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MLS 220201475 | 503-267-0210

527 SW Forest Grove Drive, Bend
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\$635,000 | BILL PANTON
MLS 220207871 | 541-420-6545

636 NW Portland Avenue, Bend
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\$1,299,999 | RYAN ENDRIES
MLS 220200928 | 541-419-5025

18949 Baker Road, Bend
1,732 sq ft. | 4 bed 2 bath



\$747,000 | IMELDA LUQUIN
MLS 220205011 | 915-401-4042

1072 NE Parkview Court, Bend
1,754 sq ft. | 3 bed 2.5 bath



\$635,000 | AMANDA FERRARI
MLS 220203696 | 541-350-6488

3186 NW Strickland Way, Bend
2,477 sq ft. | 3 bed, 2.5 bath



\$1,699,500 | SKJERSAA GROUP
MLS 220205375 | 541-383-1426

19896 Alderwood Circle, Bend
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ADU: 1 bed, 1 bath | 700 sq ft



\$2,424,999 | DANIELLE POWELL
MLS 220203742 | 503-705-6435

26306 & 26308 SW Metke Lane, Camp Sherman
Main: 2 bed 2 bath | 1,987 sq ft. | Guest: 2 bed, 2 bath | 1,212 sq ft.



\$2,995,000 | KIM WARNER | KRIS WARNER
MLS 220201584 | 541-410-2475 | 541-480-5365

62824 Loma Vista Drive, Bend
2,827 sq ft. | 4 bed 2.5 bath | 2.8 acres



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60367 SE Hedgewood Lane, Bend
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\$529,000 | CHRISTIN HUNTER
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65570 Highway 20, Bend
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Designed by Karen Smuland
Photos by Blake Woolen

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Homeowners throughout Central Oregon are creating beauty and interest with hardscapes and other landscape options to be more firesafe.

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WALLS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

Blending street art with Central Oregon's open spaces, muralist Evan Namkung has developed a style that's both bold and deeply rooted in nature.

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BREAKING BREAD

M's Bakery brings community to the Old Mill District.

PHOTO LEFT BY PAGE BENNETT | BOTTOM BY WHITNEY WHITEHOUSE

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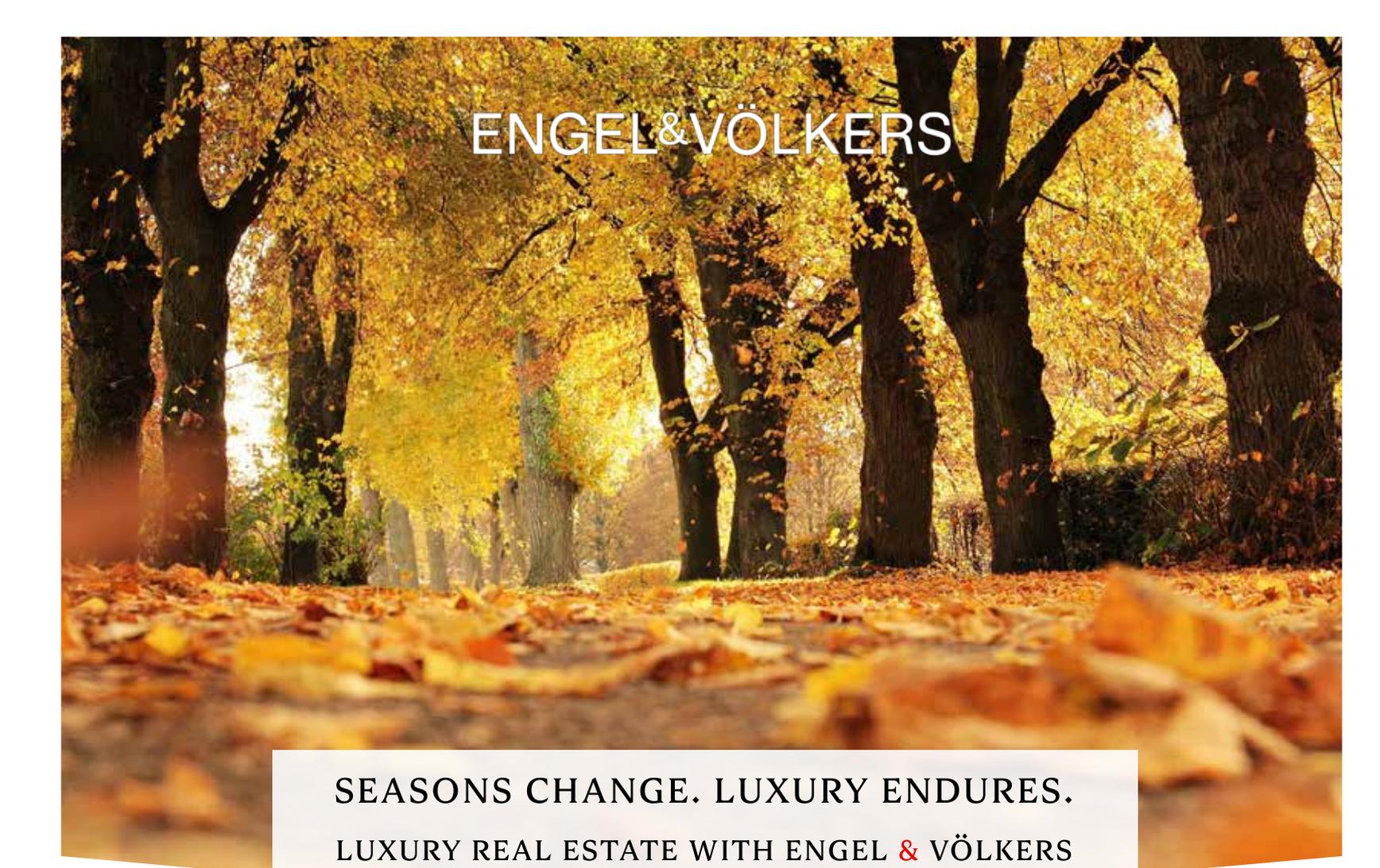
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HARVEST AND PREPARATION

Abundance continues long after summer ends.





