



A BARN REBORN

*BEFORE:
AN OLD AND
UNINSPIRED
BARN*

*AFTER:
A RUSTIC-
CHIC FAMILY
RETREAT*

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ARCHITECTURE BY **SHED ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN**



The barn's first floor—called the bunkhouse—provides a comfortable place for visiting family members to stay. The main living room opens to the outdoors via site-built sliding barn doors made of steel, cedar and glass. Simple industrial light bulbs illuminate a table and benches designed and built by SHED Architecture + Design using marine-grade plywood. **FACING PAGE:** Custom-made Dutch doors were crafted from steel angles and 2"-by-4" car decking. The wall-mounted light fixtures are made from jelly jars.



The barn's second-floor guest quarters are reached by climbing a staircase on the outside of the barn. A ladder leads up to a sleeping loft that includes a bedroom and bath. The living room walls are clad with siding salvaged from the original barn and plaster mixed with coffee grounds. White Panton dining chairs and simple slipcovered furnishings keep the look crisp, clean and easy to maintain. **FACING PAGE:** Designed with entertaining in mind, the main floor kitchen features cast-in-place concrete counters that sit atop steel plate bookshelves. The concrete floor is stained a warm, earthy hue.



THOMAS SCHAER, PRINCIPAL OF SEATTLE-BASED SHED ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN, AND HOMEOWNER MEGAN GRISWOLD TELL US ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION OF AN OLD BARN FROM NEAR-RUIN TO NATURAL BEAUTY.

MOUNTAIN LIVING: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO TURN A BARN INTO A FAMILY HOME?

MEGAN GRISWOLD: The barn is on the property where my mother lives in a small cottage. It was built in the 1970s and was underutilized because it had no insulation and few windows. My mother, sister and I saw its potential as a guest house and place for family events. From the beginning, we knew we wanted to recycle as much of the exterior wood as possible and maintain the natural simplicity of its gorgeous setting.

ML: WAS IT CHALLENGING TO SALVAGE THE BARN'S ORIGINAL MATERIALS?

THOMAS SCHAER: When you're trying to use recycled materials, you must carefully remove them from their original setting. We couldn't tear the cedar siding off the exterior of the barn; it had to be removed slowly by hand. As it turned out, we were able to salvage about one-third of the siding, which we used in the barn's interior. Some people think that using salvaged materials is a less expensive way to go, but it's often more expensive because it's labor intensive to salvage, clean up, store and install them.

ML: NONE OF THE NEW CEDAR SIDING IS SEALED. NOR IS THE STEEL. HOW WILL THIS AFFECT WEAR AND TEAR?

TS: The owner wanted the structure to weather naturally. And it's doing just that. There's really no downside to not sealing exterior wood if it's properly installed so it can expand and contract. For many

people, rust on steel is appealing. And practically speaking, the rust forms a protective coating. This barn is weathering beautifully and will never look frozen in time but rather organic to the setting.

ML: THE INTERIOR DESIGN IS SIMPLE, NATURAL AND PERFECTLY AT HOME IN THE WOODED SURROUNDINGS. WHAT ARE YOUR DECORATING SECRETS?

MG: The goal was to not feel a psychological shift from exterior to interior. We had some furnishings built from simple materials, and others were recycled from my mother's cottage. An old iron bed became a couch, and we used old farm implements as accessories. The farm table that's surrounded by modern Panton chairs was in the family. Most of the furniture is covered with heavy cotton slipcovers, which are very durable and easy to wash. Everything in the house is made of wood, steel or concrete, and nothing competes with the views.

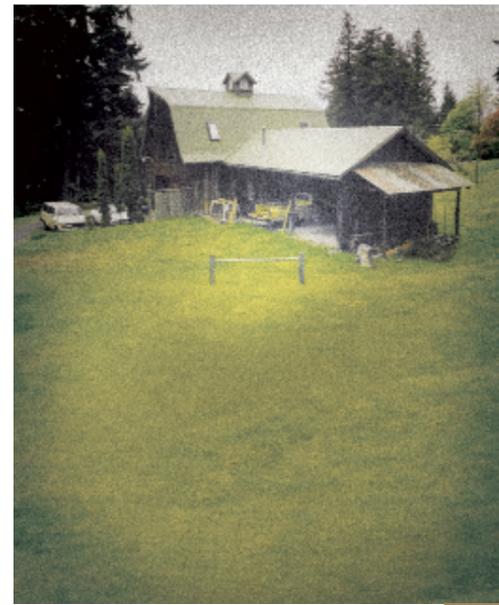
ML: THE HOUSE HAS SEVERAL SPECIAL FEATURES. TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAVORITES.

