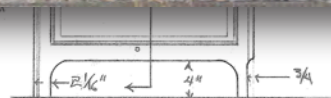
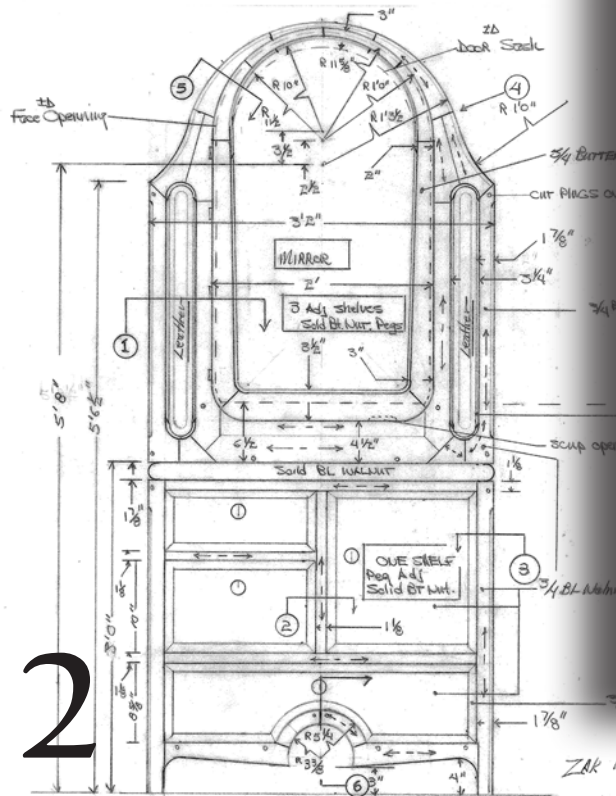




HOMES AND WOOD WORK

Zac Zakovi 1969 – 1995



B₂

ZAK 1979

Foreword

This book spans 25 years—a very intense period of my life as a Craftsman and Builder.

You will see 12 projects that begin with a narrative of the endeavor then proceeds with a photo essay of work done. It begins with our return to Montana after earning an MFA at the U of A in Tucson and developing my first craft of leather working—please see Leather Book for a photo essay of that endeavor.

Shortly after returning to Montana and purchasing a home, it was obvious I could not rejuvenate the house and begin a family on the income the leather business generated. I tested my skills by building my first structure: a shop/studio in the back yard. I also took work on an industrial building on the MSU campus, a 7 story concrete building; starting as a union laborer and graduating to union Carpenter Foreman by the end of the project.

My boss at MSU formed his own company and hired me as his lead man to build a commercial building in Big Sky. This evolved into partnering with Ken Ypma to form Cobe Enterprises our own building company in and around Bozeman.

My dream was to design and build homes for folks making a Montana house statement and doing all the work myself with a few subcontractors to do plumbing and electrical. Well that is what happened!

I had a deal I made with clients: if they chose me to design and build their house, I would give them a front door by my design free of charge.

And very importantly, we made a family – a daughter and son.

During the time this book covers there were other projects I have not included.

- I designed homes for 3 clients but did not build them. They kept me on as a by-the-hour consultant if the need arose.
- I built a concrete irrigation dam high in the Bridger Mts. To supply irrigation water to the rancher's place.
- I was hired by a fellow contactor we did work for in the shop to do the interiors of a high-end house in Bozeman. It was tongue and groove redwood paneling on walls and ceiling in much of the house. We also did the shelving for a large library.
- I did an extensive series of drawings/paintings and a series of table top sculptures.

In 1985 I was injured when a door fell on me in the shop. That ended my wood working career and it took 5 years before I could do hands on construction again.

This began a short Construction Management career from 1986 to 1990. I held an auction for the wood working equipment and leased out the shop space.

Index

	Project	Dates of work done	pages
1.	514 N Montana Ave – Zakovi house	1969 – 75	4 - 7
2.	1 St. Shop / Studio @ Zakovi house	1970	8 - 11
3.	Nell House – Don and Barbara Nell	1973 – 75	12 - 15
4.	Pollock House – Paul and Jill Pollock	1975 – 76	16 - 19
5.	Cabin – Zac’s cabin retreat	1976 – 81	20 - 27
6.	Zac’s Wood Shop	1976 – 86	28 - 49
7.	Kulaga House – Ted and Gloria Kulaga	1977 – 78	50 - 53
8.	Warren Oates House / Compound	1979 – 81	54 - 59
9.	Bashor House – John and Rosemary	1981 – 82	60 - 63
10.	Hui House – Stan and Helen Hui	1882 – 84	64 - 75
11.	Bridge Move	1983 – 84	76 - 79
	*Back injury ended Wood shop and Const. work		
12.	Az. Keep – Zac and Helen’s Az. Retreat	1991 – 95	80 - 85
		Epilogue	86

514 Zakovi house – 1969 – 75

Leaving Tucson with a full truckload and a trailer behind the car, me and my wife Sharon made the trek back to Montana to start our lives and raise a family. I sought advice from Don Nell, who I had worked for during college at MSU, he knew of a good buy on an old brick house at 514 N. Montana Ave, that needed everything, but was dry and on a big lot.



He also recommended a banker who would loan us the money. I will say a lot more about Don in the pages to come when I share with you his project. So I moved our gear into the house and made the back porch into a leather shop where I could fill a few orders I got on leaving AZ. The summer, fall and winter were spent making a livable home for us – striping old linoleum, patching walls, running wires putting in toilets, sinks even a gas furnace plus a bunch of yard work; reclaiming a lawn and taking out a large gone-to-weeds garden. In 2 years it cleaned up nicely and I continued to work on it as my leather shop closed and I became a carpenter then contractor. So in 6 years of evening and night work we were able to

sell it at enough profit to buy into a better neighborhood.



We also had the kids and learned how to be parents. The shop and studio are shown next. We were here to stay and on our way to become a member of the Bozeman business community



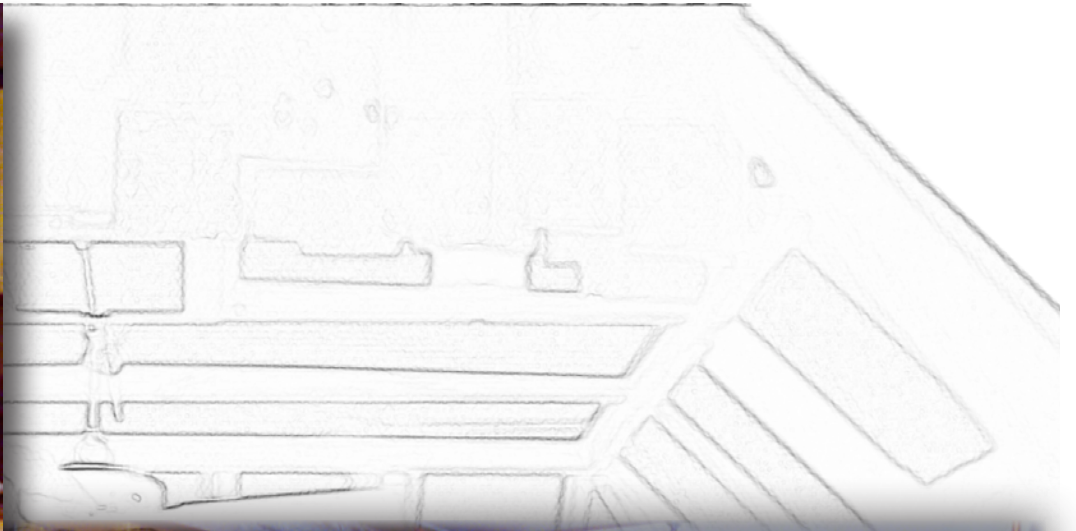


*My first remodel job and
our first home.*



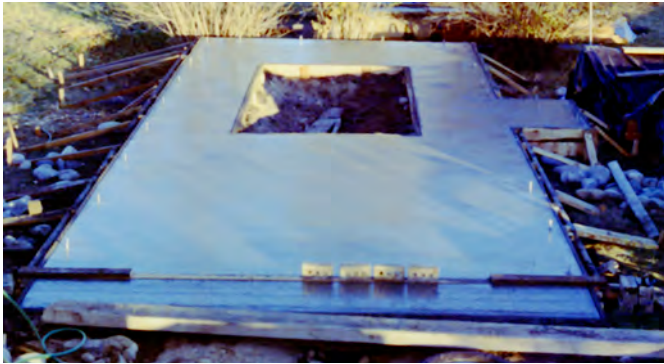


The sale of this house allowed us to move – up and buy a larger house place south of town.



1st Shop and Studio – 1970

My first building was the shop alongside our house at 514 N. Montana in Bozeman. I went to the City Building Department and purchased a building permit by submitting a hand drawn sketch of the floor plan. A huge learning experience! I hand dug the foundation hole and trenches for a 'crown slab' a thickened edge concrete slab.



Then I bolted down a sill plate and stood the 4 x 6 rough sawn timbers that would be the wall studs. The lumber all came from Paul Pollock in Livingston; who later would become a client for a design build house. As you will see.



I sheeted the walls and roof with full sawn 1 x 6 rough sawn boards. I did all the work myself, packing the lumber up a ladder and hand nailing / bolting it. My tool chest grew as I bought needed tools.



A few years later the shop was equipped with stationary saws and an ever growing collection of hand tools; eventually even a backhoe, truck and trailer. Builders are obsessed with tools and equipment ... all of them.

Several years later I asked the city to allow me to expand the shop into a full wood shop open to the public. They turned me down due to the residential zoning of our location. That is when I ventured out to build Zac's Wood Shop – that story is also coming soon.





My first Shop / Studio complete with new metal and wood sculpture



Nell House and Retreat – 1973 – 75



Don Nell was a true mentor to me. Unlike my university and architectural Guru Paolo Soleri, Don was a business man who knew banking, real-estate, city regulations and just about everyone in Bozeman.

He and Barbara his wife became my first clients for a Design Build home on their ranch south of Livingston on Deep Creek.



They worked with me on selecting the site, how many beds – baths and how many floors as well as the garage and shop space. We decide on a full basement with a view and concrete patio out back that lead to the trail down to Deep Creek.

The road needed improvement as winters and spring at 6500 ft. equal serious weather. There were times even with 4 wheel drive

we could not get up there to work. We camped in the house to avoid the long (hour +) commute to Bozeman packing coolers of food and taking jugs of water (and beer of course).

A bit more about Don's help to me - Near the end of the project they agreed to sell us an acreage on the other side of the creek that became the site for my Cabin one of most significant dwellings I ever built. Don also advised me to get an SBA loan for my wood shop and on many dealings over the next decades.





Cabinets / shelves by Zac's Wood Shop



My first 'gift' door – for the Nell's. This began the tradition of giving a door to each project (my design).

*This new house evolved as I built it. One feature lead to the next.
The owner's excitement as my guide.*





Pollock House – 1975 – 76

Paul was my lumberman; an expert sawyer with a small mill East of Livingston. After buying lumber for 3 projects from him he asked if we could discuss building one for him and Jill, his wife, on a property they just purchased.

I meet them at the Pine Creek Bridge, 10 miles South of Livingston. We drove down the new gravel road of their subdivision right to the river. A great view of the river with Emigrant Peak in the background, it was on a bank 15 feet above the river. Pine Creek spilled into the Yellowstone along their East boundary.



Jill was a great help on the interiors with her box of clippings from many magazines. The design kept growing with a two story alongside the great room and kitchen / dining area. We enclosed a small grove of juniper trees between the main buildings and attached a 2 car garage connected to an entry atrium with stairs to the second floor.

I made lists of lumber needs and Paul hauled every stick and bunk of it after work. Great lumber, the best I have had the pleasure to work with.





Paul's timbers through-out the home.
They were very nicely sawn and true to size.



*Tucked into the river bottom woods.
We did have to cut one tree to build the house.*





A lumberman's home, the Pollock house.



Zac's Cabin - 1976 - 81

My first *free hand* dwelling! A work of passion. The Nell's, in deep gratitude for the way their home / retreat turned out, agreed to sell us 10 acres on the other side of the creek.

I literally chalked out the shape on the hill side and sat in it for several visits. Then I borrowed Don's tractor that had a 3 point hitch backhoe attached and dug in the rocks a flat place to build. It was all mental, no drawn plans. I harvested stones from the field stone dump across the creek and began my own stone pile, set up a gas engine mixer, hauled sand, cement, a barrel of water and began to lay the walls.



I had plenty of time to decide where to put the windows and door wood bucks I made in the shop. At the weekend pace I laid stone. It was my first experience building with stone and I did get good at it. Using only a hand level I topped out the walls then cast a concrete cap with rebar in it to make a strong member to fasten the roof to.