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OREGON MEDIA, LLC
974 NW RIVERSIDE BLVD.
BEND, OREGON 97703
OREGONMEDIA.COM



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EDITOR'S LETTER

Life is full of surprises, some welcome, some less so. Yesterday, a ribbon of a garter snake with a pretty yellow stripe surprised me as I pulled weeds in the yard. It's one of many critters, some more welcome than others, that share our property—frogs, lizards, rabbits, deer, coyotes and various bird species. One place they won't find shelter in is the first five feet of defensible space we were clearing around the house to avoid the far more unwelcome surprise of wildfire.

To guide us in our fire-safe preparations, I invited the city's new deputy fire marshal of wildfire preparedness, Melissa Steele, to walk the property and point out vulnerabilities. We took her advice seriously and, within two days, had all flammables, such as juniper, bark mulch, grasses and manzanita near the home, removed. You can read more of what we learned about wildfire preparedness on page 72.

As editor of a home and design magazine, I have the rare opportunity to see many examples of creative design and well-

planned living spaces. This issue's featured story of a ranch house in Tumalo (page 28) offers another look at something unforeseen, primarily because the owners and their design team set out to build a home filled with wonder, with each room offering something unexpected.

Fall's first frost, sometimes arriving as early as August, is often an unwelcome surprise that wipes out tomatoes and other tender vegetables, serving as a reminder to prepare homes and gardens for the colder days ahead. Well Rooted Produce farm proves that cool-season crops such as leafy greens, root vegetables and brassicas can thrive in Central Oregon with the right preparations.

This fall, I'm choosing to see marvels as part of the adventure of living here. I hope this issue brings you a few good surprises of your own.

Lee Lewis Husk, Editor

From Your Local Experts



MELISSA STEELE
DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL

Bend's new deputy marshal of wildfire preparedness, Melissa Steele, educates homeowners and communities about ways to become more firewise. *Page 72*



SARAH WESTHUSING
INTERIOR DESIGNER

Through her studio, House of Milo, Sarah Westhusing makes spaces that nurture well-being and are inspired by the high desert. *Page 60*



TYSON GILLARD
ARCHITECT/ BUILDER

Founder of Life Design Build, Tyson Gillard sees potential in older neighborhoods, helping a Bend family open up and brighten a 1979 home in Kings Forest. *Page 52*



SCOTT MARICLE
FARMER

Founder of Well Rooted Produce and U-Pick, Scott Maricle believes in the power of food. Through the produce harvested, he hopes to better the lives of the community and beyond. *Page 76*

PHOTO OF SCOTT MARICLE BY WHITNEY WHITEHOUSE

CAROLYN COLE



"Blue 006" 40" x 30" mixed media



"Yellow 001" 12" x 12" mixed media



"Green 005" 12" x 12" mixed media

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CONTRIBUTORS



CATHY CARROLL WRITER

Cathy Carroll loves telling stories of the people and places of our community. She has reported on people, places and businesses around the world for media including *Travel + Leisure*, *Travel Weekly* and *Forbes*. Join her in this season's issue as she explores new city codes and ways ADUs can be useful additions. Carroll also reveals an inspired way to bring life to large wall spaces through custom murals by Evan Namkung. **Page 66 and 88**

CASEY HATFIELD-CHIOTTI WRITER

The words of Bend's Casey Hatfield-Chiotti can be found in *Marin Living*, *The New York Times*, *Travel + Leisure* and *Forbes*. As the daughter of an architect and designer, Hatfield-Chiotti's appreciation for architecture makes her a natural to cover home design. Here, she writes about a Tetherow retreat that embraces contrasts, and the new M's Bakery in the Old Mill District. **Page 60 and 92**

CHRIS MURRAY PHOTOGRAPHER

Specializing in architecture, design and sciences, Chris Murray of Bend began shooting in 1988 with a Pentax MG he bought in a pawnshop in Ketchikan, Alaska, while helicopter logging. He was Patagonia's lead photographer and has traveled internationally for many top outdoor brands. In this issue, Murray photographs the end result of a home renovation, from a separated layout to an open design. **Page 52**

CODY RHEAULT PHOTOGRAPHER

A professional filmmaker and photographer, Sisters-based Cody Rheault travels the globe telling stories of people and places with his camera. Using a candid documentary style, Rheault's work is inspired by the outdoors. When not behind the lens, Rheault enjoys time with his family, hiking, disc golfing or riding his motorcycle. In this issue, Rheault photographs the interiors of M's Bakery. **Page 92**

SHEILA G. MILLER WRITER

Living and working in Bend, Sheila G. Miller writes about everything from local schools and gardening to golf tournaments and home design. She enjoys celebrating the magic of this growing community and likes to support the local businesses that make Bend so special. In this issue, Miller wrote about the transformation of a southeast Bend home, from dark and disjointed to a warm and welcoming flowing layout. **Page 52**



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Lining the shelves of Austin Mercantile are thoughtfully chosen, ever-changing home and gift options. Owner Sara Hammond directs an inviting and refined environment, highlighting work from local and regional makers. Seasonal displays for fall include handmade ceramics, locally poured candles, artwork on canvas and prints, jewelry and textiles in a warm color palette. Even the shop's greenery is sourced from a local grower who tends to the plants weekly, creating an invitation to explore local bounty.

