

DULUTH TIMBER COMPANY

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DESIGNER SHOWCASE

Reclaimed wood brings 'embedded history' into custom homes for Cheryl Fosdick

CF Design, Ltd., Duluth, MN 55802
218/722-1060 www.cfdesignltd.com



What drew you to reclaimed wood as a material for your design work?

Its beauty and tactile nature. Its character/embedded history—including the old points of attachment, stress, and bearing. Its final stability (predictability of retained character), higher density and structural capacity.

What projects or applications have you designed for reclaimed wood?

We've designed for reclaimed wood in State Park Visitor Centers; custom new homes interior, exterior and all inclusive; furniture, both built in and free standing; stairways, both treads and structural stringers; also free standing structures of reclaimed timber (see story below).

Which one project/place stands out as an exceptionally apt or perfectly surprising or just downright gorgeous use of reclaimed wood?

See photos at left.

Why specify reclaimed wood when there are so many other structural and surface options to choose from?

I can look at it at the mill and select for specific character, if needed. Because of its density and rot resistance, I also feel comfortable using it in exterior applications over new cedar or redwood or fir. It has a built in patina unmatched by new or engineered products. Further, it is a locally available product.



> Cheryl Fosdick
continued...



>Cheryl Fosdick
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How do you sell your clients on the value of reclaimed wood vs. its expense?

Look at it! It pretty much sells itself based on aesthetics alone.



Is there a story that stands out in your mind of a client's delight at the old wood in their project?

I think the project that amazed clients and builders alike was the two 34' long 16 x 26 solid fir beams used to support the bridge from the garage to the main house of our Family Compound project. The timbers were visually reassuring, big, straight, and beautifully grained.

What advice do you have for an architect/designer who has never specified reclaimed wood for a project?

Pick a structurally expressive opportunity and try a singular poetic application. However small, it will become the pride of the project for the client, I can almost guarantee it.



If you had the dream-project for reclaimed wood, what would it be?

The entire interior surfaces of my office...
floors, walls, ceilings.
- To be surrounded.



Founded in 1985 by Max Taubert
Timber yards in Duluth, MN and Edison, WA

phone: (218) 727-2145

fax: (218) 727-0393

email: info@duluthtimber.com

web: www.duluthtimber.com