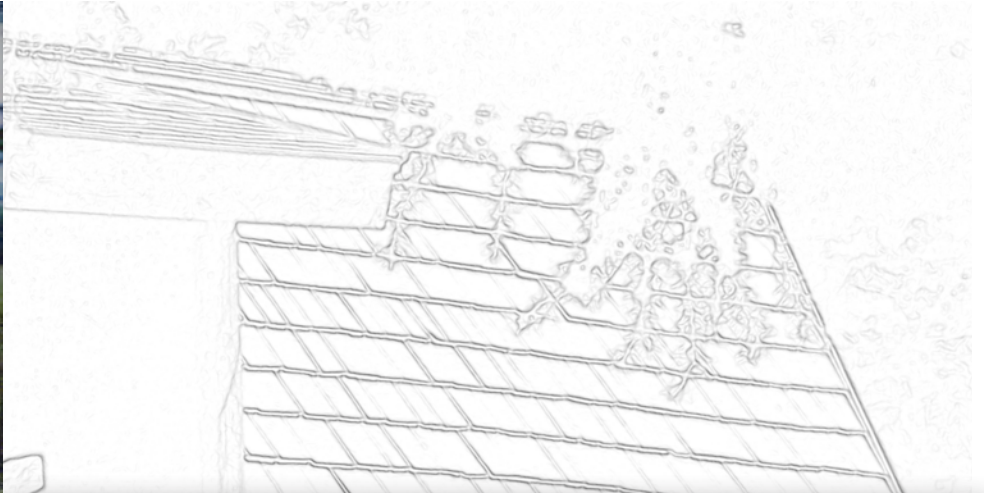
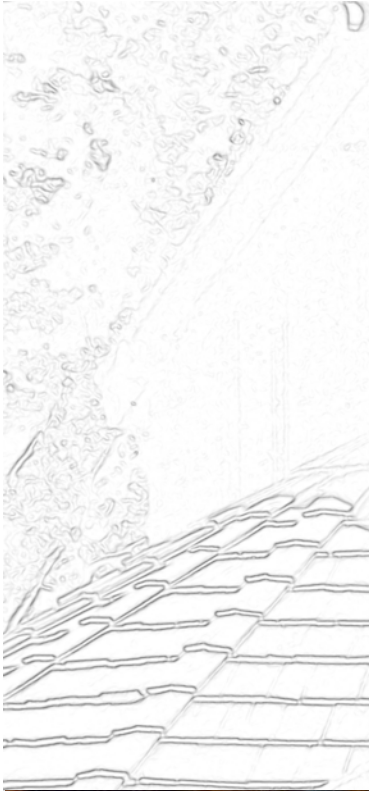


To figure out the roof and how to have a loft upstairs I built a ¼ inch scale model using dowels for logs. Don allowed me to harvest trees in an area he wanted to thin the forest up on the mountain. I hired a friend and fellow worker from the shop, Eric Nellis to help cut and spike the logs to the ridge log; then sheet them with rough sawn boards. A very organic roof.

Working only weekends the Cabin was not complete for 5 years. Then we began having an annual party there where I cooked a huge beef in a brick pit after a full day of hot fire tending in the pit. They were great parties with 20 to 40 guests who brought wonder side dishes to go with the beef and lots of beer, that made a grand feast.





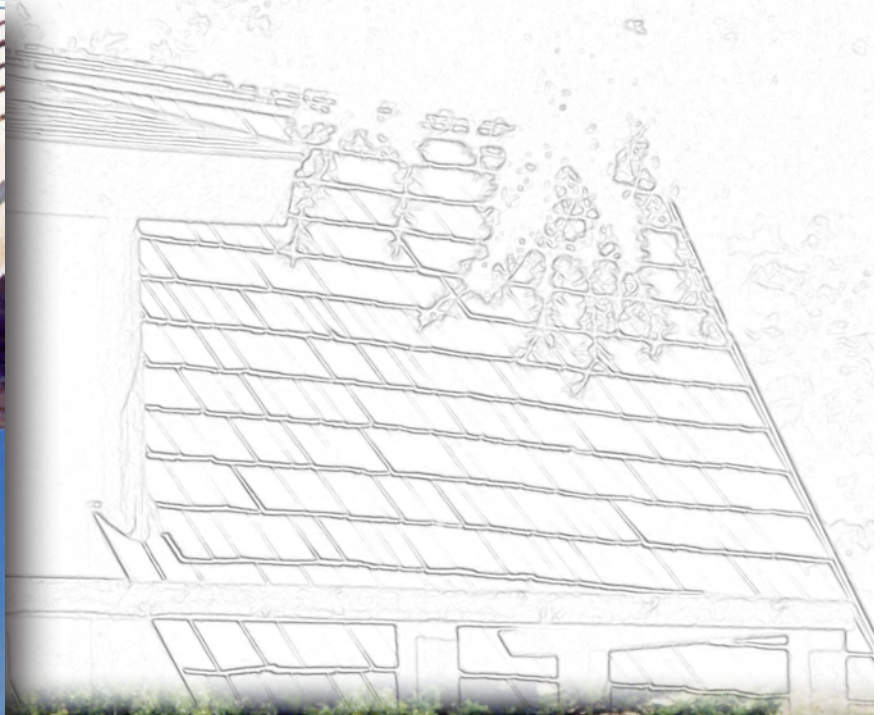


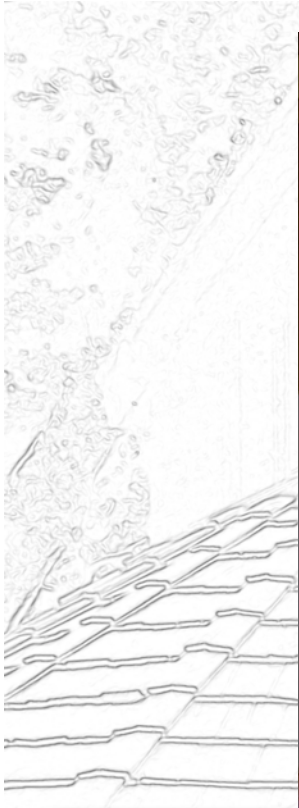
the kitchen before and after the cabinet, sink and ice chest



Hand built stove / fireplace – keeps the place warm in 25 below. Lots of snow at this elevation.







Zac and his wife Sharon, daughter Tamar, son Jacob.



Photo by Linda Best

The House That Zac Built

Zac Zakovi

by Joan Haines

Visitors to the cabin of custom builder Zac Zakovi get the feeling they're looking at Hansel & Gretel's gingerbread house. Shingles are arranged in rows of half-circles and diamonds; trapezoidal and pop-art arrow shaped windows are cut into the stone walls. A pottery figure resembling a leprechaun tops the chimney. When the smoke rises from the fireplace, it exits from the figure's top hat. The clay man was made by potter Frank Whitney of Bozeman.

At a cabin-christening which the Zakovis held for about 60 of their friends, someone suggested the cabin looks like the kind of place that hobbits might inhabit. Another friend said the hand-wrought structure surrounded by trees looks like a good place for elk hunting.

Zakovi, a native of Livingston, had started his cabin four years ago, free-hand, without any drawn plans, using schist stones from his land outside of Livingston. "I wanted a little place at first," Zakovi said. "The cabin kept getting more involved. The work was pretty eternal there for awhile."

He and his wife, Sharon, have a son Jake who's nine months older than their cabin. It took Zac almost two summers to complete the exterior stonework, which rose 11 feet high. "When you're stacking stone, the work goes slowly," Zac said. "After the stones start fitting together easily, you begin to play with them, looking for variations in color and texture."

The work also went slowly because Zakovi had to haul the

sand, water and cement used to make mortar up to the cabin site by hand. Manpower is the only power available at the cabin. He already had a power and phone line underground, but had them taken out because he wanted the place to be a rustic, away-from-it-all home. "I worked on ranches when I was a kid, and I worked for the Forest Service," Zakovi said. "I've spent a lot of time in the boonies. I like quiet."

Zakovi has been in the buiding business for the past 10 years. He entered the trade through an unusual door. After receiving a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Arizona, he spent a nine-month residency with conceptual architect Paolo Soleri, who has built two utopian communities in that state. He worked as a professional sculptor from 1968-79. Zakovi turned from sculpting metal to working with leather, making large, handsome purses that were featured in Vogue Magazine and Gentlemen's Quarterly.

It was difficult to earn a predictable living from either sculpting or making purses. So he tackled carpentry, first working as a laborer, then as a superintendent. On his journey to becoming a cabinet-maker, master tradesman, and designer and builder of homes, he's built warehouses, constructed buildings to house machines and torn up sidewalks in Bozeman. "Work's work," he said.

He now owns a wood shop in Bozeman. He built a home and bath-house for movie star Warren Oates and recently completed a 6,500-square-foot home for a couple outside of Livingston.

Zac's Wood Shop 1976 – 86

In 1975 I asked the City building Department if I could expand my shop at 514 N Montana and build on a full blown wood shop open to the public. They told me I would have to find property in the manufacturing district. I turned to my old friend Don Nell who knew a fellow with a big lot in the M-2 area with a rundown house on one of the 5 lots. Don also turned me on to a banker who helped me secure a SBA loan.



The renter stayed in the shanti house and I built the first portion of the shop facing Plum Avenue. I must confess I had a cabinet shop, but had never built a cabinet, the face frame with doors and the drawers where a mystery soon to be solved and then some.

As business picked up and I designed and built more homes, I needed more space, equipment and help. I got a 'hip-loan' from the bank holding my SBA loan and sold the shanti house for the down PMT and in 81 – 82 built the back-shop.

I also began selling hard wood; I had good connections with suppliers and had room in the addition. There were 2 to 3 carpenters in the field and 2 cabinet makers in the shop; my wife Sharon was a certified accountant and worked half days while taking care of the kids etc. She too was maxed out.

We were blasting away when 8 yrs. later a door fell on me at the shop and tore ligaments from the vertebra. This ended my ability to work in the shop and also in the field for another 5 years. I turned operations over to my 2 lead men, Eric Nellis and George Fantanza, to finish the last house and work due at the wood shop. I leased the shop to Eric for 2 years but that did not work out so I held an auction sale in 86, keeping the buildings but selling off the tools and equipment. I leased the backshop to 3 ladies for a ceramics studio – "Plum Street Pottery". I was then a full time Construction Manager for a couple of local companies and worked in 3 states.



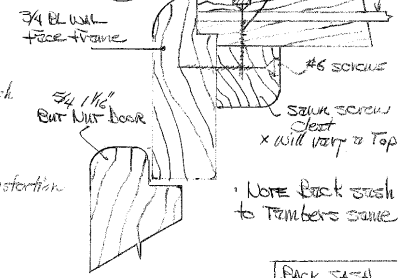


FACE SASH TO SINE
CASH SASH BE ①

1/4 BL WAL PANEL
NO GIVE TO SASH
4" o.c.

MIT TYP STOP
3/16" MINOR DISTORTION
FREE

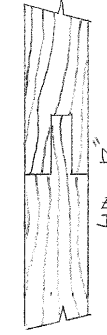
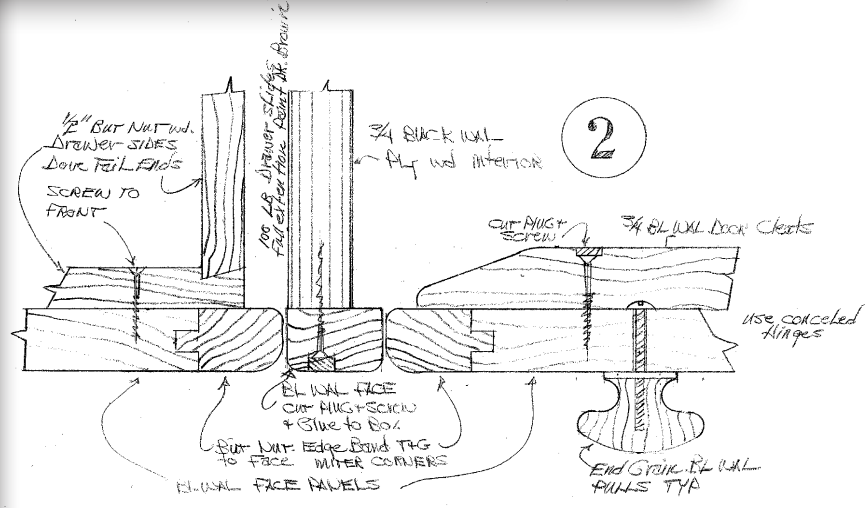
5/8 BUT NUT HEIN
SOME TIMBERS OULINED
GIVE
CUT NUGS
#4 SCREWS EACH +
GIVE



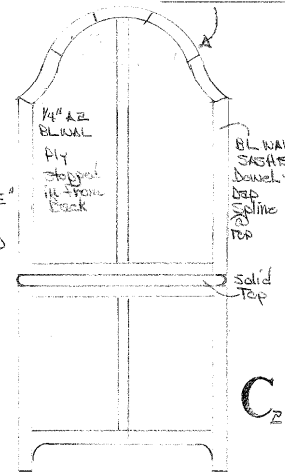
BACK SASH
NOT TO SCALE

BL WAL PLY PANEL - FINISH edge

2



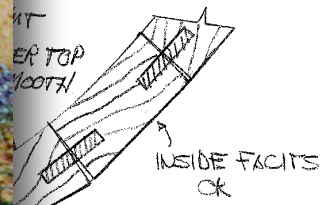
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C₂

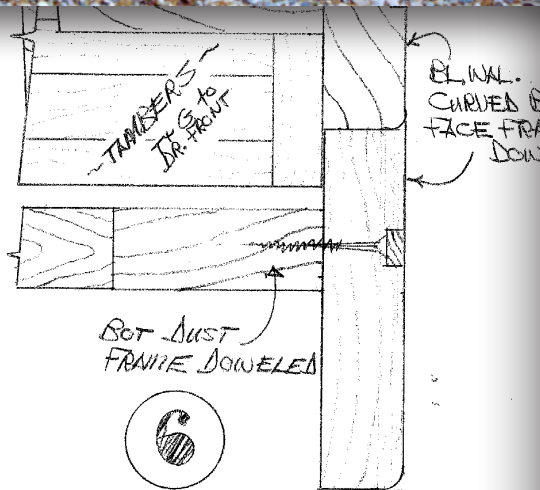
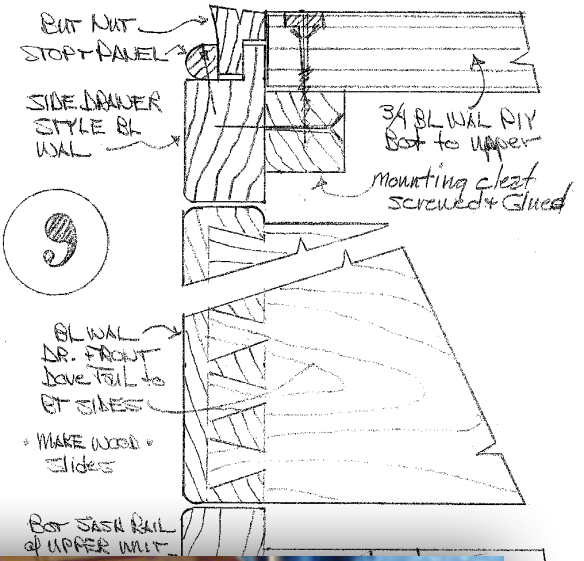