The mercantile is a family business, from the operating team to the ceramic works crafted by Hammond's sister-in-law. "I want people to know that everything is personally chosen," Hammond said. A mix of antiques and contemporary goods can be found, while both low-cost art and one-of-a-kind paintings ensure there's something for every style and space. Austin Mercantile is also a gathering place, offering European-inspired bites, espresso drinks, a curation of wines and unconventional nonperishable foods.

AUSTIN MERCANTILE

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LEATHER OTTOMAN

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550 SW Industrial Way, #175, Bend



RECHARGEABLE CANDLE LAMP

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631 NW Federal St., #110, Bend



CERAMIC BOWL

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MARBLE TABLE LAMP

\$239, Merryweather Home Gift Design
550 SW Industrial Way, #180, Bend

COMMUNITY *Pulse*



Bend Design

CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AT OSU-CASCADES

Bend Design celebrates its 10th year this fall from its new home at OSU-Cascades. The two-day conference, set for November 7 and 8, brings together the voices of designers, artists and creatives to dive deep into how design can foster a better future. Panelists include internationally known illustrator Lisa Congdon and Shakti Farm Design founder Shiv Shakti. Talks will span topics such as art, brand strategy, social justice and climate-resilient food systems. Passes and à-la-carte tickets are available. See scalehouse.org.

First Story

MAKES AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP POSSIBLE

On August 20, Bend nonprofit First Story welcomed Laura Elder and her daughters into their new home, built in partnership with Hayden Homes. First Story provides first-time homebuyers earning less than 80% of the area median income with a zero-down, zero-interest, 30-year mortgage. “Affordable homeownership is life changing because it builds wealth that helps power positive, transformative outcomes for families over generations,” said Bend City Councilor Mike Riley. This model has helped 123 families in the organization achieve homeownership across the Northwest. See firststory.org.



Empty Bowls Fundraiser

PROMOTES FOOD SECURITY

NeighborImpact’s 24th Annual Empty Bowls lunch event will take place on October 26 at COCC’s Campus Center. For \$40, guests receive a handcrafted bowl, made by a local potter or wood turner, to fill with soup or chili and to take home. Attendees are also offered bread, refreshments and a dessert prepared by Cascade Culinary Institute students. There are two seatings available, at 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Funds aid NeighborImpact’s Regional Food Assistance program, which distributes nearly 4 million pounds of food throughout the region annually and serves approximately 84,000 meals each month. See neighborimpact.org.

Market TRENDS

Statistics represent combined closed transactions for residential homes in Bend, Redmond, Sisters and Sunriver for the 12-month period prior to publication.

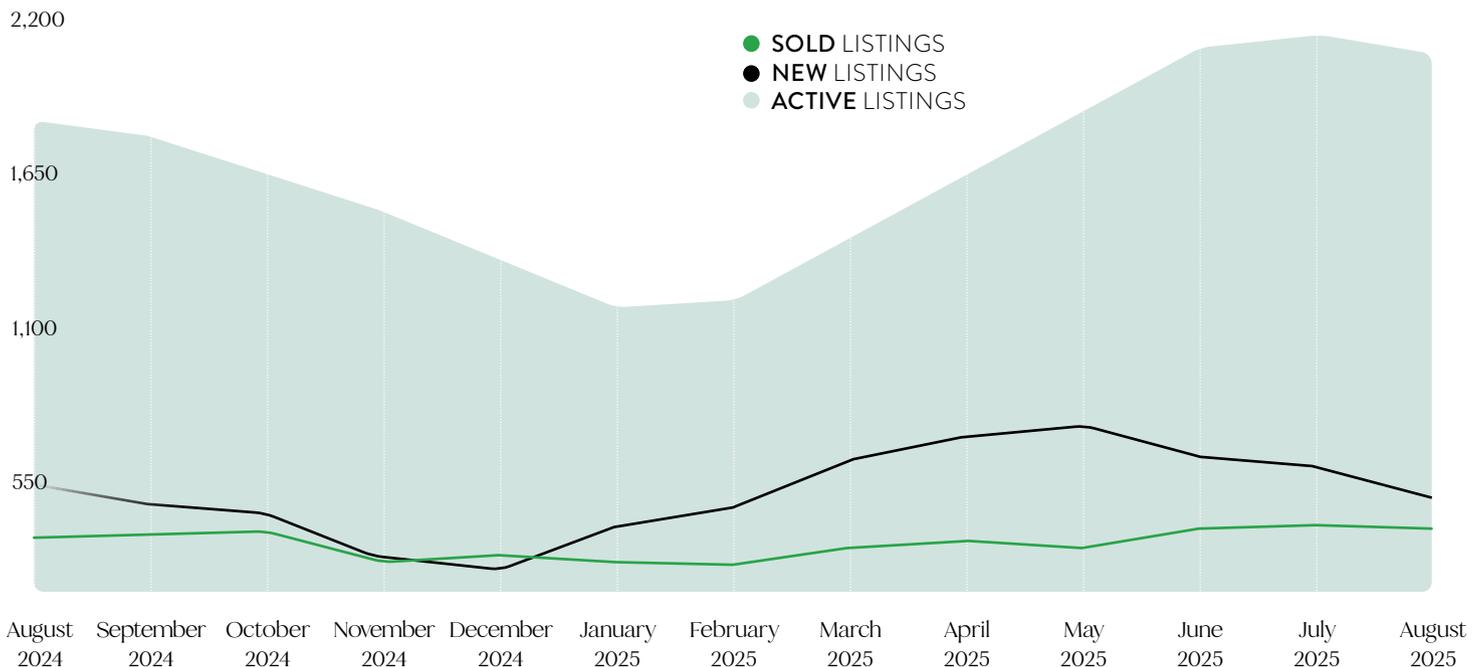
\$816,439 AVERAGE SALES PRICE **1,989** TOTAL ACTIVE LISTINGS IN AUGUST 2025

99% AVERAGE LIST TO SALES PRICE

393 AVERAGE SOLD PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT

64 AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

Inventory Overview



DATA IS FOR DESCHUTES COUNTY, OBTAINED FROM MLS OF CENTRAL OREGON. INFORMATION DEEMED RELIABLE BUT NOT GUARANTEED.