TS: The custom-built Dutch doors allow the homeowners to open the top half like a window while keeping critters out. I also like the indented bowl we made in the concrete kitchen counter. It adds a touch of whimsy but is also functional.

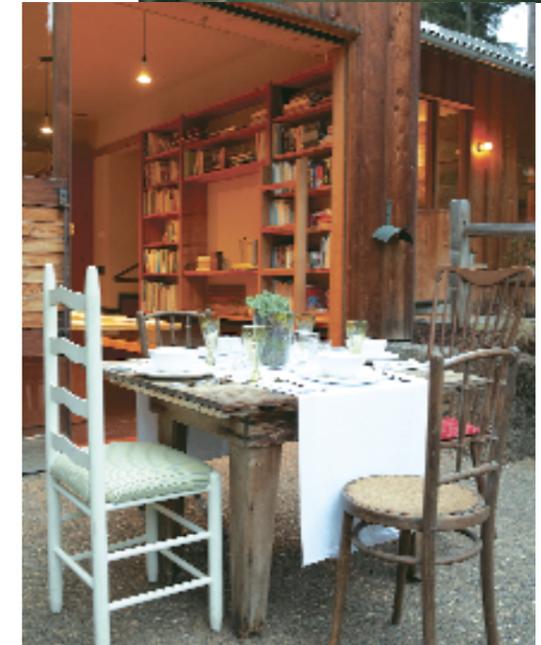
MG: I love the way the window lines up above the tub in the guest bathroom. Visually, it's so striking. And I love the texture of the walls, which are coated with plaster mixed with coffee grounds. They look like they've been there forever. ◦

“IF YOU CARE ABOUT MATERIALS,
YOU WANT THEM TO DO WHAT
THEY DO NATURALLY: WEATHER,
RUST AND FADE IN RESPONSE TO
THE ELEMENTS AND TIME.”

THOMAS SCHAER



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The original barn was clad with cedar siding and a green metal roof. The “Bird’s Nest” fruit bowl was created when the designers pushed a mixing bowl into the main kitchen’s newly poured concrete countertop. Rafters in the old barn. Sliding barn doors connect the main living room to an outside patio. Furnishings that had been stored in the original barn were spiffed up and given new life. The patio table is set for an *al fresco* meal. The barn’s hayloft doors were replaced with locally made custom wood windows. The window above this bathtub is one of homeowner Megan Griswold’s favorite features. FACING PAGE: A model of efficiency, the guest kitchen includes a two-burner stove, under-counter refrigerator and a microwave oven. SHED designed and built the Honduran mahogany cabinets and counters. The medium density overlay (MDO) plywood floor got a pop of color with a coat of high-gloss green paint.



“MY MOTHER TAUGHT US THAT NOTHING IN DESIGN SHOULD BE PERFECT. THE INTEREST COMES FROM THE FLAWS.”

MEGAN GRISWOLD



FIRST ROW: Old family furnishings covered in durable white slipcovers continue the barn's old-is-new-again theme. An iron bed was transformed into a couch that the homeowners dressed up with white and burlap pillows. An animal skin rug tops the painted concrete floor. SECOND ROW: With few windows and no insulation, the original barn's interior was dark and uninviting. The new bunk room showcases the salvaged barn siding—and offers up plenty of sleeping space under tranquil white bedding. The custom-built Dutch doors double as a window. THIRD ROW: The homeowner wanted the structure to weather naturally, so the new cedar siding and galvanized steel roof were left unfinished. FOURTH ROW: The design team was able to salvage about one-third of the old barn's siding, which they reused in the new interiors. FACING PAGE: The pass-through bathroom is rustic yet hip. Chicago faucets top Ceco enameled cast iron sinks. The fir countertop is made from salvaged floor joists.



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