

Letting The Beauty of the Outside In

For sale

Uniquely Crafted House

Cook's Kitchen, Carved Woodwork, Amazing Studios,
Metal and Woodshop

Comfortable for parties and for intimate evenings in front of the fire.

Upstairs apartment

15 minutes from Brattleboro



Wake to amazing light, 32 feet of skylights, radiant heat in the floors.
Designed by working engineer and artist.

Built by quality carpenters and artisans using local materials.

\$565,000

For more information regarding this house of trees please contact our broker,
Bill Murray of Berkley & Veller Greenwood Country Realtors at
802•254•6400 ext 122 or 802•380•5432
bill.murray@berkleyveller.com

A Journey of Exploration, Creativity, and Way Too Much Fun

There are surprises even in a house that you spent a year dreaming about. Waking to the sky on fire from first light, the warmth of the rock after firing the bread oven, the first notes from the bow of a violin, all excite our senses as we live amongst the trees of our house.

The fantasy started with a phone call from our son. "Hey the land next to us came up for sale." A simple statement began one of the biggest art projects we ever did.

To conceptualize the structure circles were drawn on paper, using verbs, the "do" words. We create, we build, we make music, we do Tai Chi, we cook, we share time with family, with friends, we do snack and story. We design in metal, in wood, in cloth, in clay and light, with laughter and with love.

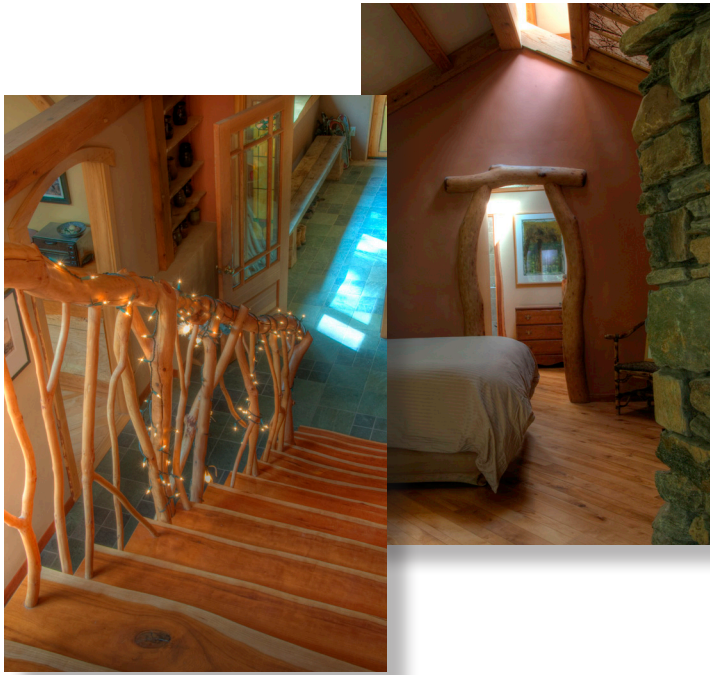
It was apparent though that we needed building partners who would come to the project enthusiastic about stretching the building envelope. One conversation with the MacArthur brothers, Dan and Gary, and we knew that they matched our style of exploration. All of us are crazy, crazy for quality, crazy for exploration, crazy for details, crazy for getting it right. Every day was an unearthing of another view or idea being influenced by the shape or feel of the material and they allowed the project to be organic, to be dictated by these discoveries.



There are places in this house that stop me in my tracks, that I have to appreciate. The early low light through the old Belgian shop doors of Barb's studio making patterns on the curved wall is a source of peaceful amazement....MM



*For more information regarding this house of trees please contact our broker,
Bill Murray of Berkley & Veller Greenwood Country Realtors at
802.254.6400 ext 122 or 802.380.5432
bill.murray@berkleyveller.com*



Lots of people have worked on the house adding their craft and skills and care to the whole. They have done their work well and happily, and their pride shows through.....MM

As we began to sketch the house each of each of us began to crystallize what we felt was important. Marty wanted to see the structure, Barb wanted the house to be a sensual treasure. Both of them loved reveals, a chance glance around a corner inviting you forward into the next space. Materials were discussed with Dan and Gary; trees from the site were marked to be used as supporting members of the frame. A tree from Marty's sister's place, several trees from Steve Smith's wood lot became integrated into the design.

A trip to a cherry forest yielded the limbs for the stairwell, several cherry trees became surrounds for doors and later stair treads and counter tops. Each tree was looked at for shape and size and we eagerly watched as the drawknife sliced away the bark and cambium layer.