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The Sanctuary at Varekai Ranch

A Tumalo ranch house combines eclectic design, custom craftsmanship and playful details in every room

WRITTEN BY **LEE LEWIS HUSK** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **KAYLA MCKENZIE**



Wandering through the rambling ranch house on Swalley Road feels like a tour of discovery. Each room in the 6,121-square-foot dwelling reveals something unexpected: hidden doors leading to secret spaces, a ceiling made of cloth, a spiral staircase and wall niches that serve as small shrines to mustang horses.

The home sits on 25 acres near Tumalo and was acquired by a local family to create what they call The Sanctuary at Varekai Ranch. As longtime sponsors of 3 Sisters Equine, a mustang

rescue based in Central Oregon, it was important for the homeowners to live close to the horses they help rescue.

“[The client] came to me with a strong perspective,” said Kate Darden, a Bend interior designer. “She wanted it to have an Alice in Wonderland feeling, that everywhere you go, there’s a surprise.”

Darden, along with Josh Wilhite of Copperline Homes and dozens of subcontractors who worked closely with the family over the course of two years of construction, brought that



vision to life. The original scope of the project expanded beyond the residence to include a new pole barn with rustic accommodations and a medical stall for horses, a remodeled carriage house and extensive landscaping around a pond and surrounding structures.

An architect designed the horseshoe-shaped, two-story ranch house, but didn't provide the family with detailed enough drawings and specifications for construction. "[The clients] had a vision for this house that the plans did not reflect," said

Wilhite. "Only after getting into the home's construction and working with them were we able to absorb what they wanted. Their vision was nimble and continually evolving, and they were open to advice from people with long experience. They trusted us to fulfill the mission."

A HOUSE OF SURPRISES

Though the owners call it a farmhouse, the home draws from a wide range of influences—Western, Pacific Northwest,





Southwestern, Spanish and even modern—blending them into a cohesive living space for the couple, their three sons and five dogs.

A unifying material found throughout the home is handcrafted tile from Kibak Tile in Sisters. All bathrooms have tile accents, as do many other rooms. Darden describes working with Kibak’s Carli Strachan to select patterns, then building different color palettes to present to the client and ultimately deciding where each motif should go in the house.

Darden said the client favored turquoise and terra cotta, but didn’t want it to look overly Southwestern. “Since we live in the high desert, I brought in earthy colors familiar in this landscape to complement the turquoise and clay she loved.”

The primary bath exemplifies how tile can be effectively incorporated into a maximalist design. The roomy space with a balcony features a copper, stand-alone tub, a chandelier made of eucalyptus-hued coconut shells, an ornately tiled shower and a mirror from Santa Fe flanked by custom Apparatus Talisman wall sconces. The toilet room is adorned with Anna

Above: A coconut-shell chandelier illuminates the primary bathroom.

Opposite Page Top: A fabric ceiling defines the dining nook adjacent to the kitchen.

Opposite Page Bottom Left: Cowboys, surfers and punk rockers bring life to the powder room’s wallpaper.

Opposite Page Bottom Right: Arched built-ins create a shrine to mustangs in the living room.

Hayman’s vintage-inspired wallpaper in complementary patterns and colors. As a final flourish, a Victorian-era tête-à-tête loveseat invites inhabitants to linger and marvel at the dazzling display of colors and patterns.

The powder room off the home’s entryway exhibits similar maximalist tendencies. This room is cleverly tucked beneath the stairs, incorporating a vanity from India, a black vessel sink and rowdy cowboy wallpaper that, on closer inspection, reveals images of punk rockers and surfers. The bigger surprise, though, is the hidden door in the powder room that leads to a hookah lounge. Low-profile seating upholstered in plush fabrics and rich hues, including Middle Eastern-style poufs, beckons friends into a place of relaxation centered around the exotic-looking hookah.



“Since we live in the high desert, I brought in earthy colors familiar in this landscape to complement the turquoise and clay she loved.”

The entryway highlights two distinctive features of the home: custom-designed lighting and hand-forged ironwork. One of two chandeliers, imagined by Darden and lighting designer Chris Ferguson of Part & Process, welcomes visitors at the door. “It’s meant to emulate a horse bit on the sides, with a light that filters through an oculus at the bottom,” Darden said. “It looks so cool at night.” Overhead, a narrow indoor catwalk is built of see-through steel flooring, allowing light to pass down into the entry while offering curious eyes below a glimpse of what’s above.

Ponderosa Forge of Sisters handcrafted ironworks around the home, including the fireplace grates and tools, a triangular dinner bell displayed outside and hardware such as towel hooks and floor registers with an interlocking “H” pattern that stands for the couple’s last name.

In the kitchen nook dining area, the ceiling—made of multicolored striped fabric—is another marvel to behold. Darden designed it after she and her client bought yards of a Peruvian textile they saw in Santa Fe without knowing where the fabric might be used.

