

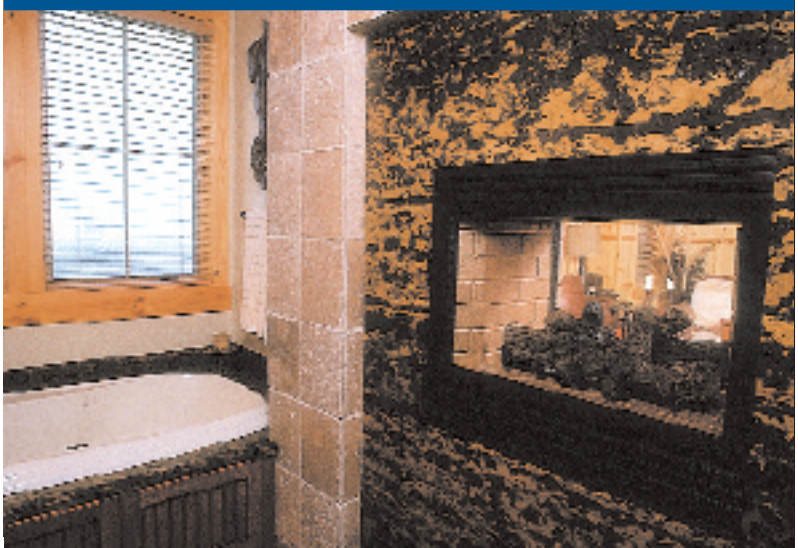


Heart of the Home

By Sedona Callahan

Photos by

Patrick Cone



Kim Sill has had a lifelong passion for old barns. Growing up in the rural South, she was surrounded by barns. Her mother had lived in Barnsville, Ohio. She collected books about barns. When Kim met her husband, Joel, and discovered that he, too, had a collection of old barn books, well, another flame of passion was ignited. "That was it," said Kim.

Unique fireplaces
light up
Park City abodes



LEFT PAGE: SCOTT JAFFA'S FIREPLACE,
TWO VIEWS. THIS PAGE: JEFF CAMP'S
FIRE WARMS HIS ROSSI HILL HOUSE.

While building their barn of a home at The Colony in Park City, the Sills' focus turned to the fireplace in the living room. "We built the fireplace first, then built the room around it," said Kim. "We sat before a fire before the roof was on."

The Sills' fireplace, a mammoth quartzite structure [18 by 8.5 feet], is surrounded by, of course, barn wood. The mantle, a single 18-foot piece of

stone, was lowered into position by placing blocks of ice beneath it. "The melting ice and the compression helped the stone slide into place," said Joel, whose design idea was borrowed and adapted from a fireplace in the Lake McDonald Lodge, located in Montana's Glacier National Park. The Sills' fireplace is flanked by two large wood-storage alcoves, one of which is guarded by a pair of Tanzan-

ian drums fashioned as human figures.

A Tuscan fireplace located in the large, comfortable kitchen of the home is a replica of those found in old farmhouses in the northern Italian countryside. Also constructed of quartzite stones, the working fireplace includes a Tuscan grill, as well as copper pots hanging from iron brackets. "We cook in this one," said Kim. "We grill steaks and lamb chops, and make stews and Deer Valley turkey chili in the pots." The fireplace opening is framed by an impressive mantle constructed of wood salvaged from a Chicago stockyard, while the stone wall houses a pizza oven that heats so intensely it takes days to cool.

The design that was adopted by the Sills when constructing their fireplace was part of the overall Adirondack design theme adopted by the national parks in 1916. Adirondack "camps" were originally built as housing for lumber workers in New York State, and over time went upscale, as they were built and populated by prominent American families in search of retreats. The elaborate and creative style of architecture is often created through use of native stone and rough woodwork, at times with the bark left in place.



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When Jeff Camp built his home on Rossi Hill in Park City, he imported the design style from his native New York and blended it with old Park City silver mine elements. “I like to describe the architecture as ‘Adirondacks meets Park City mines’, ” said Camp. Camp’s living room fireplace, in typical Adirondack fashion, is made of floor-to-ceiling quartzite stone from a Great Salt Lake quarry, and sports a wraparound hearth and alcove for wood storage. “Typically, the Adirondack fireplace angles up to ‘shoulders’, ” said Camp, indicating the sloped shape, “and the chimney rises up from there.”

Jeff Christenson and Brad Camp, Mountain Ridge Homes’ building partners, literally go the extra mile in cre-

ating unique, one-of-a-kind mantles for the cabins and homes they build in the Pine Mountain development outside of Oakley. Brad scours the backcountry looking for fire-kill areas, where trees have been damaged in a forest fire or have been struck by lightning. “A tree that’s been burned results in a non-typical growth, with unusual knotty patterns and burls,” said Brad, who says a fire in Scofield many years ago left wood that is almost petrified. Camp and Christenson stripped the bark from a cedar tree revealing twisting textures in shades of black, brown and gold. They then cleaned, buffed and varnished it, thus creating a stunning and unique mantle to grace the cultured stone fireplace built in one of their cabins.

When visiting Scott Jaffa’s home in the Eagle Pointe neighborhood of Park City, I couldn’t help but notice that the handhold from the driveway down the steps to the front door was an exact match to the banister down the interior steps in the home. When I commented on it, Jaffa pointed out that the mesh and wood design was also repeated in the kitchen cabinet-work. Assuming I’d find such balance and precision throughout the house, imagine my surprise when I saw that the two sides of Jaffa’s bedroom/bathroom fireplace were quite different in style and structure. The bedroom side of the massive structure was fashioned from chocolate-brown sandstone, quarried from a southern Utah site, with a single slab serving as the man-



LEFT PAGE: BRAD CAMP AND JEFF CHRISTENSON'S FIREPLACE DESIGN.

THIS PAGE: THE SILLS' TWO MAMMOTH FIREPLACES.

tle. A cutout in the chimney provided a warm, roasted red pepper-colored backdrop for Jaffa's artwork.

On the bathroom side of the fireplace, like a two-faced Venetian mask, the heavy stonework is replaced by a travertine surround imitating the shower wall construction, with an Asian Portero marble mantel. The alder woodwork above the mantel is replicated in the bathroom cabinetry. Further defying cold mornings, the antique beech floor abutting the fireplace came from an old barn in Vermont.

Perhaps Jaffa and the Silles should get together and share their barn stories. *

Sedona Callahan believes sitting in front of a warm fire is a sublime ending to a hard day of story writing.