CRAIG H. ZAKOVI
417 No. Plum Avenue
Bozeman, MT. 59715

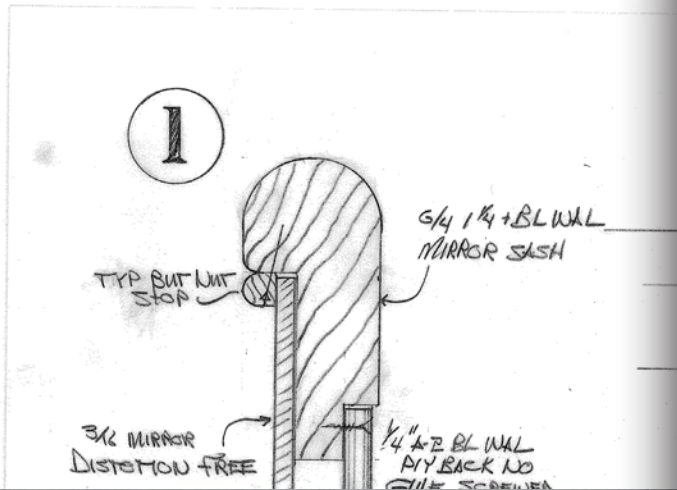


3/4 BL WAL SASH

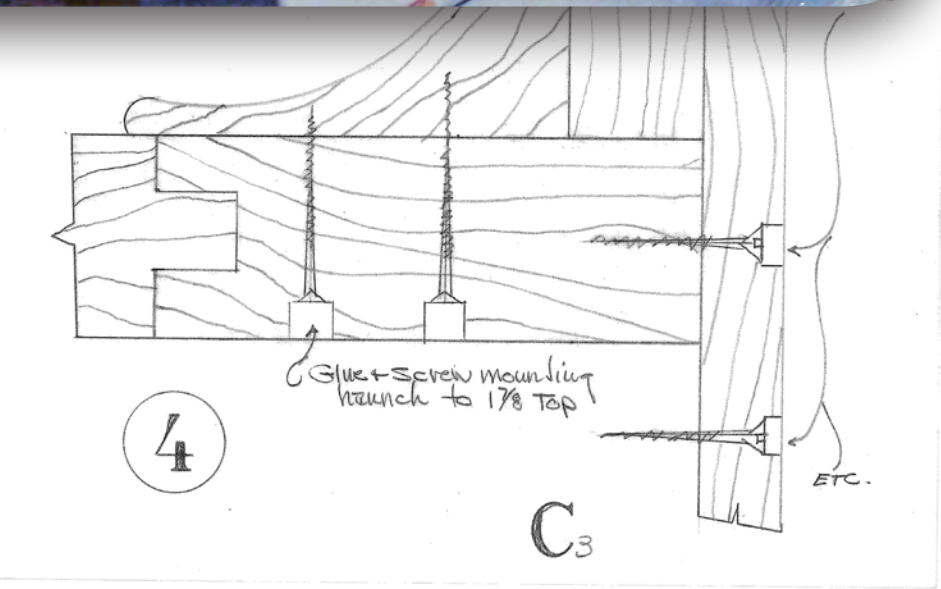
BUT NUT
 PANEL + STOP
 TYP

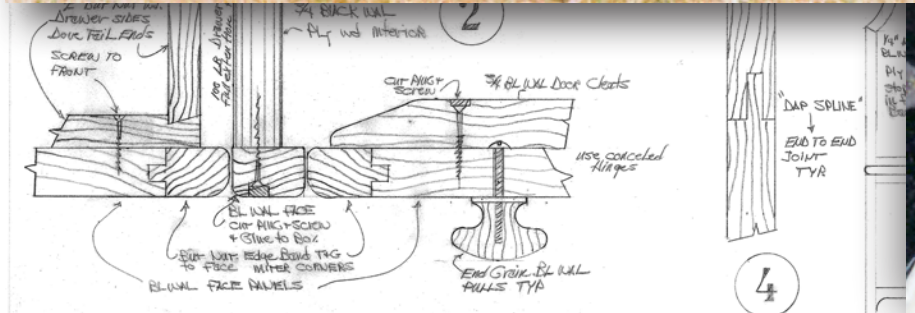


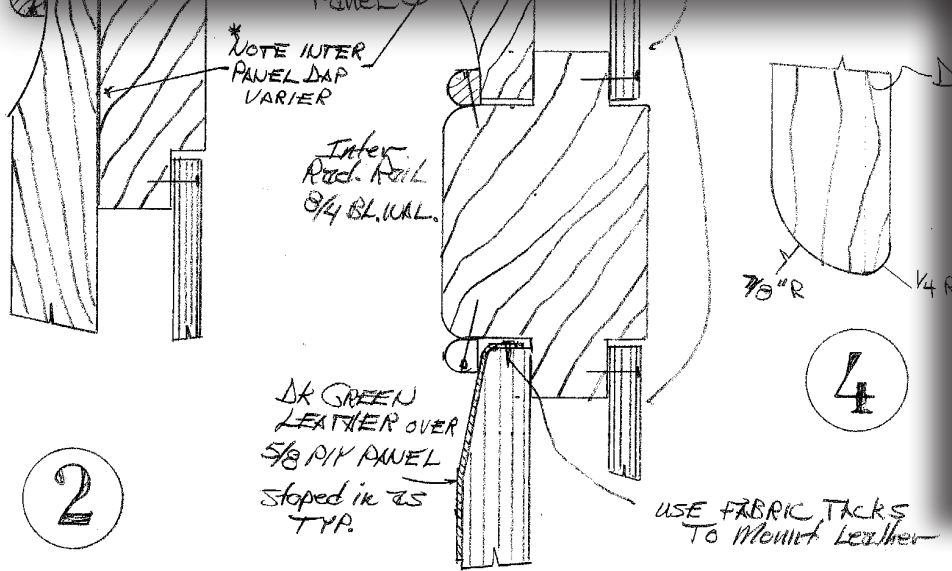
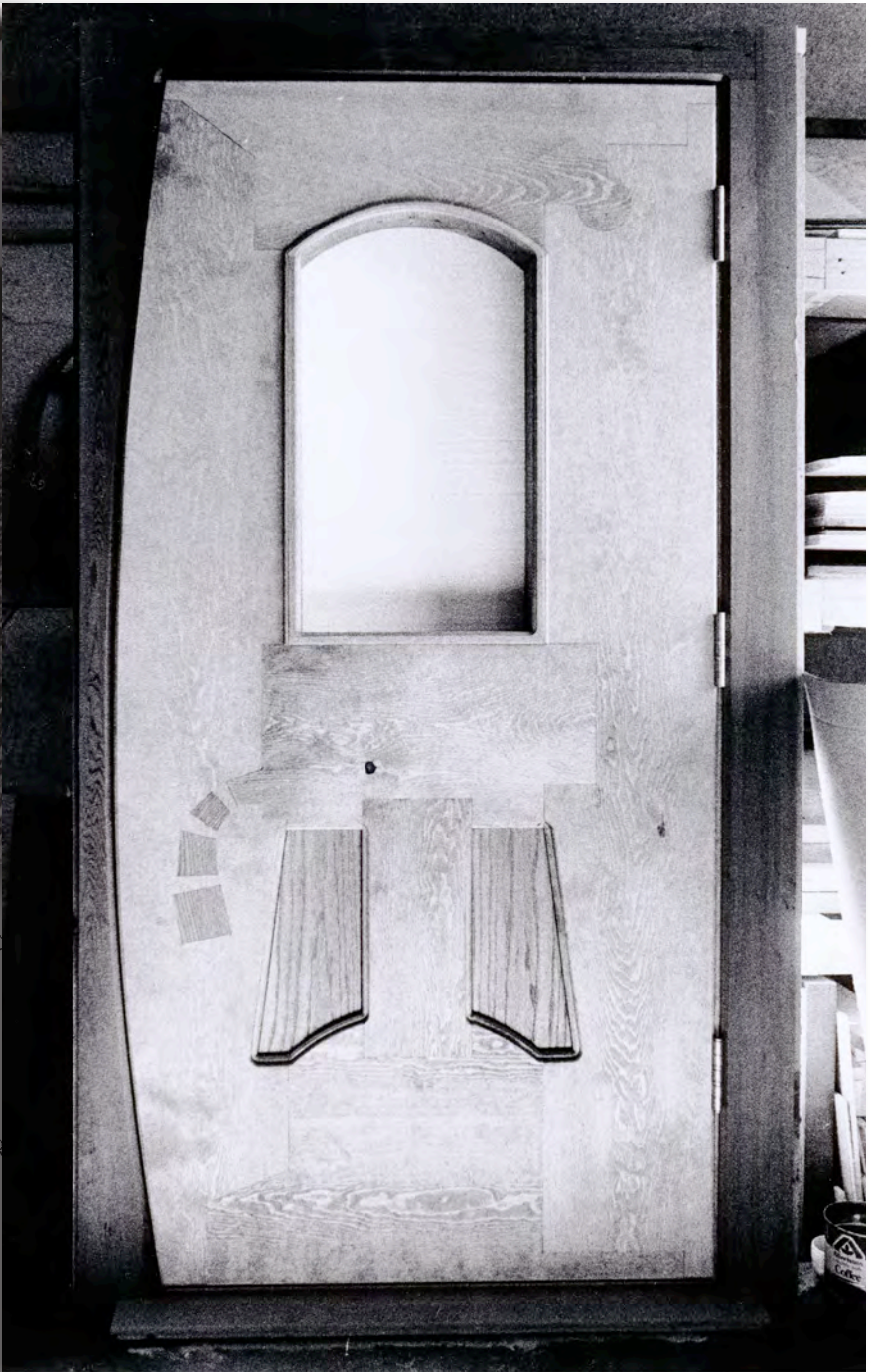
D₂