“I had piles of fabric at my office and wondered what I was going to do with it all. Curtains seemed predictable, so I went to the project manager, Simon Doss, and told him I had this crazy idea,” Darden recalled.

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Together, they designed a system of building frames that incorporated magnets for snapping fabric-covered panels into place. Colored stripes with alpacas and little bears are in perfect alignment with one another. “It was labor-intensive,” she admitted, “but it turned out really nice.”

CALMING INFLUENCES

While parts of the home exude playful energy, other sections shift toward a calmer demeanor. The barn room (or family room) is such a place. It’s where the family gathers around the long wooden table for meals or together on the leather couch before the Montana moss rock fireplace on game day.

“My favorite part of the house is the barn room, with its massive, super-tall vaulted ceiling,” said Wilhite. “I worried it might feel like a cavern, but the client was confident from the start. As we moved through the design process, Kate covered every wall and ceiling in wood, and we added timber-frame trusses, large light fixtures and a ‘Juliet’ balcony with a small reading space, its own library and a hidden door. In the end, it all worked out.”





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From this room, the family and its guests can flow onto the outside deck that hangs over a pond deep enough for the boys and dogs to jump in and swim around. Two wicker chairs suspended from a large beam are a favorite of the homeowners for sitting or even napping.

For nighttime magic, the family and its guests can retreat to the courtyard built between the home's two main wings. Tiny lights strung across cables and the glow of the firepit set the mood for lingering in the soaking pool or gathering under the stars with a glass of wine. Builder Wilhite summed it up by saying, "There's an eclectic flair to the house, and everywhere you look there's something fun." It reflects the family's playful spirit and love of surprise, their trust in the design team to fulfill their vision and a desire to make Varekai Ranch a true sanctuary. 

Architectural steel: Iron Environments | **Builder:** Copperline Homes | **Cabinetry:** Bladt's Custom Woodworking | **Finish carpentry:** Outback Finish & Trim Co. | **Interior design:** Kate Darden | **Landscape:** Outdoor Innovations | **Reclaimed wood:** Forged Elegance | **Tile installation:** Harlan Manley Tile Inc.



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LOOKBOOKS

The following pages feature a collection of inspired projects highlighting developers, builders and designers leading the way in Central Oregon.

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BAINBRIDGE COURT

This Tetherow home designed by Olin Architecture draws on a contemporary design, with clean lines and bold black accents.

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A JOINT APPROACH

Fuse Design + Build delivers homes that balance functionality, aesthetics and budget while emphasizing strong design elements and sustainability.

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NATURE AND CONNECTIONS

With a setting defined by lakes, forests and year-round recreation, Caldera Springs has long appealed to those seeking both connection to nature and a sense of retreat.

