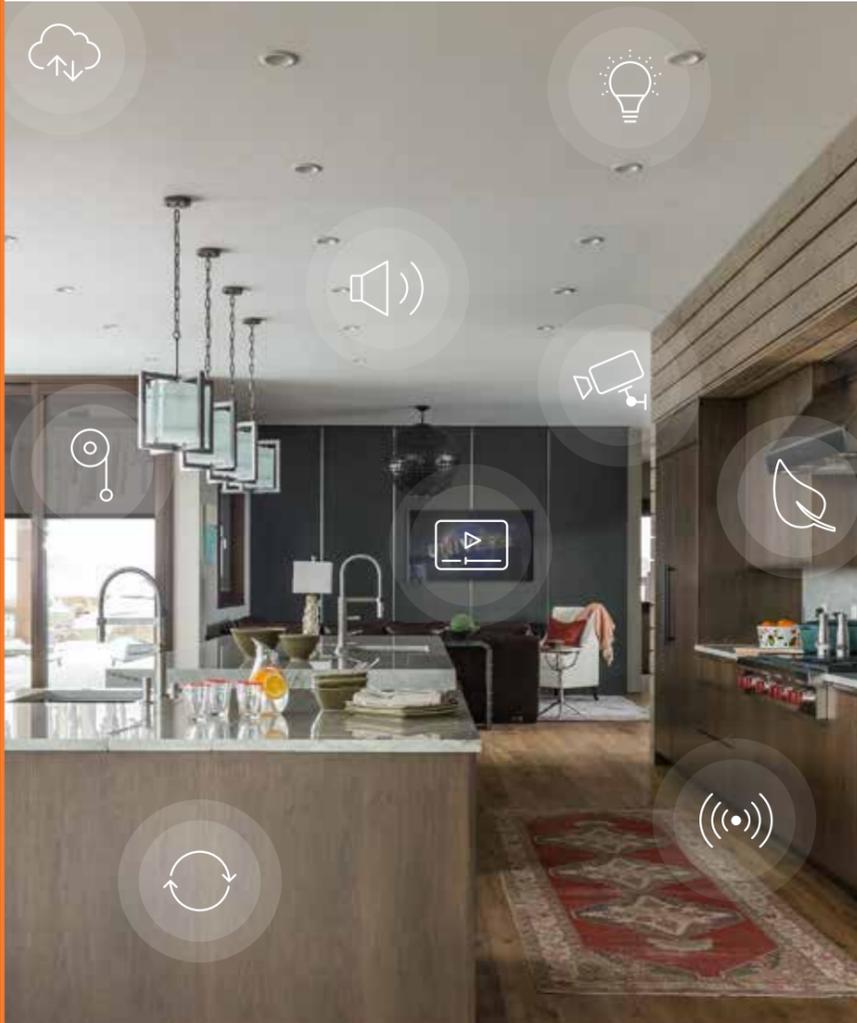
“Just because its reclaimed doesn't mean we're always rustic,” Egelus said.

A version of this article ran in the June 12, 2015, issue of EBS.



