



PHOTOS BY AUDREY HALL

Mountain Living
**NATURAL
DREAM
HOME**
'08
Luxury. Green. Living.

Our mission is to create the most environmentally responsible, high-performance residence possible that will serve as a living classroom for the building community. Our vision is to leave the world a better place, and to inspire the building community to take part in the solution by using environmentally sound building techniques and materials that have a positive impact on the earth.

Finishing Touches

An up-close look at some of our favorite design details

VENTANA CUSTOM

“Decorative metal is not done often in Colorado; you tend to see a lot more stone,” says Margie Hamrick, the Natural Dream Home’s developer. “So when we started designing the home, it was something we wanted to incorporate.” The home’s mantels, fireplace surrounds, railings and spiral staircase have been custom made by hand by blacksmith Collin Price of Colorado-based Ventana Custom. What makes these design elements so unique is that all are made from scrap metal that’s been reclaimed from area junkyards. “You can only find so many long pieces of steel,” says Hamrick, “so they had to piece it together to make the living room’s 20-foot-long mantel. It really steals the show in the room.”

Once installed, the steel was aged with an acid mixture, then finished with all-natural beeswax. “The acid gave the metal a beautiful patina, and the wax finish makes it look and feel like a rich leather,” says Hamrick. “It’s warm and beautiful, rustic and organic. I’ve never seen a fireplace like it.”



PHOTO BY AUDREY HALL

> VITALS

Ventana Custom
303-670-3060, ventanacustom.com

Meet the pros who made our Natural Dream Home a reality

DEVELOPER

Margie Hamrick, Ecoexistence,
Edwards, CO, 970-926-9261,
ecoexistence@aol.com

RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER

Peter MacDonald, Peter Stafford
MacDonald & Co.,
Minneapolis, MN,
Colorado: 970-401-1853;
Minneapolis: 612-333-1822,
macandco.net

BUILDER

Boles Custom Builders, Inc.,
Edwards, CO, 970-926-3202,
bcbi.net

SUSTAINABLE INTERIOR DESIGN TEAM

Associates III,
Denver, CO, 303-534-4444,
associates3.com

ENERGY CONSULTANTS

Active Energies, Inc.,
Avon, CO, 970-227-0272,
activeenergies.com

NATURAL STONE SUPPLIER

Telluride Stone Co.,
Denver, CO, 303-388-8863,
telluridestone.com

LOG PROVIDER

Custom Log Homes, Inc.,
Stevensville, MT, 406-777-5202,
customlog.com

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Patti Brave, Slifer Smith & Frampton Real Estate,
Cordillera, CO, 970-926-3505,
pattibrave.com

BENEFICIARY

Habitat for Humanity
of Eagle & Lake Counties, CO,
970-748-6718

THE
DREAM
TEAM



PHOTO BY AUDREY HALL

CLOSET FACTORY

Closet Factory's Colorado location first opened its doors in January of 1992. Seventeen years and 45,000 customers later, it is now the largest organizational company in Colorado, with a 34,000-square-foot manufacturing facility and showroom in Centennial. "Our goal is to help people across Colorado organize their lives and their homes," says CEO Mark Lestikow, who runs the franchise with his wife, Polly.

GOING GREEN "We started thinking about sustainability three years ago, but the Natural Dream Home really piqued my interest," says Mark.

"We're looking at our entire operation and asking, 'How can we be kinder to the environment?'" he adds. "We were happy to find that we were already doing some things right. For example, most

cabinet companies heavily wrap and box their products for shipping. Then all of those packing materials end up in the landfill. We've always done things differently. Our installers load our individual components and shelves into a van and protect them with reusable shipping pads. We're also collecting the larger leftover pieces of melamine and veneers that we cut and donating them to local Habitat for Humanity stores."

MASTER CLOSET & FAMILY FOYER "In the Natural Dream Home's master closet and family foyer we used a new veneer product called Echo Wood®, which is laid on a no-added-urea-formaldehyde (NAUF) MDF core," says Mark. "Typically, veneers have a big downside: You're going into forests, sometimes ancient ones, and destroying trees that take decades to mature. Echo Wood® is different. These veneers are taken from farm-grown trees that mature in just six years. The veneer sheets are then impregnated with soy-based inks to look like all kinds of different woods, even exotic species. In the master closet, we're using a quartered walnut.

"One thing we learned from this project is the concept of 'less is more.' For example, we typically include backings and moldings in our designs to give them a more built-in look. But that takes a lot of material, and much of it is hidden by clothes. A 'greener' alternative is to paint the walls a nice color that will create the same effect. We also decided to forego staining the wood, and instead covered it with a clear coat using low-VOC precatalyzed lacquers."

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS "When it came time to design the home's pantry and secondary closets, Associates III, the Natural Dream Home's interior design team, asked us to step into uncharted territory," says Mark. "We came up with the idea of taking a raw NAUF particleboard core, sanding it and staining it a medium-brown hue. We made a few samples and everyone loved it—it has a nice texture and the stain gives a great depth of color. We finished it with a water-based, precatalyzed low-VOC lacquer. It looks just great and it's eco-friendly."