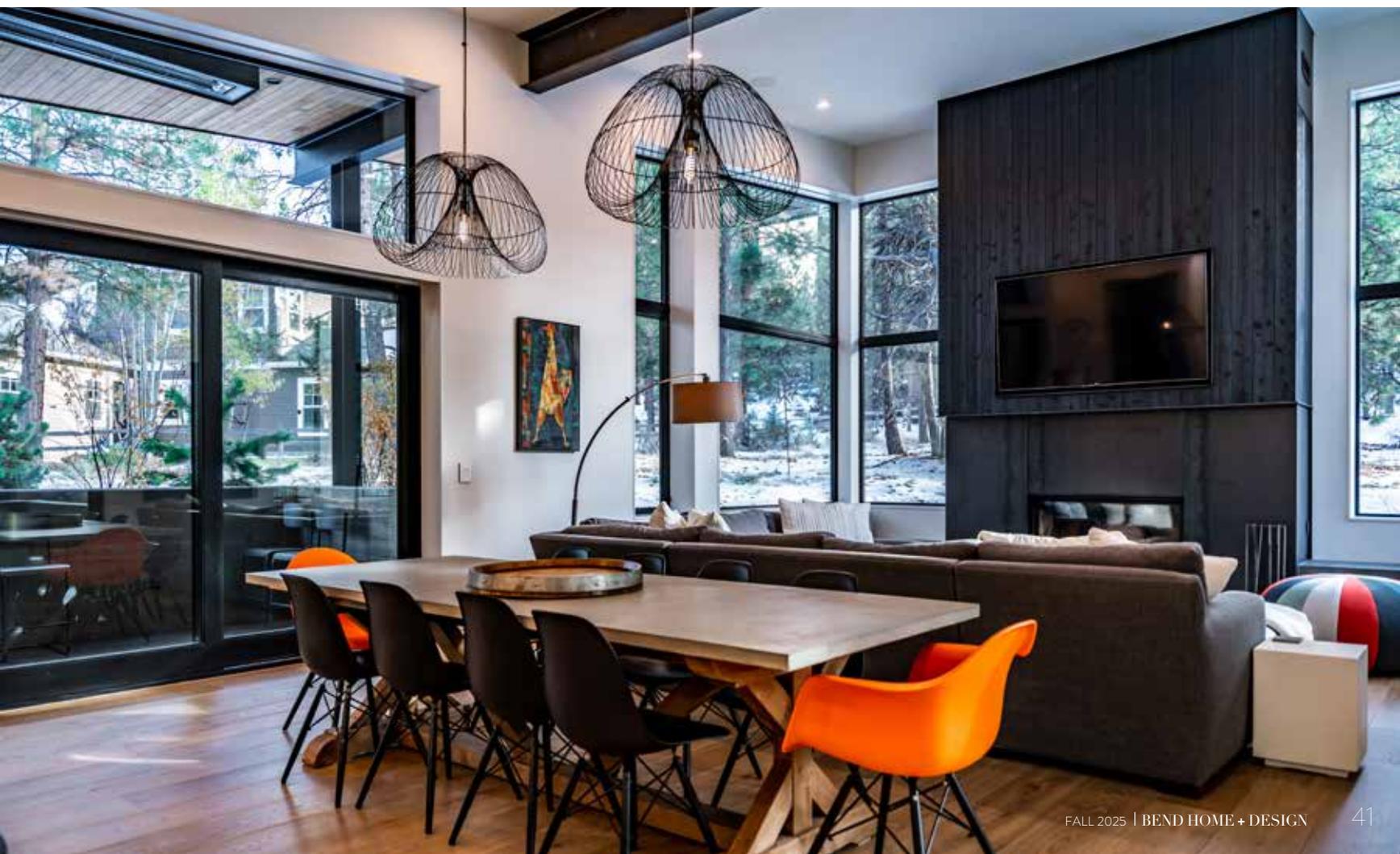


OLIN ARCHITECTURE

Bainbridge Court

The Bainbridge Court residence is a home that introduces contemporary design to a serene forest setting within Tetherow's Glen neighborhood. Architect Brandon Olin of Olin Architecture balanced clean lines and bold black accents with wood and steel. Completed in 2021, the home was a collaboration with interior designers Monte and Cian Van Tassel, landscape architect Mike Szabo and Timberline Construction. Heightened bedrooms give a treehouse vibe for a closer connection to nature. A showcase garage below equips the home with a space for tinkering. The residence is a place for both family living and elevated entertaining.

PHOTOS BY BLAKE WOOLEN





Brandon Olin, founder of Olin Architecture, spoke about designing a home in a forest setting, from material choices to site inspiration

Q *How did you approach the design of this home, both with the clients and the site itself?*

A I spend as much time as I can getting to know our clients and the ideas and goals they have for their home. Often, they've already thought about it quite a bit, and it is fun to meet them where they're at and then look at what "ideas" the site may have. This is what makes every project unique—the merging of home and site. In this case, the homeowners had some unique requirements, including the need for a sizable showcase garage for storage and tinkering on a variety of vehicles, which we pushed below the house.

The home has such a strong connection to its forest setting. How did the site influence your design?

It is recessed into the trees of the Glen neighborhood of Tetherow. We oriented the great room and outdoor space of the home to face the back of the property, taking advantage of the forest's privacy and the southern exposure. The bedroom wing was then pushed to the front of the home and given a raised position above the garage, offering expansive views to the north. The bedrooms are all elevated, and the home has a treehouse feel at each side.

With so many windows, how did you maintain privacy while still creating an open and airy space?

We oriented the great room windows to take advantage of the site's privacy and used a tall, slatted screenwall to enclose the end of the back patio, which provides privacy for the adjacent neighbor. The home has a butterfly roof that creates opportunities for high windows at both the front and the back, with ample natural light throughout, while the elevated bedrooms allow for views.

What choices did you make to strengthen the indoor-outdoor living experience?

We extended the roof over the back patio to create a covered outdoor living area, located directly off the kitchen and dining area, so that the main living space seamlessly extends to the outdoors. This end of the home and patio are also sunken a bit into the grade, so the landscape feels like it surrounds and buffers the home. The patio firepit and outdoor screenwall echo the interior

finishes, creating a consistent language between indoors and out.

The interiors feature striking black accents and steel details. What role did these materials play in shaping the home's feel?

The wood-burning fireplace, surrounded by steel and shou sugi ban, is the focal point of the great room, positioned along the structural steel beams that extend from inside to out. Finishes were selected to feel both clean and tactile. Custom steel work by MODERNFAB throughout the home gives a refined ruggedness. The steel finishes and details carry through to the exterior, including the patio firepit and the outdoor screenwall.

Can you share more about the home's scale and special features?

The home is about 3,400 square feet, featuring three bedrooms and three and a half baths. The two garages add another 2,000 square feet, with the emphasis on the showcase garage at the lower level, which also has a wine room and a workout area. A hot tub is concealed on a deck at the upper level adjacent to the primary bedroom. The home is the client's primary residence. The home was designed for them to live comfortably while also being suitable for hosting their adult children and families. Indoor-outdoor living is prioritized, and the home's location, tucked into the trees, offers great access to the amenities of Tetherow and the adjacent outdoor opportunities, making for the best of both worlds. **■**