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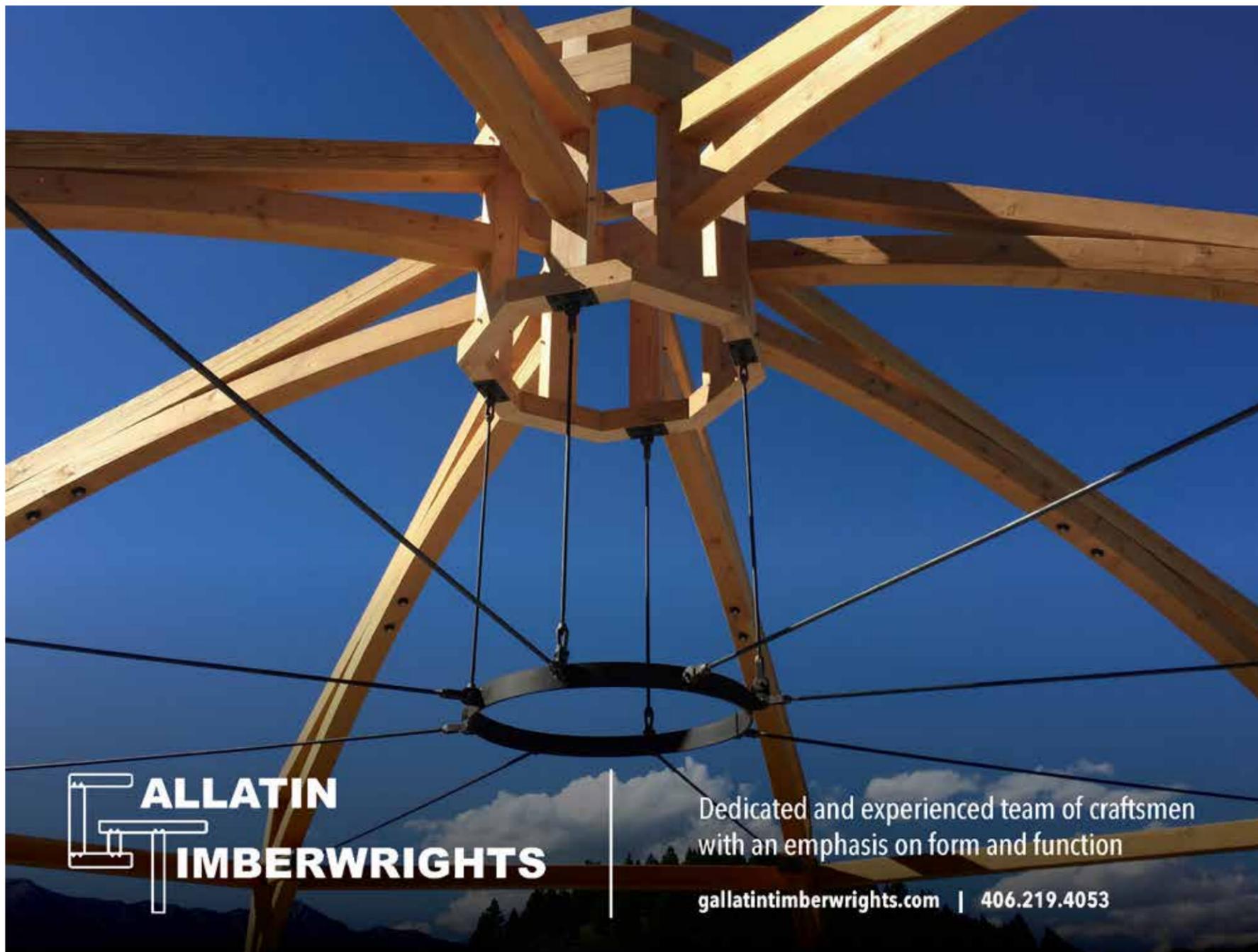
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So let the kids eat that snack on the sofa, don't worry about having a glass of red wine on the white chair, let the muddy dog curl up on the ottoman, and serve up sticky snacks at the bar.

What is performance fabric? Available in many beautiful fabric lines, Crypton home fabric is durable, stain and odor resistant and repels liquid. What's even better? Gallatin Valley Furniture offers a wide array of furniture styles to meet any taste—traditional, contemporary, mountain modern, Montana rustic and everything in between. All of their furniture pieces can be custom ordered with Crypton fabrics featuring performance technology that is built into every fiber, so it won't ever wear away. Your fabrics will stay beautiful, last longer and give you and your guests the freedom to enjoy your Montana home without worry.

The Cattin brothers and their team of talented designers are on hand to help you with your selection. So go on, live a little, and spend time making memories, not cleaning up after them.

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You bought your rental property to make income, right? What better way to make more money than creating more sleeping space for guests? With the help of the American Leather Comfort Sleeper, available at Gallatin Valley Furniture, it's easier than ever before. This isn't your grandma's sleeper sofa. It's sleek, it's stylish, and it's very easy to pull out and put away—so easy even a kid could do it!

It's not only a gorgeous and functional piece of furniture, but it has a patented mechanism that opens and closes almost effortlessly, with solid plat-



With the help of Crypton Home Fabrics, let your kids be kids and let the dog rule the roost. PHOTO COURTESY OF CRYPTON MARKETING

forms that provide even support with no bars, no springs and no snagging. With the American Leather Comfort Sleeper, there will be arguments over who gets to sleep on the sleeper sofa, not who has to.

The American Sleeper Sofa is available in many styles including a sectional, sofa, loveseat and more. Even better, the mattresses sizes available range from cot to king. Visit the team at Gallatin Valley Furniture to help your guests get a better night's sleep.



With an American Leather Sleeper Sofa there's always room for more (fun). PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN LEATHER

See it all in person

Originally opened in 1946, family owned and operated Gallatin Valley Furniture is celebrating the opening of their newly remodeled showroom, located on North 7th Street in Bozeman. They offer furniture for the bedroom, living room, and dining room along with window treatments, flooring, accessories, mattresses and outdoor furniture. Featured lines include: Lee Industries, American Leather, Hancock and Moore, Taylor King, Hickory Chair, Century, Stickle, Ekornes Stressless, Wesley Hall, Four Hands, Bernhardt, Calligaris and more. They have a full staff of designers to work with you on your home décor needs. Items can be custom ordered or bought from the store floor.

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