> **VITALS**
Closet Factory
303-690-6901, closetfactory.com



PHOTO BY AUDREY HALL

SAVANTÉ WINE CELLARS

Award-winning furniture-maker Darryl Hogeback, owner of Savanté Wine Cellars, has been a custom woodworker for more than 30 years. “I worked on a lot of high-end homes,” he says, “and I noticed one area that was consistently lacking in anything creatively designed: the wine room. I was asked to do a wine room for a home in Aspen and it turned out really well, so I decided to make this my focus.”

FULL CIRCLE “Each year, approximately 200,000 wine barrels are retired in California,” says Hogeback. “And while some are repurposed as planters or tables, the majority are thrown out. These barrels are made from white oak, so we decided to try re-engineering the staves into wine cellar racks, and our new Stave Oak Collection

was born. It’s such a wonderful way to recycle materials—and it’s a great conversation piece. We can work with barrels from many different wineries; in the Natural Dream Home, we used barrels from Hill Family Estate’s 2004 vintage. Even the drawer fronts are made from the heads of the barrels; you can still see the stamps in the wood. So now the homeowner can buy a bottle of Hill Family Estate wine and cellar it on the very same wood that it was first stored in.”

GREEN DESIGN Savanté Wine Cellars’ systems are made using mortise-and-tenon construction for furniture-grade strength without the use of nails, staples or screws, and the racks are oriented horizontally, “so you don’t have any vertical uprights that obstruct your view of the bottles,” says Hogeback. “This creates more airflow around the bottles for a more consistent temperature, and it uses fewer materials.” In fact, Savanté uses 25 percent less material by volume than other wood systems. The bottles rest on round dowel rods, which also maximizes airflow, protects labels and keeps materials to a minimum.

Hogeback uses white oak instead of redwood for Savanté’s racking systems “because white oak has the same decay-resistance rating as redwood, but it’s stronger,” he says. “This also gives us the opportunity to use wine barrels, which are made of white oak, and to do steam bending and fuming of the wood.

“Steam bending—the process of steaming the wood, then bending it to fit a form—lets us bend the pieces of wood into a true curve,” he says. In the Natural Dream Home, two corners of the wine room feature these elegantly curved racks. “The fuming process—allowing ammonia fumes to react with the wood’s natural tannins, resulting in a darker color—lets us color the wood without using any lacquers or stains that offgas and can affect the wine. From there, you can leave the wood as is, which we did in the Natural Dream Home, or add butcher-block oil for an even darker color.”

VITALS

Savanté Wine Cellars
303-725-5131, savantewinecellars.com



PHOTO BY AUDREY HALL

> **VITALS**
Belgard
800-899-8455, belgard.biz

BELGARD

To cover the home's driveway and outdoor patio areas, we chose environmental concrete pavers by Belgard. What makes them so eco-friendly? Each paver allows water to permeate and directly enter the ground, reducing the negative effects of run-off on local watersheds and ultimately the lakes and rivers downstream.

The pavers are also extremely durable. Stronger than ordinary or stamped concrete, these small, high-density units resist cracking as well as damage from freeze-thaw and salts. Instead of using mortar between the pavers, which makes the surface inflexible and more prone to cracking, a special mixture of sand is used to make a very solid but flexible driveway surface. And if a paver ever does break or crack, it's easy to replace.

"These pavers met all of our standards," says Margie Hamrick, the home's developer. "They are sustainable, durable and beautiful too. Asphalt is just asphalt, but with pavers we could get a lot more creative and custom. We selected Urbana Stone® for its natural, chiseled look and Arbel Stone® for the look of natural flagstone."

CENTENNIAL WOODS

Millions of feet of snowfence stretch across the state of Wyoming and typically, old boards are burned or taken to a landfill. But in 1999, Centennial Woods vowed to rescue and reuse this durable wood that has been perfectly dried and beautifully weathered by decades of exposure to the elements. Since then, the company has been harvesting snowfence from the mountainsides and open prairies of Wyoming and reusing it as a unique and sustainable building material that's equally beautiful indoors and out. Recently, Centennial Woods reached a 5-million-linear-foot reclamation milestone, preventing 9,000 tons of CO₂ emissions from entering the atmosphere.

"When we discovered Centennial Woods' reclaimed snowfence, we knew we had to incorporate it into the home," says Hamrick. "So we teamed up with Centennial Woods and custom furniture maker Mountain Woods (mountainwoodsurniture.com) to create a custom bunkroom. Using the reclaimed snowfence, Mountain Woods made bunk beds, desks and other custom furniture that is eco-friendly, beautiful and one of a kind."



PHOTO BY AUDREY HALL

> **VITALS**
Centennial Woods
866-778-8762, centennialwoods.com

RICHLY WRAPPED

“The goal for the Natural Dream Home was to find unique and beautiful wall finishes that met our green standards,” says Margie Hamrick, the home’s developer. “For the main-floor powder room and wine room, we turned to Anna Marie Miller of the Colorado Springs-based company Richly Wrapped. Anna Marie specializes in *chaux*, pure-slaked limestone plaster that she artistically applies to walls, floors and furniture.”