I like contrasts, in texture, in dimension, in light, in shape. I like the feel of rock and wood. You can tell by looking at this house....MM

As the interior floor plan developed, the experienced mind of excavator Jimmy Herrick was called in. He knew land, he knew rock and he was conscious of the environment. His recommendation to blast for a utility room yielded not only a basement that was big and dry, it yielded all of the beautiful rock for 3 fireplaces, a bread oven, a fountain, retaining walls, terraces for gardens and still there was enough to dream of future projects. A rock outbuilding? A kiln house? A small writing room?



We started this design on paper, just talking about what we do and how it should flow. No walls, no rooms, just flow and pattern. When we got that right we started putting walls and sizes down on paper. Then we built models. cut them up and moved things around and built models again...MM

Following the natural contours of the land, the house was situated to take advantage of southern exposure and to nestle into the elbow of the creek which ran on the property. In the spring, the creek runs strong, filling the bedroom with water music. The 32 feet of skylight keeps the house bathed in light, never allowing the winter doldrums to cast their shadows. The trees are smooth and graceful and you never tire of touching and looking at their forms or the details of railings, carvings or the subtle details that as a whole reflect the sprit of thoughtful design and craftsmanship.

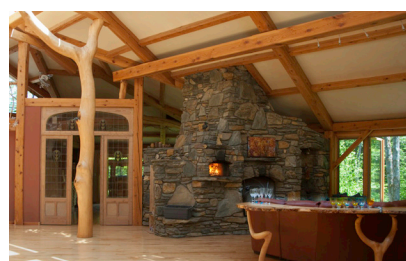
The house loves being filled with people. There is no occasion too small to celebrate. The Valentine Day sitdown dinner for 24, Thanksgiving dinner with turkeys from the wood fired bread oven, tables long and filled with friends and family, slow days in front of the fire reading to the grandchildren or doing some art project in the studio allow the enjoyment of these spaces to be shared with others. Writers do readings, songsmiths hold concerts and local groups come together to talk about issues, all surrounded by the peaceful beauty created here.

And the acoustics! Friday nights are filled with the gathering of musical friends who come because of the magic of sound in the space. As the people gather sharing their week, picking up their instruments and begin to play the house amplifies the joy of being part of a community that takes time to make music together.

The kitchen is the heart of this home. The design was mocked up, used, and then mocked up again until the flow was exactly right for two cooks. A single 100-year-old maple tree from a schoolyard in Greenfield provided the wood for the fronts and drawers. Talented cabinetmaker Bob Callahan provided the skill. Cherry was used for countertops and accents and soapstone for the sinks and the bread isle.

If the kitchen is the heart of the house, the studios are the spirit. Design happens here. Barbara's studio, with its windows, fireplace, and workspaces encourages, comforts, supports, even persuades at times the new ideas to cascade forth. Marty has all the tools he needs for inventing things exactly where he needs them.

This home is like pizza from the bread oven.

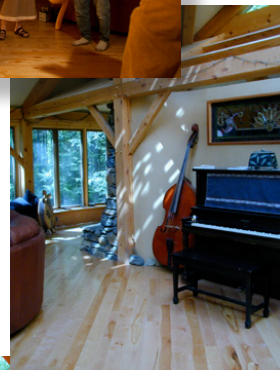


Great ingredients are collected and made ready. The dough gets kneaded and then is left to rise, slowly gathering life. It's put in the hot oven which has been stoked all day storing energy for melding

together all of the ingredients and when it comes out of the oven it yields nourishment for all that gather.

This house does the same thing. It is comprised of spaces that inspire whatever it is that you do, and whether you are alone or together with family or friends it nourishes your soul, every moment of every day.

We have always had celebrations. At first we cleaned up with a shovel after moving stacks of lumber, with sawhorses and boards for tables. Further along we could cleanup with brooms, and had real places to sit. Now we can dust and mop like normal folks and the celebrations continue. Music is a big part of our lives. We just didn't know how great it was going to sound in this space, voices raised in song, fingers on strings, the resurrection of my old sax, it comes alive here and feeds our souls. ...MM



I have favorite spots to sit, where the features that surround me are just right, where the light falls just so at a certain time of the day, at a certain time of the year...MM



We live and work in this place. There are weeks in the winter when I don't go anywhere and I never have cabin fever.... I have done my best work here....MM