



Ted Turner's Snowcrest

ARCHITECTURE

## SIMPLE LIFE

VAN BRYAN ARCHITECTS helps Ted Turner achieve simplicity at his Montana ranch

BY LARA VAIENTI

Perched on a hilltop among its namesake mountains, Snowcrest is a green gem in the middle of the Ruby Valley. Though the owner, Ted Turner, envisioned Snowcrest as a cozy fly-fishing ranch for himself and his friends, it is the structure's green design that most gratifies him and his ideals of sustainability. "I'm trying to save life on Earth," Turner said in a recent interview. "We have an obligation and a privilege to preserve our planet and the species we share the planet with."

On visits to his many western and midwestern ranches, he usually stays in the house, however humble, that was already there. As the largest individual landholder in the United States — he has title to nearly two million acres in 11 states — he has many homes where the buffalo roam.

Bozeman's Van Bryan Studio Architects helped infuse Turner's Snowcrest property with sustainable elements. "Green architecture is not focused only on design principles. It has to be executed to the full project," says architect Leah Shute. "For this project we were challenged to take it absolutely as far as we could go."

The Snowcrest project took about a year and a half to build. Through the use of reclaimed materials, like old-style vertical plank siding, a weathered metal roof, and solar energy options, Van Bryan Studio was committed to incorporate as many green design elements and building techniques as possible for Turner's ranch. The house has a great deal of

reclaimed material that has been salvaged. They used recycled or rapidly renewable resources as well and energy efficient design, says Van Bryan, who worked at Turner's Snowcrest Ranch with Shute.

He says more people are incorporating sustainable practices in their architectural designs. "People in Montana are starting to realize that the beautiful, vast spaces we have aren't unlimited and should be preserved as much as they can be," he said.

The four bedroom suites, each of which is distinctively styled, boasts its own private deck to capture the stunning mountain and river views, and span out from the common spaces, allowing the intimacy and privacy Turner was looking for. The design emphasized conservation wherever it could. "I don't believe in wasting anything," Turner said. "I'm not wealthy, but I even save paper clips." ■



Bozeman architect Van Bryan helped Ted Turner on his Snowcrest project