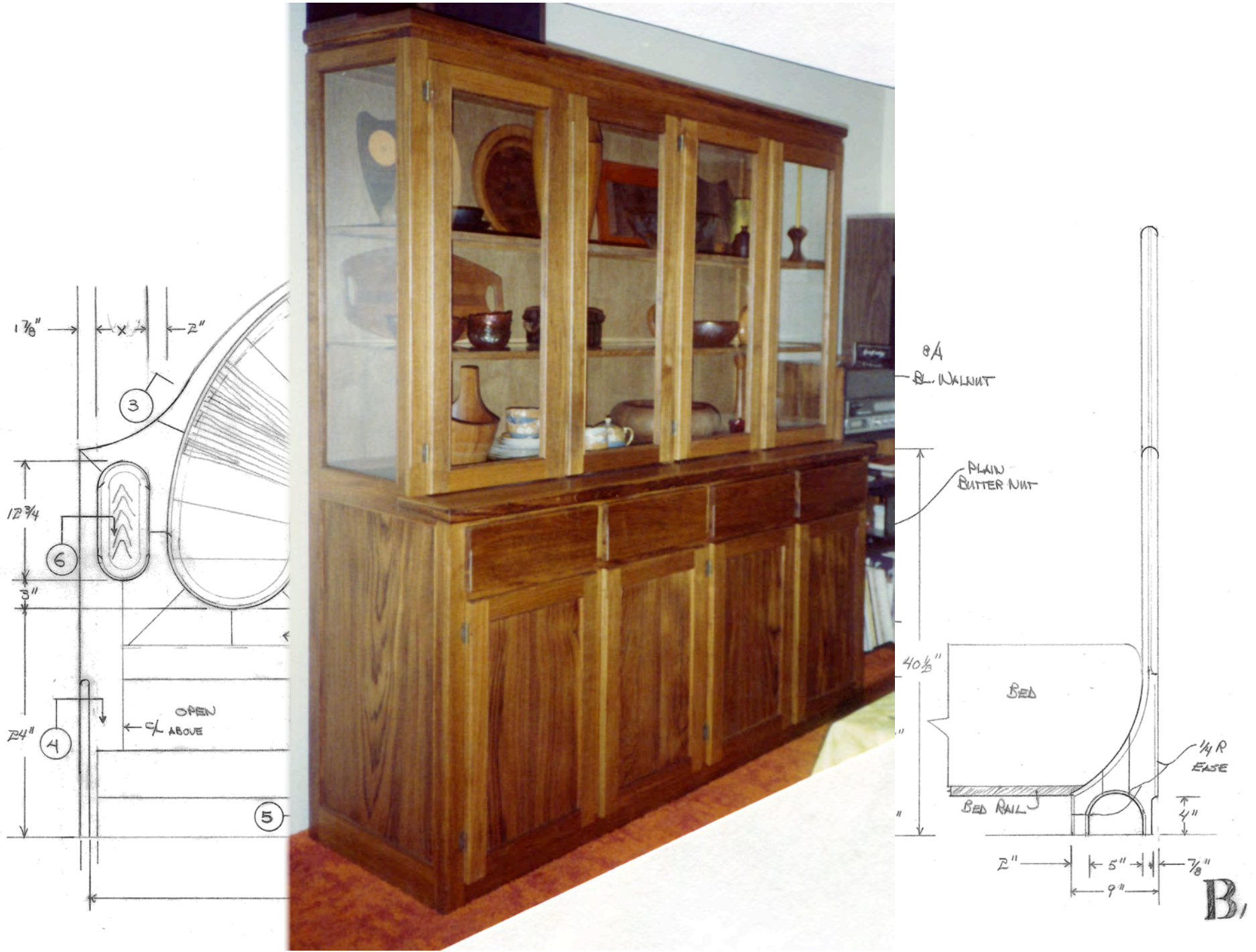
A Gout stool for a needing customer

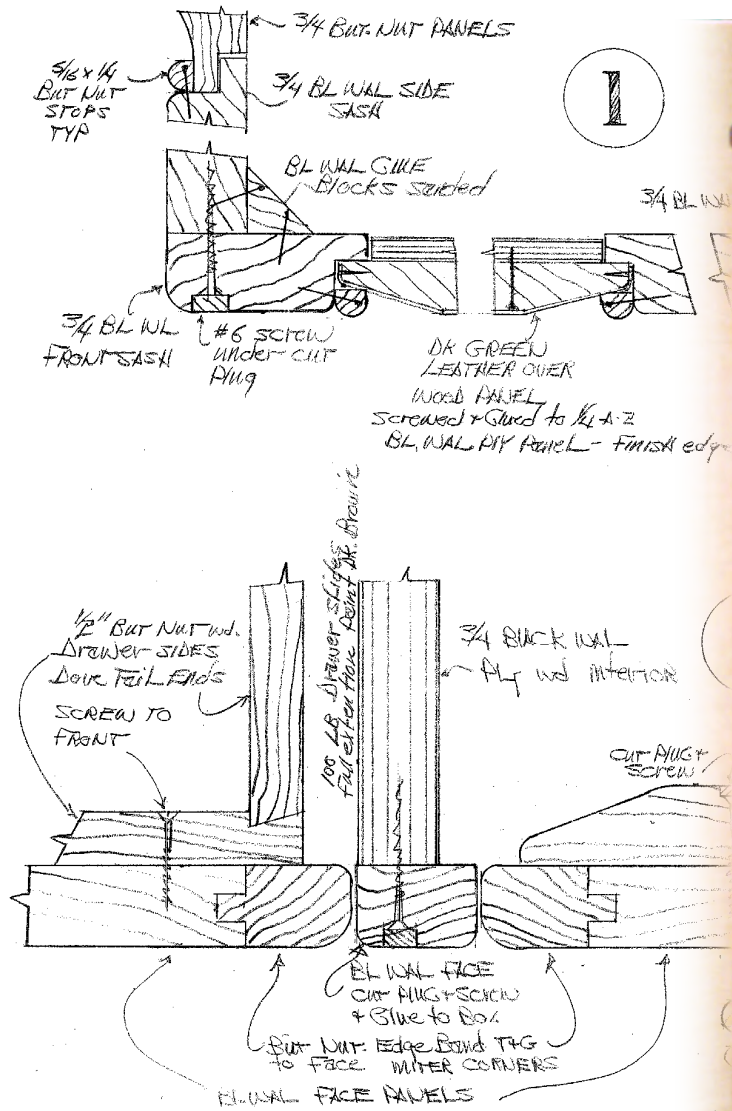




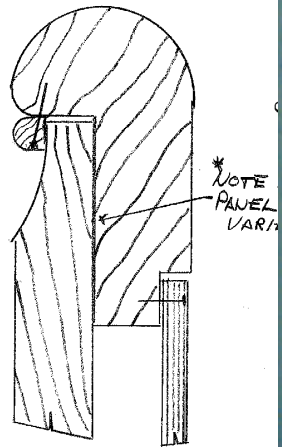
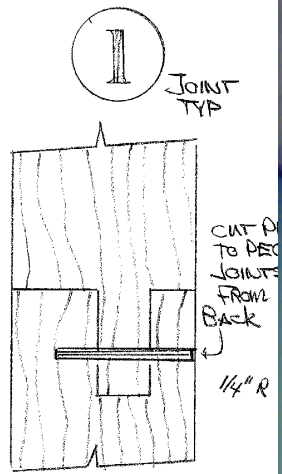


Panel No Ply Back



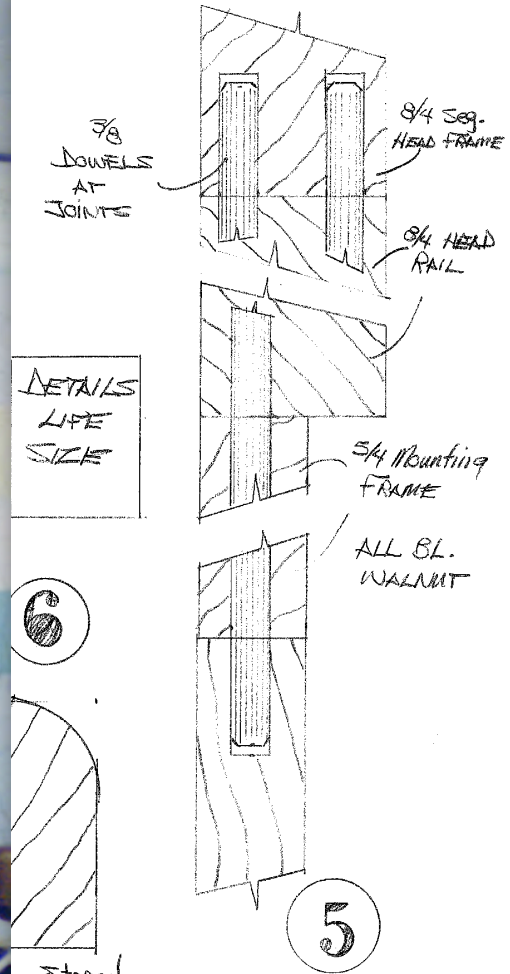


A Wood Fireplace!! – it worked just fine



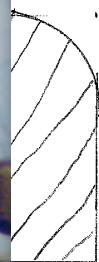
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5/8
5/8
5/8



DETAILS
LIFE
SIZE

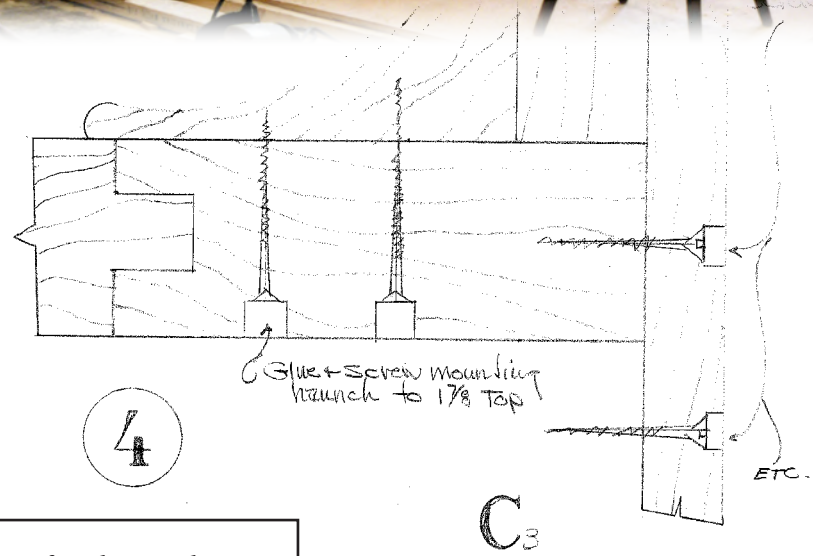
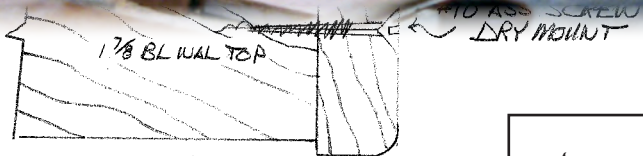
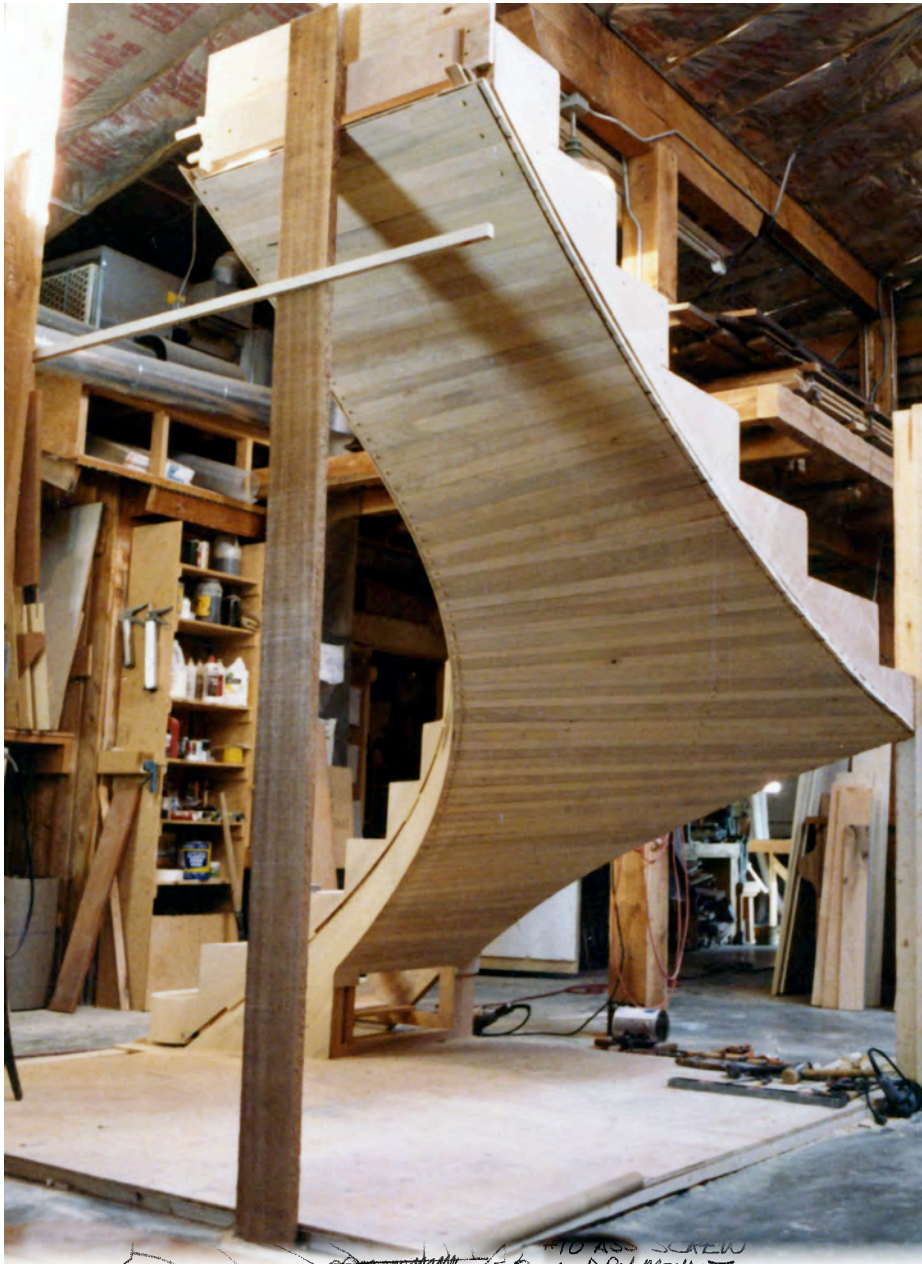
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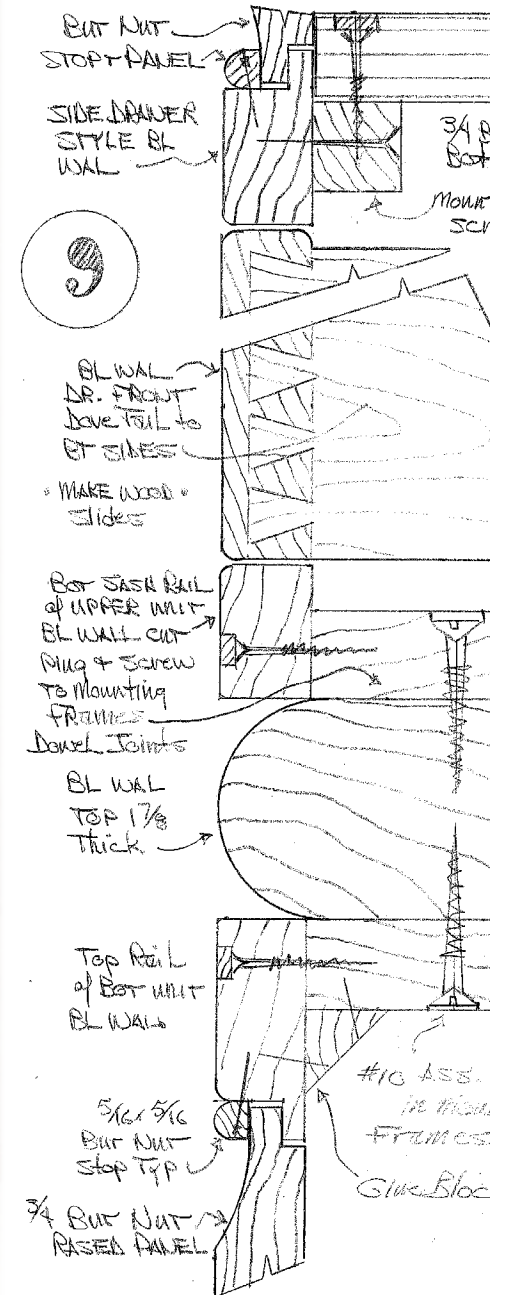
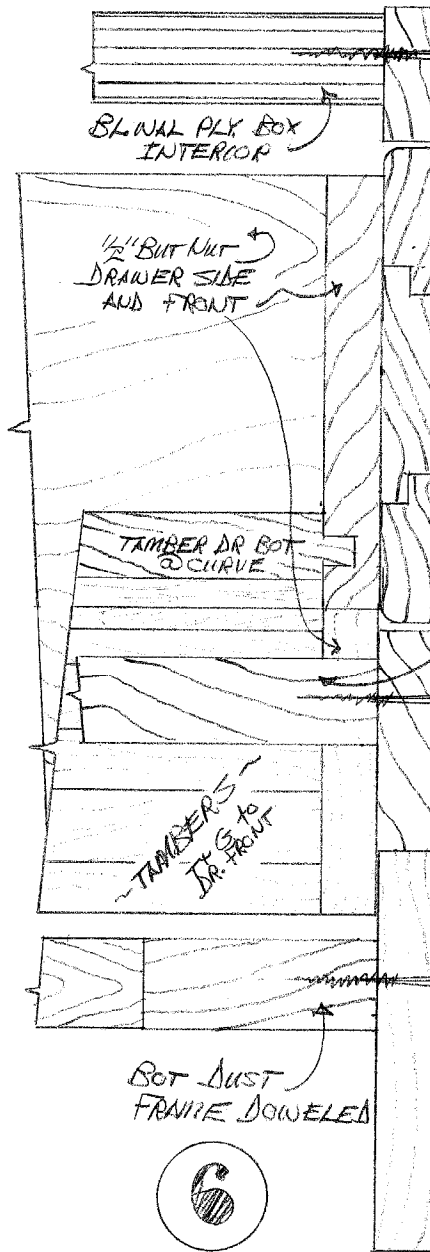
STOPPED
BUT NUT
PANEL NO BY BACK

