



TQ

CRAFTSMANSHIP

Story by LAURA READ | Photos by CHRIS O'MEALLY

Found Objects Find New Life

Everything that's old is new again.



Immaculate detailwork is observed in the living room's slate and mesquite floors and loosely piled granite fireplace.

ARCHITECT:

Greg Faulkner—Faulkner Architects

BUILDER:

Mike Yankin—Sitecraft Construction

INTERIOR DESIGN:

Suki Morgan, Jenna Shropshire—Faulkner Architects; Hilary Smith—Beaumont Interiors

LANDSCAPE DESIGN:

Tom Blide—Blide Brothers Landscape Design & Construction

YEAR COMPLETED: 2007 | SQUARE FEET: 8,834 GUESTHOUSE: 1,000



PHOTO BY SUSAN D. ROCK

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(clockwise from left) Cut-offs from reclaimed timbers come together in a coffee table; the exterior's salvaged cedar shingles and porte cochere; the garage door of copper, reclaimed redwood and jacketboards; a salvaged powder room sink; custom lighting by Faulknerworks; and recycled glass bathroom tile.

With wandering lines, big cedar shingles and natural dry-laid stones, Richard and Judith Emmitt's Lahontan home looks like it's been part of the surrounding landscape for some time. It's a well-conceived ruse: Two years of planning, four years of construction and superior craftsmanship incorporating found objects account for the year-old, 8,500 square foot home's comfortably worn and understated appearance.

The Emmitts, who currently live full time in New Jersey but plan to spend half the year here, wanted their house oriented around a beloved gigantic Jeffrey pine that soars like Jack's beanstalk into the sky. Truckee architect Greg Faulkner thus looped the drive around the tree, and echoed that curve in the footprint of the house.

A wooden door made of old redwood telegraph poles bearing hand-forged hardware, more medieval than modern, opens to a circular two-story foyer that corresponds with all the home's public areas—living room, dining room and kitchen—as well as the lower-level bedrooms, wine cellar and family den.



(above) The elaborate kitchen hood took 18 months to complete. (left) Living spaces extend asymmetrically from the entry's circular stairwell.



Rather than extending the house's two main wings symmetrically from the circular foyer, Faulkner took cues from the landscape, arranging the rooms organically and placing supporting Douglas fir ceiling timbers at angles from the massive central post. The result is an asymmetrical swirl not unlike the spiral patterns of branches extending from a tree.

At the top of the curved wood and stone staircase, the living room's bay window takes in a view of the stately pine. A two-sided fireplace and chimney of irregularly placed, locally sourced granite boulders serves both this living room and the writing/reading alcove on the other side. Echoing materials used in the staircase, mesquite floorboards,

Architect and builder stopped at nothing to find unusual, old and recycled objects, even surfing eBay and plundering junkyards to suit their needs.

burgundy rich and polished to a gleam, meet with jagged pieces of cool slate. The space then transitions to a balcony through a custom wall-sized triple-leaf, slide-away glass door.

“When people build a house, they tend to separate themselves from the very thing that’s brought them here—the land,” Faulkner says. “Whenever I can, I connect the interior spaces with the outdoors.”

Faulkner, Mike Yankin of Truckee’s Sitecraft Construction and their team stopped at nothing to find unusual, old and recycled objects, even surfing eBay and plundering junkyards to suit their needs. The exterior’s cedar shingles were handmade from salvaged logs. All interior wood—the timbers, flooring and even furniture—is reclaimed from outdated industrial buildings, telegraph poles and other sources (much supplied by Yankin’s Reclaimed Materials, which the general contractor started six years ago due to local demand). The home’s slate roof tiles came from Quantico Air Base. The upstairs powder room’s 1,000-year-old door—one of many in the house—originated in China. Its limestone slab sink is from a farmhouse in France. The backsplash is composed of used road cobbles from China; the same coal-colored bricks were also installed inside the home’s four fireplaces.

In the kitchen, reclaimed redwood and Douglas fir cabinetry is complemented by a stunning forged steel, bronze and

Reclaimed materials converge from around the globe: In the powder room, a limestone slab sink from France is paired with road cobbles from China.





copper hood, which Yankin says was one of the most laborious features of the house, taking him and employee Rich Quist a year and a half to complete.

Debbie and Brad Cosey (Yankin's sister and brother-in-law) of Shingletown's Brad Cosey Construction provided much of the finish work. The couple created the redwood window frames upstairs, exterior doors, entertainment area cabinets, oak hutch, art frames, a grandfather clock, guest cabin cabinets crafted of recycled wine barrels and a coffee table made from leftover timber cut-offs from construction. Canadian craftsman John Tschirhart of Custom Billiards created a pool table from reclaimed Douglas fir. An oversized Scrabble board is embedded in a game table. Table tops in the bar, dining room and wine cellar are crafted from slabs of a fallen Northern California redwood.

By skillfully incorporating so many elements with storied pasts, the house tells a rich tale, weaving old with new. Recycled materials and organic forms shaped by human hands give nature a second chance—something that the towering, age-old Jeffrey pine, preserved as a showpiece in the front yard, ought to appreciate. **TQ**

The dining room tabletop is a giant redwood slab, the chair upholstery a Gaudi pattern.

Nearly every item in the home is custom and of reclaimed materials, including the kitchen's unique chest of drawers and the inlaid Scrabble game table in the den.