The plaster, which has been used for millennia, is quarried in southern Italy—the same quarry used by UNESCO for restoration projects in Europe—and imported by Dimensions Intl. An all-natural, VOC-free, and mold- and mildew-resistant product, it contains no synthetic components, acrylic resins or solvents. What’s more, it’s durable and extremely versatile—it can be tinted any color.

“The finished walls are remarkable: even up close they appear to be textured, but they’re smooth to the touch,” says Hamrick. “In the wine room, we wanted the look of a recycled brick ceiling, so Anna Marie hand-carved heavy-grade limestone plaster to create individual ‘bricks.’ The walls are covered with a limestone plaster with a lime milk overlay to create the look of a travertine finish.”



PHOTO BY AUDREY HALL

> **VITALS**
Richly Wrapped
719-260-6108, richlywrapped.com



PHOTO BY AUDREY HALL

> **VITALS**
Home & Hearth Outfitters
303-722-6698, homeandhearthoutfitters.com












HOME & HEARTH OUTFITTERS

A sister showroom to Home and the Range, an independently owned Viking showroom that is outfitting the Natural Dream Home’s kitchens, Home and Hearth Outfitters offers indoor and outdoor fireplaces, firepits and patio furniture. The Natural Dream Home will feature fireplaces by Town & Country and Lennox, two of the showroom’s featured lines.

HEALTHY HEARTHS “The main living area will feature a Town & Country 54” ‘widescreen’ fireplace with coffee-bean-colored porcelain panels and a sand-and-river-rock base,” says showroom manager Jennifer Chick-Gray. “This direct-vent fireplace is energy efficient thanks to its electronic ignition and, although it is not heater-rated, its ceramic glass face does radiate quite a bit of heat.

The fireplace is clean-faced, which means it’s free from the louvers and panels that we’re all used to seeing around the glass front.

“The Natural Dream Home’s lower living room, front entry and BBQ area will feature Lennox fireplaces that are also electronic ignition, so there’s no standing pilot light,” she adds. “These clean-faced units are also heater-rated and feature traditional log sets.” ●

PAVER PROVIDER	
	DISTRIBUTED THROUGH VISTA STONE 699 Ten Mile Drive, Until #10, Frisco, CO 80443 970.668.2222 belgardwest.com
PLUMBING FIXTURES – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	MARTZ SUPPLY COMPANY 5330 Pecos Street, Denver, CO 80221 800.456.4672 martzsupply.com
REAL ESTATE INFORMATION ON DREAM HOME – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	SLIFER, SMITH, & FRAMPTON Patti Brave 970.926.3505 pattibrave.com, pbrave@slifer.net 2203 Cordillera Way, Cordillera, CO 81632
RECLAIMED WOOD SUPPLIER	
	CENTENNIAL WOODS 1482 Commerce Dr, Ste A, Laramie, WY 82070 866.778.8762 centennialwoods.com
ROOFING MATERIALS – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	B.R. MCCracken / ECOSTAR P.O. Box 7000, Carlisle, PA 17013 303.332.3665 premiumroofs.com
ROOFING MATERIALS	
	RECLA METALS 136 South Maple Avenue Montrose, CO 81401 970.249.7922 reclametals.com
STAIN (EXTERIOR)	
	SANSIN 111 MacNab Avenue, Strathroy, ONT N7G 4J6 Canada 877.726.7461 sansin.com
STONE SUPPLIER	
	SELECT STONE PO Box 6403, Bozeman, Montana 59771-6403 888.237.1000 selectstone.com
SUSTAINABLE INTERIOR DESIGN – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	ASSOCIATES III 1516 Blake St, Denver, CO 80202 303.534.4444 associates3.com
THEATRE – PRESENTING SPONSOR	
	CONUNDRUM TECHNOLOGIES 2737 Larimer St., Ste. A, Denver, CO 80205 800.741.8639 conundrumtechnologies.com
TILE & GRANITE	
	STONE CONCEPTS, INC. PO Box 4330, Eagle, CO 81631 970.328.3800 stoneconceptsusa.com mike@stoneconcepts.org
WINE CELLAR DESIGN	
	SAVANTÉ WINE CELLARS PO Box 411, Littleton CO 80160 303.715.3644 savantewinecellars.com
WALL FINISHES	
	AMERICAN CLAY 8724 Alameda Park Dr. NE, Ste. F, Albuquerque, NM 87113 866.404.1634 americanclay.com
WINE SUPPLIER	
	HILL FAMILY ESTATE 6512 Washington St., Yountville, CA 94599 707.944.9580 hillfamilyestate.com
WOOD FLOORING	
	CARLISLE WIDE PLANK FLOORING 1676 Rte 9, Stoddard, NH 03464 866.595.9663 wideplankflooring.com

FAMILY CRAFTED CUSTOM
FLOORS FOR OVER 40 YEARS.



Straight. True. Trusted.

800-595-9663
WIDEPLANKFLOORING.COM