C

One of several Spiral Staircases by ZWS



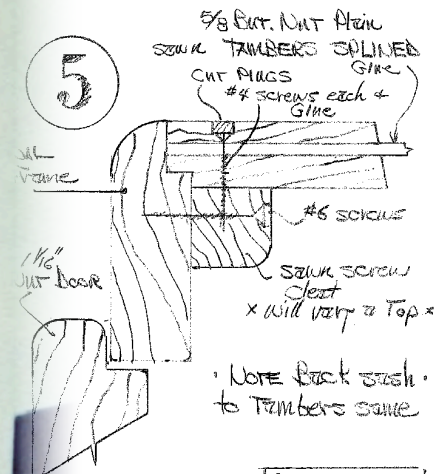
A genuine circular stair case for the Hui home



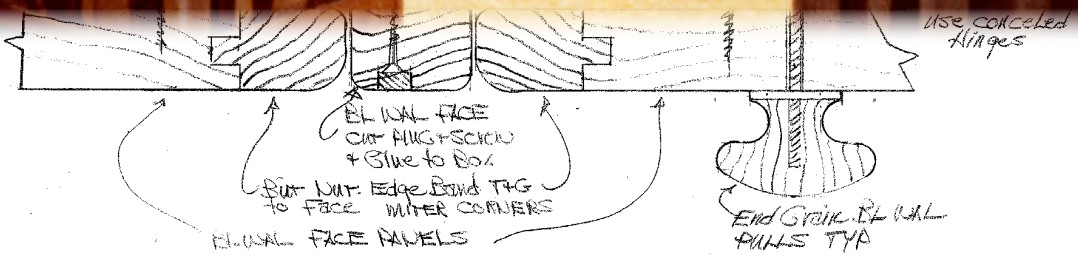
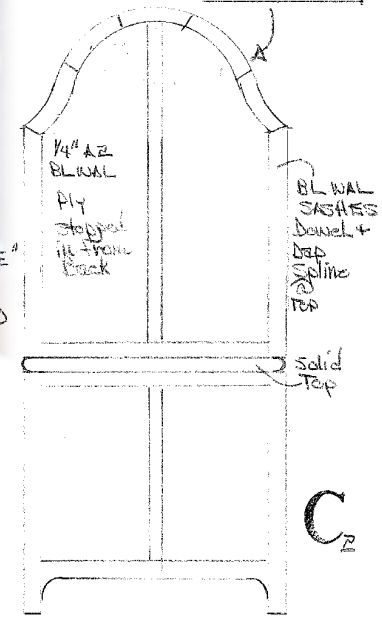
Livingston Bar and Poker room
store front by ZWS



FAR OUT project, built at the wood shop and crane set on top the house across town.



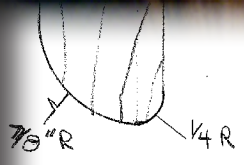
BACK SASH
NOT TO SCALE



A difficult angled kitchen done in cedar and oak

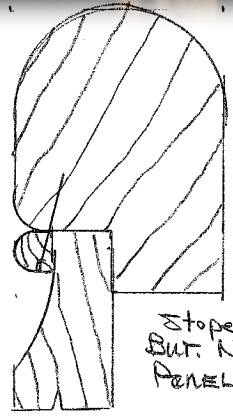
① JOINT
TYP

③

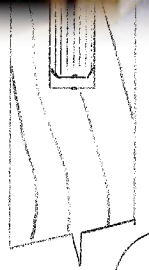


④

FABRIC TACKS
Mount Leather



Stopped
BUT. NOT
Panel No Dip Back



⑤

C

Lots of custom exterior and interior doors built at the shop



Scale
④
R 1'0"
3/4 BUTTER NUT
CUT PLUGS OVER SCREW
1 7/8"
3/4"
3/4 BL WAL

SCUP OPENER

1/8"

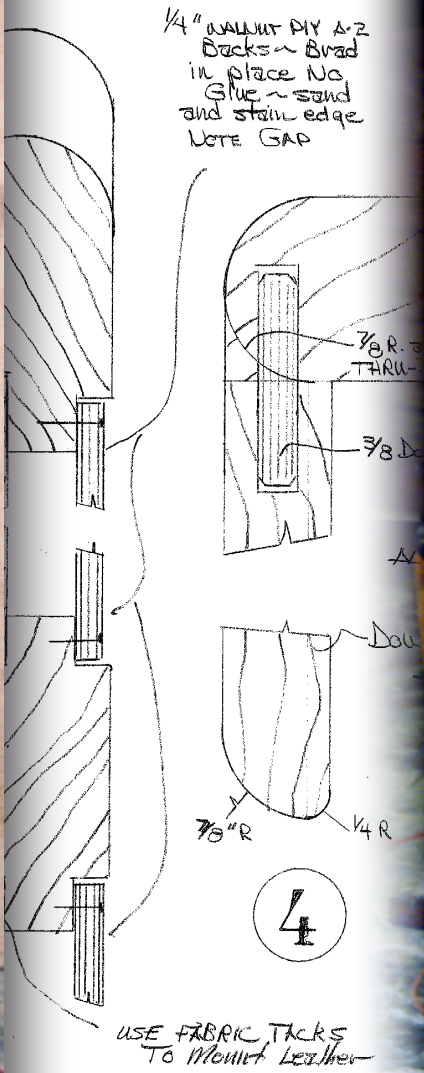
③
3/4 BL Walnut

3/4 BUTTER NUT
1 7/8"

ZAR 1979

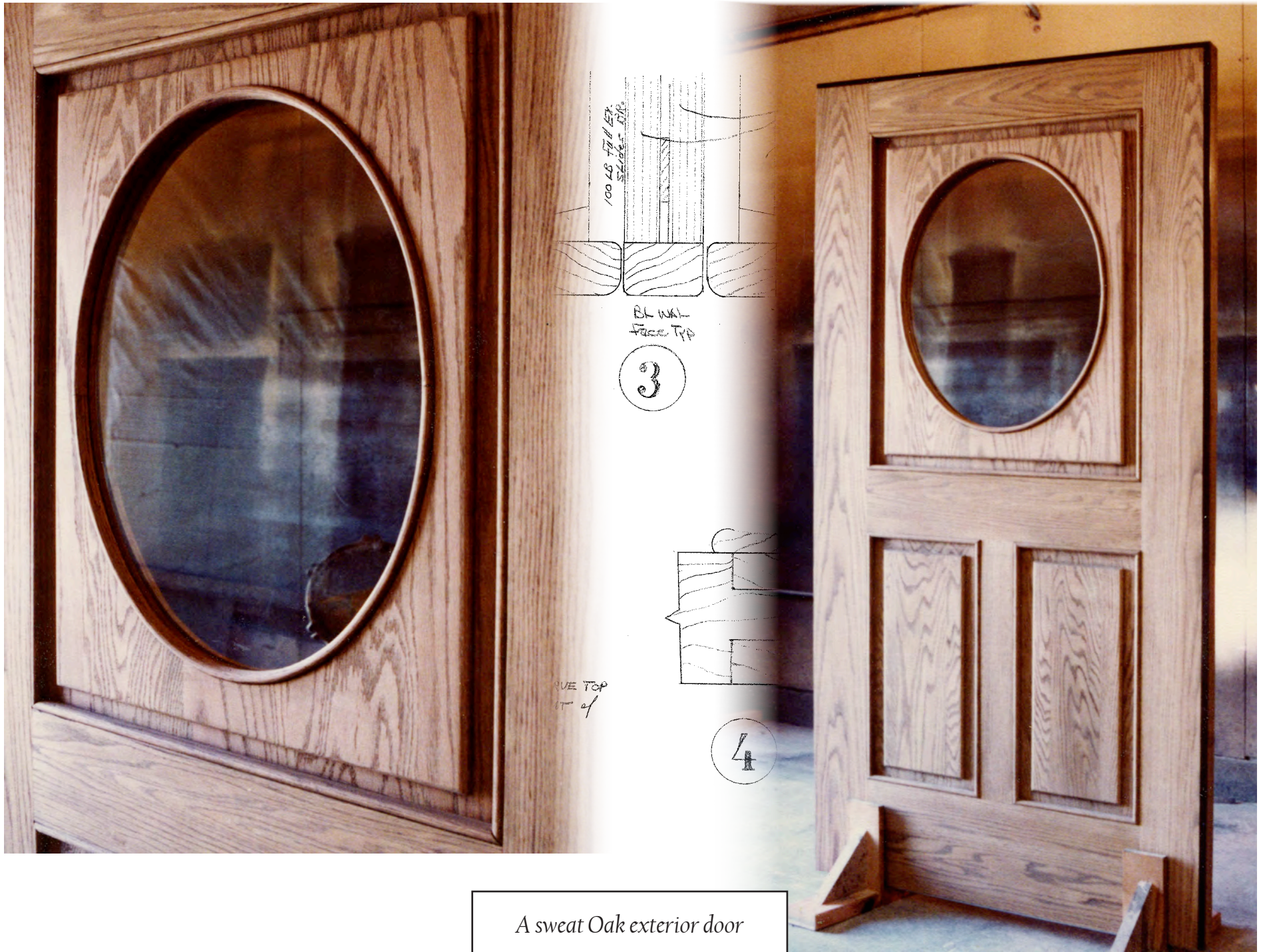


B₂

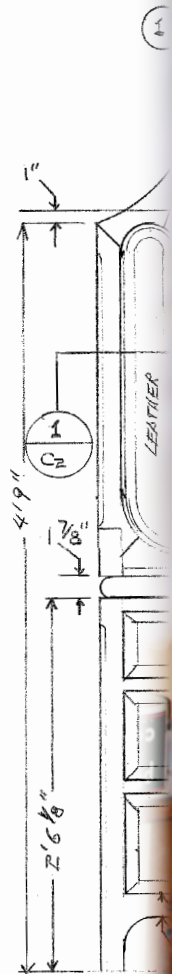


The Martin Holt and
Zac's Cabin doors





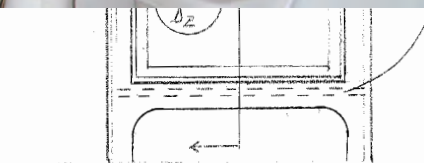
A sweat Oak exterior door



L
BR SAS



DRWS
1979



B₃

My own medicine cabinet in my apt. at ZWS



Hui home stair railing on the landing.

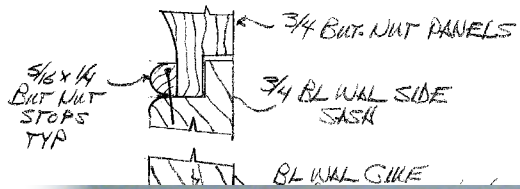


A Yukon Board for my foreman's wedding present -
Ho Ho

BUT NOT STOP PA
SIDE DOW
STYLE B
WAL
BL WAL
DR. FACE
DOVE TAIL
BT SIDES
• MAKE WOOD
SLIDES
BOT SASH
& UPPER W
BL WALL C
PIG + SC
TO MOUNTING
FRAMES
Dowel Joint
BL WAL
TOP 1/2
THICK
Top Rail
of Bot W
BL WAL
5/8 x 5
BUT NOT
STOP T
3/4 BUT NOT
RAISED PA