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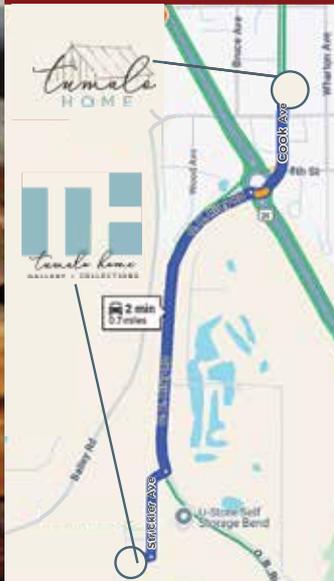
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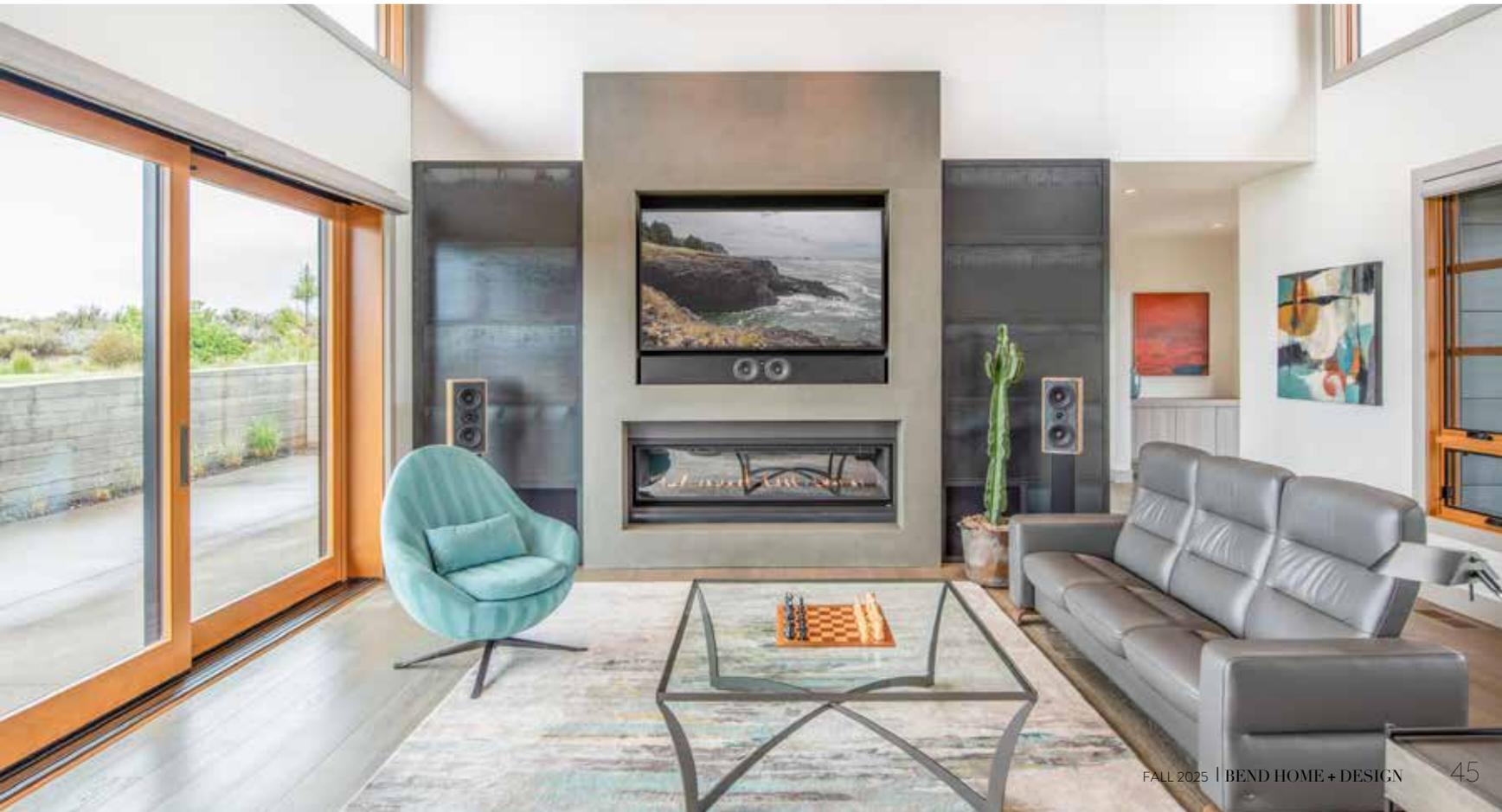
FUSE DESIGN + BUILD

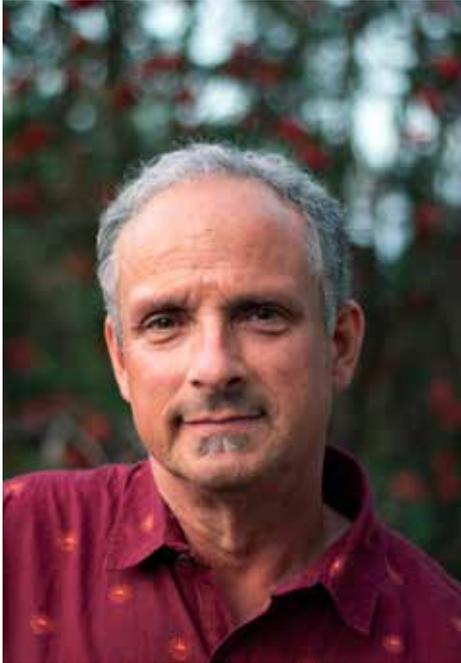
A Joint Approach

In 2017, Tom Carson launched Fuse Design + Build, a residential design studio serving the greater Bend area. Before relocating to Central Oregon in 2010, he had already spent more than two decades honing his architectural design and construction skills, first in New Mexico where he earned a master's degree in architecture and gained experience in every phase of homebuilding, and later in the San Francisco Bay Area, working with Tekton Architecture, a design-build firm.

Carson's philosophy is to deliver homes that balance functionality, aesthetics and budget while emphasizing strong design elements and sustainability. He and his team work closely with clients and contractors to guide projects from concept to completion, whether contemporary new builds to more traditional Pacific Northwest styles. Along the way, Fuse has become adept at working with neighborhood associations and design review committees, as well as energy-efficiency standards and, increasingly, firewise practices.

Carson explains the origins of Fuse Design + Build, his design approach and the evolving trends shaping homes in Central Oregon. **BD**





Tom Carson, founder of Fuse Design + Build, describes his design process and the evolution of Central Oregon style

Q *Where does the name Fuse come from?*

A The name wasn't instantaneous. It came through a process of elimination. My background is in design-build, and the intent was to continue that here in Bend, fusing design with construction. The build part hasn't fully materialized yet, but it's still part of the vision.

What's the process like when a client comes to you?