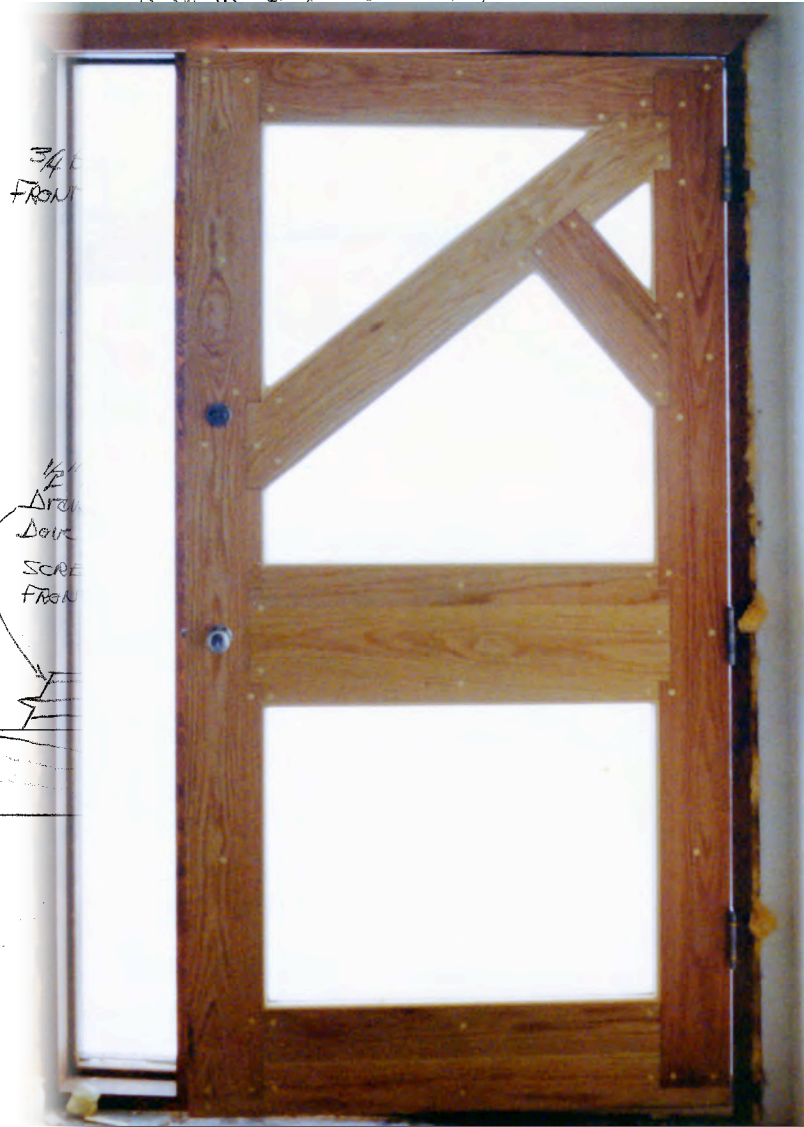
PIV
per
leaf
Glued
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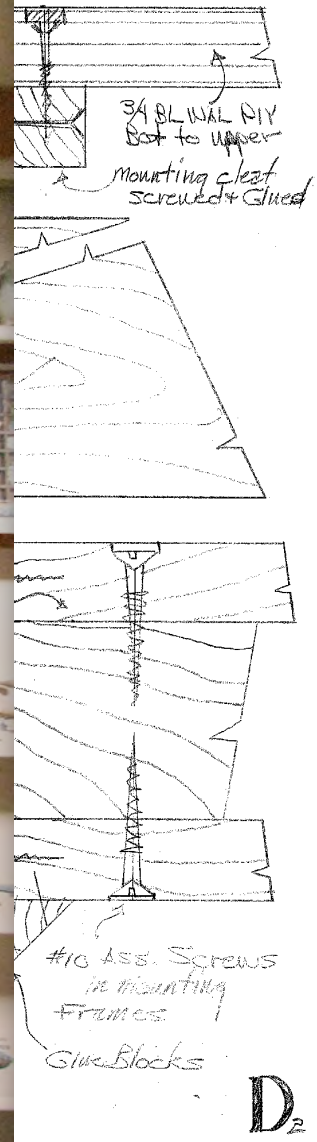
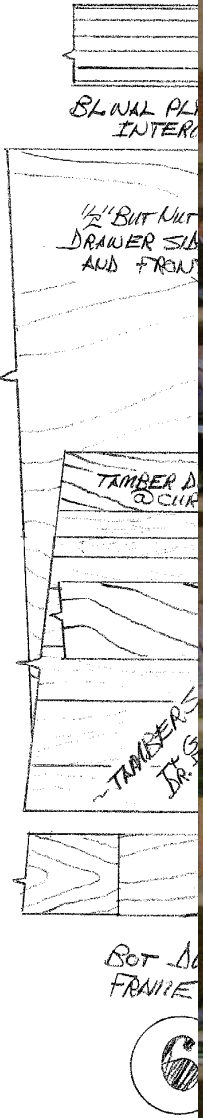
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Sliding library doors in use at my apt. in ZWS

Zac Creates Windows

by Anne Angermeyr

Thanks to a Bozeman craftsman, even New York City residents may soon be able to look through their windows and see trees.

Craig Zakovi, better known as "Zac," has created a most unique window, consisting of a limb surrounded by clear and stained glass.

"The whole idea is to look through a tree rather than to look through a square," said Zac, who operates a wood shop at 417 N. Plum.

Zac's 'Natural Windows' will soon be featured for sale in Bloomingdale's, a large New York City department store.

It takes Zac about four days to make a window measuring 2½' by 3' because wood and glass are not flexible, both must be cut and formed to fit together in a window frame.

The wood going through the window is actually composed of several limbs pieced together, Zac said. These types of windows are much harder to make than windows with lead running through them.

"I anticipate I'm going to get a lot better at it," he said.

Zac has special feeling about his windows: "I really love them," he said. He has one such window in his home.

The limb, he feels, adds a certain "presence" to the



High Country Photo by William Nell

'Zac' at work in his shop at 417 N. Plum, Bozeman.

(Continued to Page 3)

★ Natural Windows

(Continued from Page 1)

atmosphere. "I wouldn't take it out of that window for nothing," he said.

Builds Homes

In addition to windows, Zac specializes in all types of furniture--cabinets, tables, display cases--and also creates hand-carved doors.

Many of these doors go into the custom-made homes he designs and builds himself, several of which are in the area south of Livingston.

Right now Zac is working on a solid stone cabin. "It's a real gas," he said.

No insulation will be needed for the home. "Stone is very dense," Zac said. Heat and cold go through stone very slowly, and because Montana



Craig Zakovi displays one of his 'Natural Windows.' He thinks it's more interesting to look through a tree rather than just a square.

weather changes so rapidly, the warmth one day will compensate for the cold the next, he said.

Zac is also knowledgeable in the area of solar heating. He designed and just completed building the first solar-heated commercial office building in Bozeman. His wood shop is also heated by this method.

Studied Art

Zac studied sculpture and art at Montana State University, Bozeman, and the Art Institute, San Francisco.

"Actually, I'm a sculptor by trade," he said, adding that he

has also done extensive work with leather and bronze. Currently he hasn't had much time to devote to these crafts because he is focusing on woodwork.

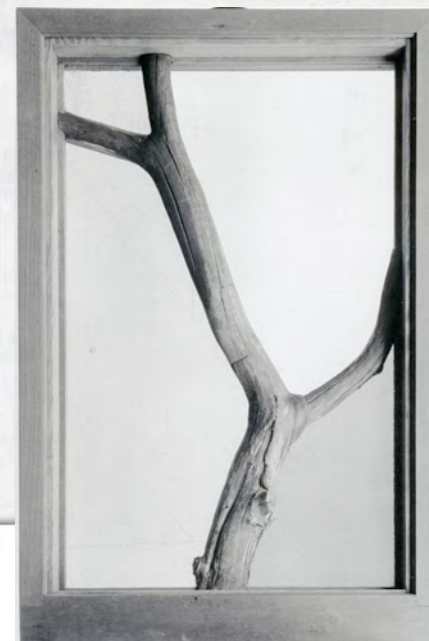
Zac's work with leather, however, has led to international recognition. He was one of the featured craftsmen in a book written by Don Wilcox entitled *Leather*. The book was published in Finland and was eventually circulated throughout seven countries.

Articles on Zac have also appeared in *Vogue* magazine and *Gentleman's Quarterly*.

Did It All Along

Zac grew up with a father who was a "jack of all trades. He made some really beautiful things." Seeing what his father did inspired Zac to do the same.

Zac couldn't think of a specific time in his life when he became interested in craftwork. "I kind of did it all along," he said.



Ted and Gloria Kulaga House

Ted, my dentist in Livingston, had been following my tales of building and asked that I meet with them to discuss designing and building a home for him and his wife Gloria. They purchased an acreage East of town along the Yellowstone. We met there and decided where to place the house. It had a good slope to it and would allow a walk-out basement. During design it became necessary that I build a model of it, as drawings did not do the job.

The house got too large to fit in Ted's tight budget we keep trimming it until by my best guess the price was close to his mark. It did not turn out that way and I took a sizable credit at his dental shop to finish it up, a strain for both of us.



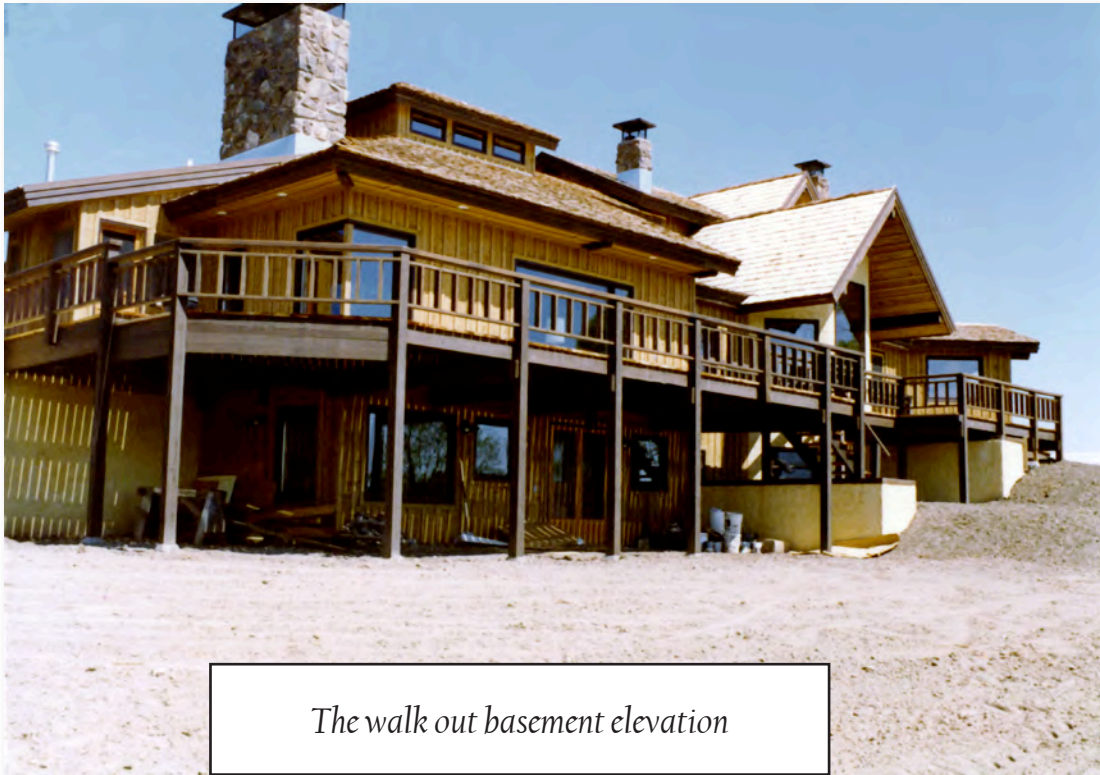
I again used Paul Pollock to supply the lumber and timbers, and a full complement of subs. By then I had a good bunch of guys to turn to for the electric, heating, plumbing, stone work and some of the concrete. I did the concrete walls on almost all the homes.



Zak's Wood Shop built the kitchen, vanities, some of the doors and windows, a lot of shelving and the green house beds and racks. We completed it in two years.



We built a Grand River Home



The walk out basement elevation







*The Kulaga 'gift' door and kitchen by ZWS.
The west elevation with green house.*

Warren Oates Retreat / Compound 1979 – 81

My reputation as a hard worker and good designer spread to the small local Hollywood crowd and I got a call from Warren Oates. He bought acreage up Emigrant Gulch and wanted me to figure out a retreat he could enjoy between films. It was 35 miles south of Livingston on an old miners claim at the end of a dirt road.



Warren was even more of a character off screen. We became friends. Al Jacobson, my right hand man, and I converted the old root cellar into the lower level of the house and supported the much larger second floor on a series of perimeter log columns with good foundations. This was a design-as-you-go project and Bob Watson, Warren's right hand man, would contact him by phone and reach a decision on current details even major items like the entire Bath House. It had a Jacuzzi for a tub / pool, sauna, steam

room and bath room. Not very large as the whole place was scaled down to help costs and they really did not need more. Bob occupied the old miner's cabin and fixed it up himself. He did a nice job.

Chico hot springs was only 7 miles away and we often went with Warren when he was out checking the project. These visits were parties, something Warren, Al and I were good at, but Warren drew a crowd. I commuted to the Wood Shop where Eric ran things and often needed me to make a decision or contact the client. These trips over to Trail Creek, a 14 mile short cut across the mountain to the interstate into Bozeman where often very bad due to snow and mud – the road was poor, full of holes and bare dirt in places, ended up being a 45 mile trip to the shop and home.

This was a fun and wild project. We worked our butts off and stayed in the Wanagan Cabins; Al full time, and I was on site as much as I could be for longer hours.



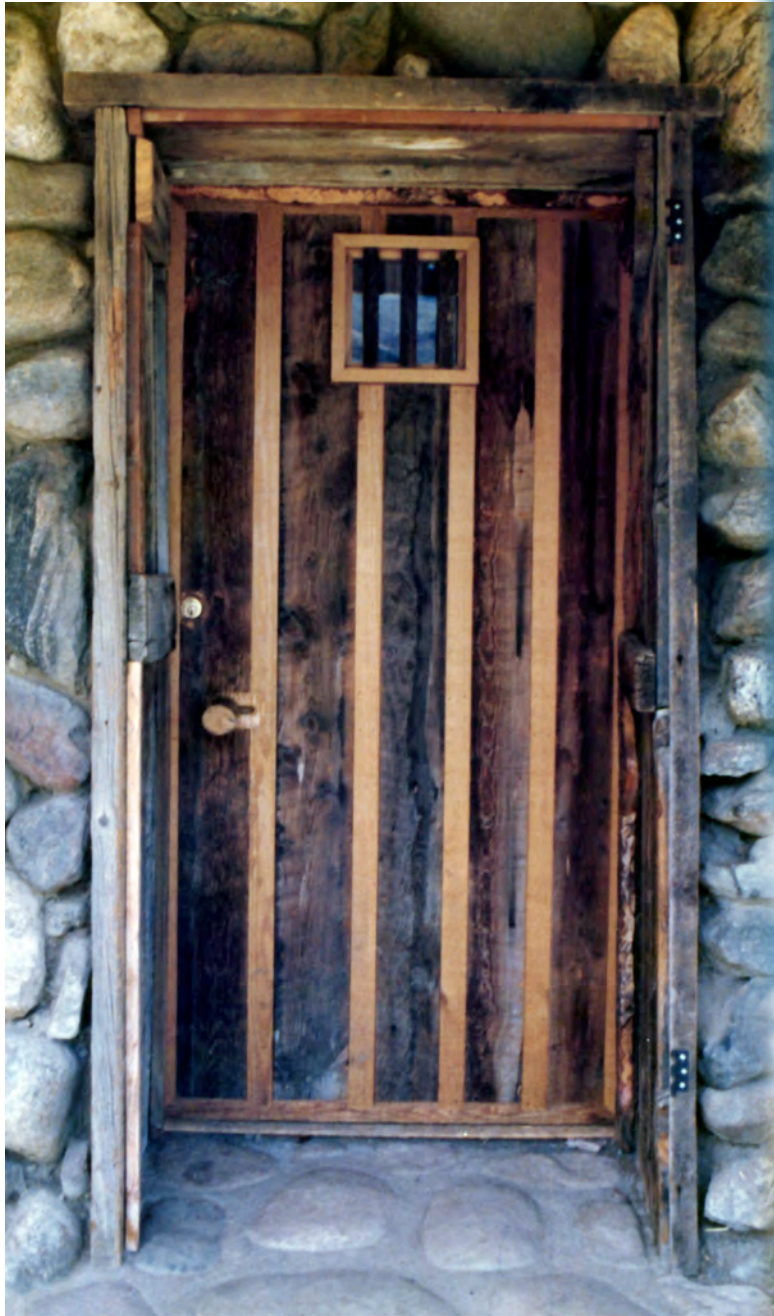
The old log 'dug-out' below the nice wood floor of the new building from the second floor up.





*The **Bath House** down in the cotton woods by the spring and creek. A quiet setting.*





The Warren Oates 'gift' door





The loft over the second floor, a second bed for son Scottie.



John and Rosemary Bashor Home

John Bashor was the director of the Art Department at MSU when I began my graduate work there.

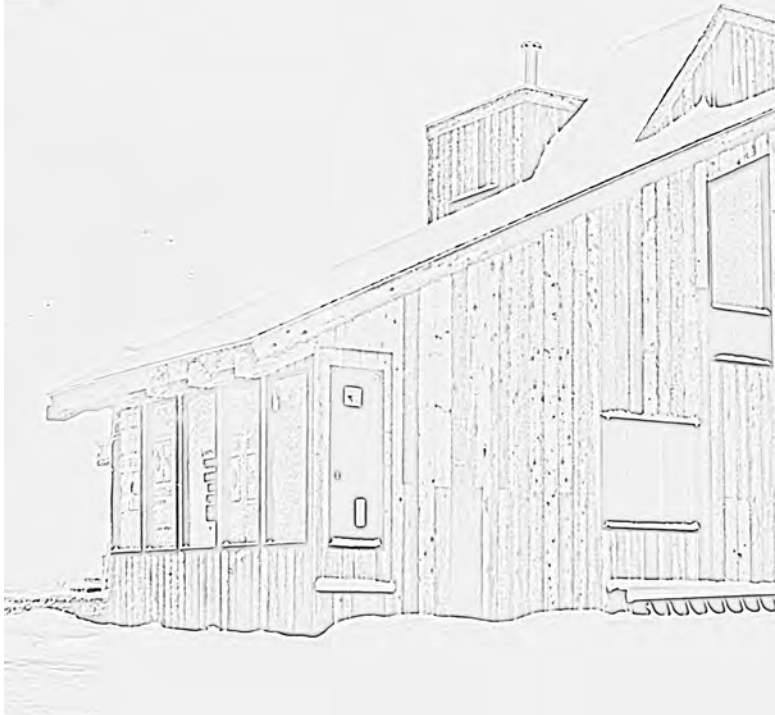
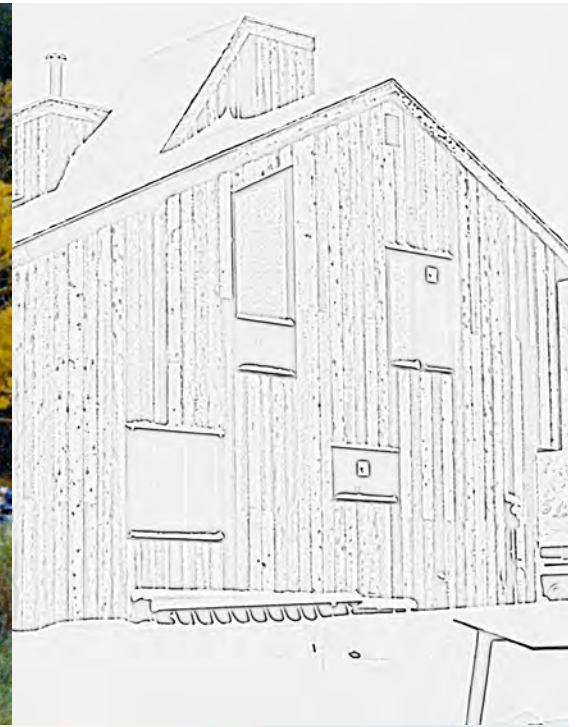
John had been designing a house for his site up Bridger Canyon about halfway to the ski resort. He was stuck and frustrated, and called to ask me to help him finish the design process and build the house and studio. John was a painter and Rosemary a ceramist, plus they needed a garage due to the snow, more than in town.

John was good to work for, and they came out often to see the progress and answer questions/make changes. As with all my clients, the cost of building was a huge undertaking and even with long term financing there were lots of expenses to furnish the house and the extras that the new place required. In Bashor's case he had to sell his house in town to get the down payment for the loan. This brought pressure to get them into the house that winter. They were living in a rental with everything in storage.



I was able to get exposed beams and some high ceilings into the design. None of my hand made cabinets, doors or windows fit in the budget.





*Foam insulation in roof and below
partial framing.*





Ready to move in while we finished the garage and studio.

Hui Home, Stan and Helen Hui 1982-84

One afternoon a lady came to visit the wood shop--after a tour she asked me if I would be interested in designing and building her, her husband and son a home South of Livingston. She was aware of other homes I had designed and built; yep I was.

We met at the Mission Ck. exit about 10 miles east of Livingston and drove down a two ruts in a hay field to a high spot along Mission creek. This area was a series of meadows among the cotton wood trees where the Yellowstone had meandered for centuries. It looked like the high spot had never been flooded. The views of the Absaroka Mts. were stunning and Helen felt the Feng Shu was good. I became a student with Stan and Helen tutoring about the ancient practice of Chinese site selection and orientation to the cardinal directions for good fortune.

I checked with the county planner and we drove to the site and he approved it for building a house. Stan spent several months in Hong Kong at a time then was available for his input in the design. He was an avid fly fisherman and made time to meet me between outings on the river with his buddies. Helen was very helpful with the room layouts and had many photos and clippings of interiors from her travels.

As the design progressed George Fantanza came by the wood shop to ask if he could build my next project. He had a small wood shop and had been a carpenter for several years while studying Architecture at MSU. I took George over to the site and he was excited to build it and did not mind the drive. As it turned out he definitely was the right guy to head the project and I had Eric in the shop to lead on the many doors (40 + doors) and lots of windows, even a 2 story unit built of glue laminated beams. We also built all the cabinets, shelving, closets and even a circular stair case.

I had called around and finally found an outfit in the Midwest that built them but they would only use oak or hickory and we had already selected magnolia and fir as the woods for the interiors. So I took it on myself, the most difficult wood project of my career and I did it!



The project continued to expand in scope as Helen became enthusiastic about what we could do for them. Stan was always agreeable and a bit removed. The Hui house became a show piece of the valley – a truly beautiful home stuffed with craftsmanship.

I had more employees now than ever before: 3 in the field and 4 in the shop plus me and my wife ... 9 of us.



The Hui house was the crescendo of my home D&B career. It also ended the wood shop endeavor when the Hui door (shown below) fell on me and tore ligaments from my spine. 5 years later I was able to build again – the Keep coming up.





Hui kitchen, magnolia and fir by ZWS





One of two fire places back to back.



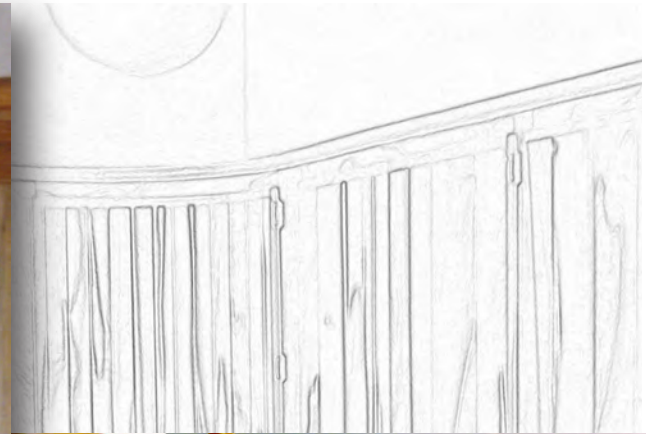


The Hui 'gift' door with a river stone/boulder inserted





A great hall mirror, carved magnolia.



Master bedroom closet and entry door set. Ship's ladder to loft storage cabinets and air return for solar heat gain recirculation.





Greenhouse entrance off dining room by 2d fire place.



The great circular staircase in Magnolia and Fir woods.



Landing railings from circular stair





Fire pit furniture by the pond.

Bridge move 1983 – 84

“This may be the craziest thing I have ever done”

I read in the Livingston newspaper that the Springdale Bridge was going to be sold now that the new concrete bridge was done and open for traffic. I drove down to see it / them; it took two spans to reach across the Yellowstone – 100 footer and a huge 218 foot single span that was 36 feet from the driving surface to the top trusses. I fell in love with the scale and the iron beasts.



I next stopped at the county offices and learned bidders need to complete a form and state a price. There were clean up conditions. I envisioned making a building, a shop and home out of the big one and selling the short span; if I could figure out how to get them off the river in one unharmed piece.

I hired a friend who scuba dived to map the bottom of the river under both spans. Then made a drawing of what kind of leg was needed to clear the north bank when the bridge was pulled across.

The leg with wheels needed to be 20 feet high. I could visualize that so I bid my favorite number 44 dollars on the condition I would save the bridges for reuse.

Park County awarded me the bid even though there were several bids higher from outfits that would drag them off the river and chop them into scrap iron. I guessed about 125 tons of steel in them.

I hired Eric's brother Gene Nellis to build the leg and rounded up the steel beams and mover's axels and wheels for both ends. Gene got rail road ties to stack up while jacking the big span up to the height I had calculated. We went for it and SUCCEEDED! The 100 foot span is today across the Shields River and the 218 footer is across the Powder River, in Eastern MT.



One of the salvage items of the project was a huge number of bridge plank, I sold a giant pile to a rancher and built a shed on my wood shop property with the remaining pile of runner planks. We named the shed “The Trunk” as it resembled one.



2—LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE, Thursday, March 17, 1983



The old Springdale Bridge

Old bridge sold for \$44

BY TOM SHANDS
Enterprise Staff Writer

The Park County Commissioners opened the only bid for the old Springdale Bridge on Wednesday and promptly accepted it and sold the bridge — for \$44.

For over two years the county has been trying to sell the bridge, which became obsolete after the new bridge was built in 1981.

"We almost had it sold once," said Commissioner Ken Spalding, but, because of its age, the state Historical

Society wanted to compile a record of the bridge before it was removed. That process took time and the buyer backed out, Spalding said. He's hoping the new buyer won't.

Craig Zakovi of Bozeman, who has expressed interest in the bridge for several years, purchased it with the idea of moving the bridge, intact, to another location.

"I'm doing it primarily because I'm in love with it," he said of the old bridge.

Built with county funds in 1908 by the Minnesota Steel and Machinery Company, the bridge served as a means of getting from the Northern Pacific station at Springdale across the Yellowstone River to Hunter's Hot Springs, a resort widely advertised by the railroad back then.

Zakovi said he cannot say exactly where the bridge will be moved because

he does not know who the final owner will be. He did say he hopes it can stay in Park County and perhaps span the Yellowstone again.

Zakovi made the \$44 bid because he said, "Fours are my lucky number." They always have been, he said, ever since he was born on the fourth day of the fourth month in 1944.

In addition to the purchase price he posted a \$5,000 clean-up bond with the county should any work have to be done after the bridge is removed. He also posted another \$1,000 bid bond which he will forfeit should he back out of the project.

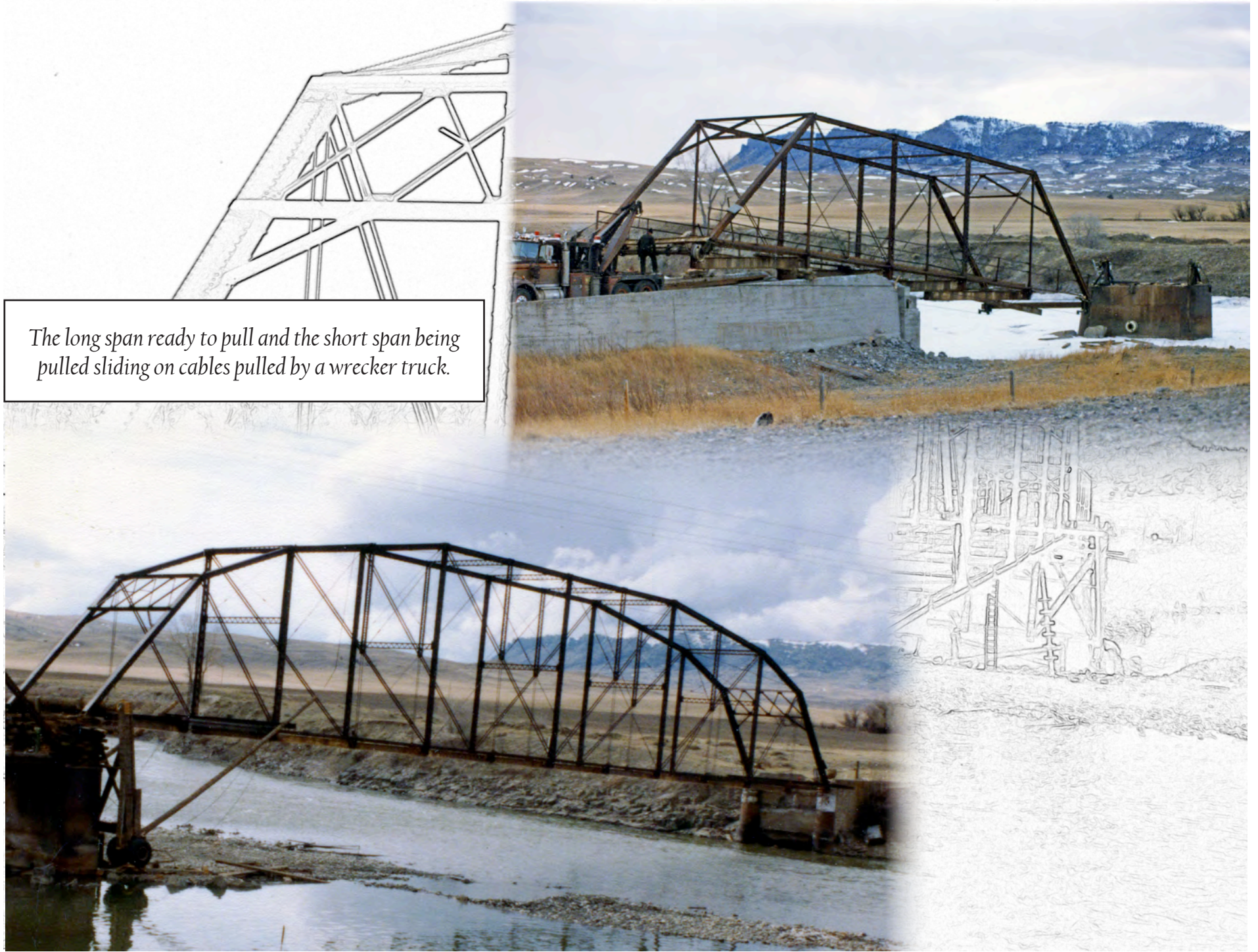
In addition, Zakovi also had to get \$500,000 liability insurance to cover any damage that might result during the removal work.

Zakovi requested, and the county granted, 13 months time to remove the bridge. He estimates it will cost \$10,000 to remove it and he is now looking for more persons interested in financing the project.

"It's going to be a real bugger getting it off the river," he said.



Making ready to pull through the river.



The long span ready to pull and the short span being pulled sliding on cables pulled by a wrecker truck.

The Keep 1991 – 95

After my divorce, and Helen's divorce as well, we developed a relationship. We had both spent time at U of A in Tucson and an old friend of mine from Montana had talked a rancher into selling an acreage on the north slopes of the Catalina Mts. Along the edge of the desert, yet still in the hilly juniper and cotton wood terrain. It had a major wash running the length of it that continued 8 miles to the San Miguel River. A rare opportunity and we joined Mike's offer to purchase, and the offer was accepted. It was 5 miles from the town of Oracle, Arizona toward Mt. Lemon.

I first repaired the access road, then had electricity and phone buried from the paved Oracle Road into both our places. I put in a well and ran water to the site we had selected to build on, and set up a camp in the wash where I would stay a bit cooler in the summer.

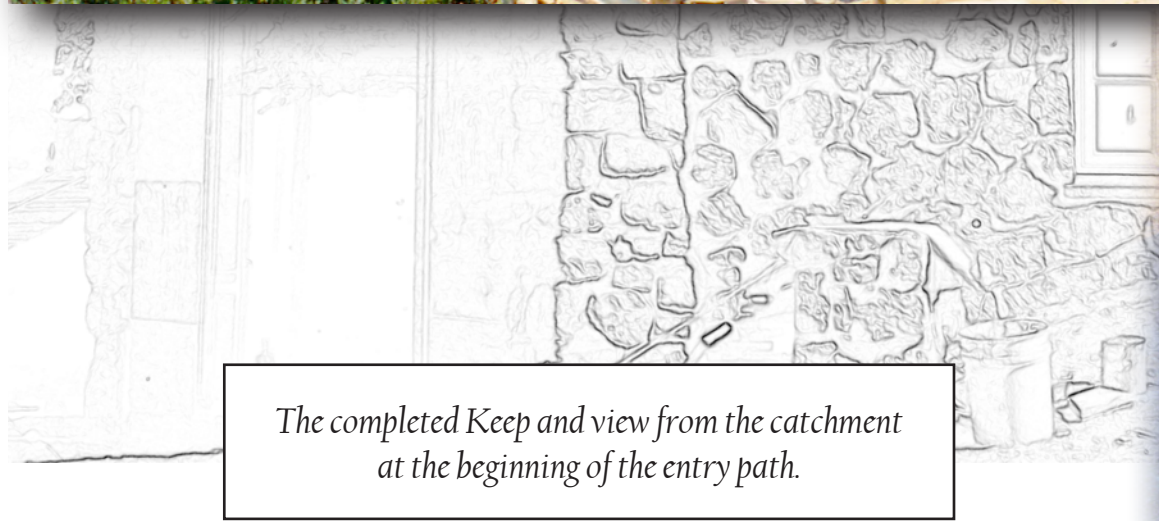


I wanted to build something like Zac's Cabin, a free hand dwelling and Helen was all for it. There was a quarry 10 miles away near San Miguel where I could get all the granite stones I would need.

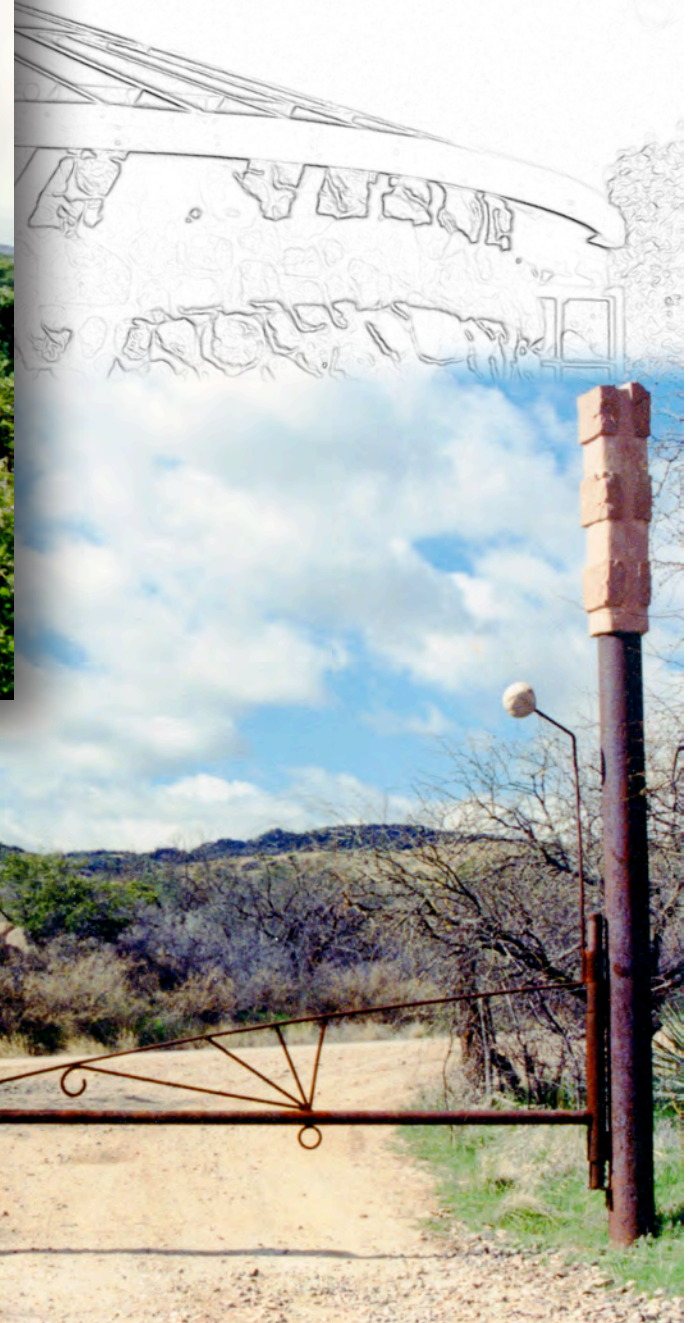
I asked around and found a Mexican mason and helpers who could only work for cash due to lack of Green Cards. We got after it laying stone in a circle on the side of the hillside. It was a two story tall cylinder (a bit organic) with vertical timbers from a recycler in Oracle. Once the walls were up and the entry arch and yard walls in place I asked Eric (from the Wood Shop days) to come down and help me do the timber roof system. He is pictured in the crew shot below with Bren Holt a son of our mutual friend and ceramist Martin Holt of Helena.



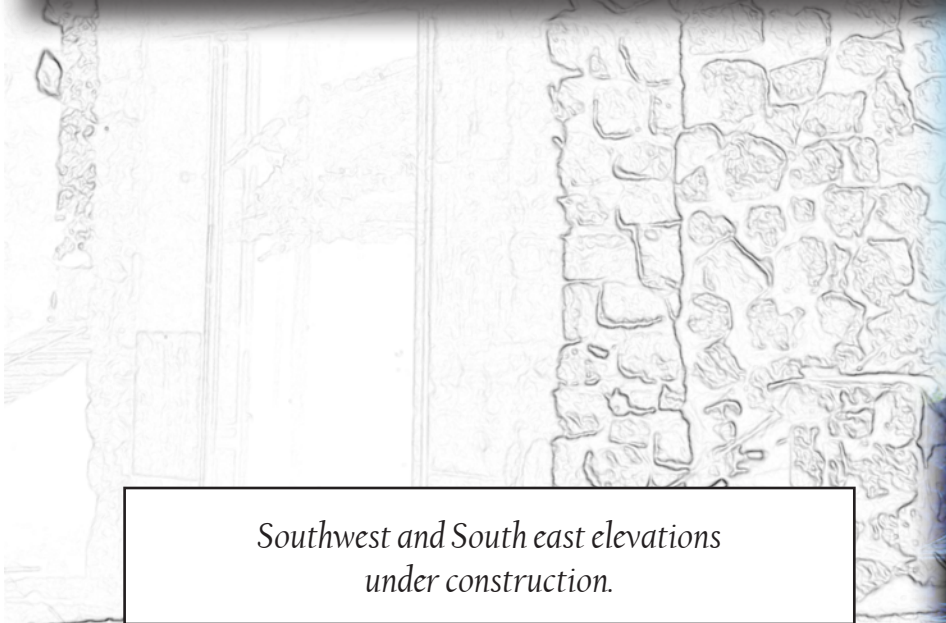
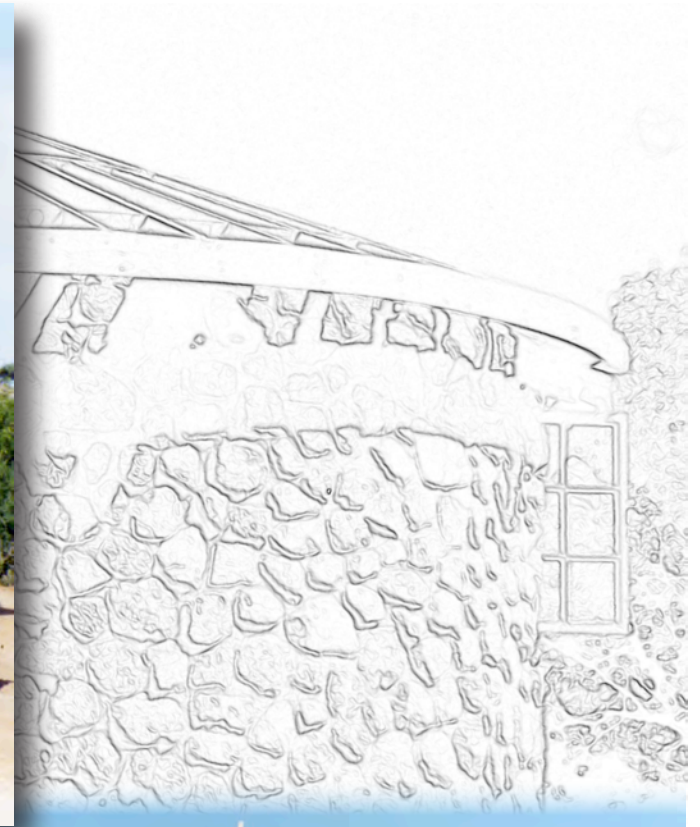
I lived in the wash for over 2 years while building the Keep and enjoyed it; taking many moon light walks miles down the wash getting to know the critters and sounds of the desert at night. I also got to know the day time critters as well building out in the middle of 'nowhere' and my dog Osita gave me warnings. I came to know several types of rattlers, the area was known for having 12 different kinds of them.



The completed Keep and view from the catchment at the beginning of the entry path.



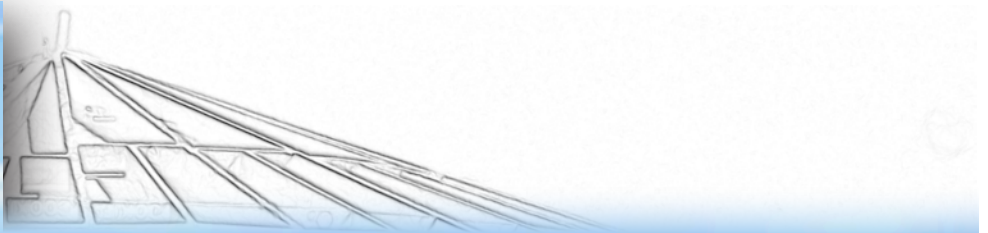
The Keep from the north and the entry gate from the highway.



Southwest and South east elevations under construction.



The chain from the roof peak supports the second floor bed and bath.



The Keep ready to move into.

Epilogue

My building and wood working career began in 1969 as I returned from the Arizona days; I needed to let go of the leather craft in order to earn enough money to buy a home and have children. The construction industry was where that could be done; *a major life change*.

You have seen the twelve projects I did as a designer / builder and the last building in Arizona, The Keep - that I completed before the motorcycle accident that nearly killed me in 95. The accident caused me to return to construction management.

This book #2 spans those 26 years of building and wood work. In 1998 after the C/M project I returned to Bozeman to establish The Plum Street Sculpture Studio and began that career shown in book #4 - "The Stone Journey."

I never returned to building homes, finding plenty of creative juice to sustain my spirit in sculpting stone / steel and doing a series of drawings / paintings and small composition sculptures - shown in book #3 "Processes." Writing this book in 2017 has given me a great view of a long life of creating in several media. A series of creative careers started and ended by serious injuries.

This second book "Homes and Wood Work" is a major effort in the series I will soon combine into a sleeve of 4 books with an Introduction for "50 years of Creative Endeavors" by

ZAK H ZAKOVI



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Rattlesnake Valley Press
Dennis Kern