It depends on whether it's a remodel or a new build. For remodels, clients usually come to us with a wish list that's more programmatic and functional, and typically less clear in terms of aesthetics. We strive to marry the existing conditions with the new, and hopefully elevate everything in the process—it's a

delicate balancing act. We want to meet their needs while also pushing the design beyond their expectations.

For new construction, it's a bit different. You start with a blank slate, and the site itself becomes critical in shaping the concept. We go through the same process of defining programmatic needs, then hone in on a design that's both beautiful and functional. We try to start every project with fresh eyes and tailor specific solutions for each client. Depending on the size and complexity, the design timeline can run from six months to more than a year.

How do you involve clients in the design process?

We prefer a lot of client involvement. The more invested they are, the richer the outcome. Many clients are savvy and comfortable making selections for the interiors on their own, but we're there to guide them through the process. We often collaborate with Element Design Collective—Jane Wirth and Jenn Adams have a great showroom for finishes like tile and stone. We also take clients to places like the Fixture Gallery for plumbing and several other specialty niche studios. We'll design and select everything from cabinets to paint colors, depending upon the project.

What trends have you seen in Central Oregon design since you moved here?

When I arrived in 2010, contemporary design was rare. That's changed dramatically—now you see much more modern architecture, alongside the traditional Northwest lodge style that's still popular. Another major shift is the focus on energy efficiency and building performance. Things like triple-pane

windows, photovoltaic panels, insulation systems and advanced building envelope methods are increasingly standard. Codes are changing, but clients also want efficiency, and builders are responding with better materials and systems.

Firewise practices have become a big topic. How is that shaping your work?

It's definitely on the table now. Neighborhood architectural review committees and clients are paying closer attention to exterior materials that are fire-resistant, such as metal siding, stucco and cementitious products. Some neighborhoods now require fire-resistant materials and details outright. Landscaping plays a role, too. We often work with Angie Snell of North of South Landscapes, a talented designer who's excellent at integrating firewise concepts into design. Larger lots make it easier to maintain defensible space, while still having room for a beautiful yard. Smaller lots are challenging the way we have traditionally thought about personal yards and what constitutes beauty and comfort.

Tell us about your team.

I used to be a one-man show for years. Trevor Larsen joined Fuse nearly five years ago and handles the majority of the production work, including 3D modeling. He holds a BA in architecture and possesses a solid design eye. We collaborate closely on every project, and his perspective catches things I might miss. Having that partnership has really strengthened the work Fuse produces. **BT**

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CALDERA SPRINGS

Nature and Connections

Since its debut in 2007, Caldera Springs—a neighborhood adjacent to Sunriver Resort, just 15 minutes from Bend—has earned its place as one of the Pacific Northwest’s premier residential resort communities. With a setting defined by lakes, forests and year-round recreation, the community has long appealed to those seeking both connection to nature and a sense of retreat.

Under the leadership of Krista Miller, vice president of real estate and development, Caldera Springs is in the midst of its most significant evolution yet. A 600-acre expansion launched in 2022 introduced new home offerings, outdoor experiences and lifestyle-driven amenities, broadening both the vision and appeal of the community.

This year, the growth continues with a new neighborhood release and an ever-stronger connection to the land and lifestyle that defines the region. **BI**





Krista Miller, vice president of real estate and development, describes Caldera Springs' recent momentum

Q *The 2022 expansion has been called a turning point for Caldera Springs. Can you talk about the success of this phase?*

A It was a defining moment for the community. The expansion introduced a wide range of new offerings: more homesites, new trails and lakes, and popular amenities. Since 2022, we've sold nearly 170 homesites and 20 Forestbrook Homes. That interest has come from both full-time residents and second-home buyers.

Forestbrook has really resonated with buyers. These three- and four-bedroom homes with attached studios are designed for owners seeking the benefits of both a vacation getaway and a rental income property.

On the amenities side, Forest House has become a real hub in Caldera Springs.

It has multiple outdoor pools, a dual-racer water slide, Piney's cafe, a fitness center and a family recreation space complete with two lanes of duckpin bowling. Forest Park gives people a place to play pickleball, sled in the winter or play with their dogs at the dog park. And then there's Lake House, a dining spot that looks out over Obsidian Lake and Mount Bachelor. These additions have helped deepen the lifestyle experience here.

Caldera Springs offers unique homeowners' benefits and amenities, including access to Sunriver Resort. How does this dual access elevate the ownership experience?

It adds a layer of flexibility. Residents have their own private amenities, such as Forest House and Forest Park. But they can also enjoy parts of Sunriver Resort. That includes the stables, the marina, the spa and dining. So it's not just a secluded community—it's connected. People really value that mix of privacy and access.

With more than \$105 million in sales since 2022, what's next for Caldera Springs? Can you tease any future releases or amenities on the horizon?

This fall, we're excited to be introducing the Lakeside home collection, built by Curtis Homes. These four-bedroom homes with attached studios are set along a quiet lake surrounded by pine trees. They have open layouts, great outdoor spaces, and they're just a short walk or bike ride from Forest House and the trail system. It's a rare opportunity to own a lakefront home here. And we're not stopping there. Future phases will continue to bring

new ways for people to connect with nature and enjoy everything Caldera Springs has to offer.

What sets Caldera Springs apart as a place to live and as an investment?

It's truly the combination of attributes that makes us stand out. You have this peaceful, nature-rich setting, but also access to high-quality amenities and a strong sense of community. For people living here full-time or part-time, it's a lifestyle that revolves around the outdoors. And from an investment standpoint, homes like Forestbrook and Lakeside offer strong rental potential, which has attracted buyers. People are drawn to the overall experience here, and they keep coming back to it. **BT**

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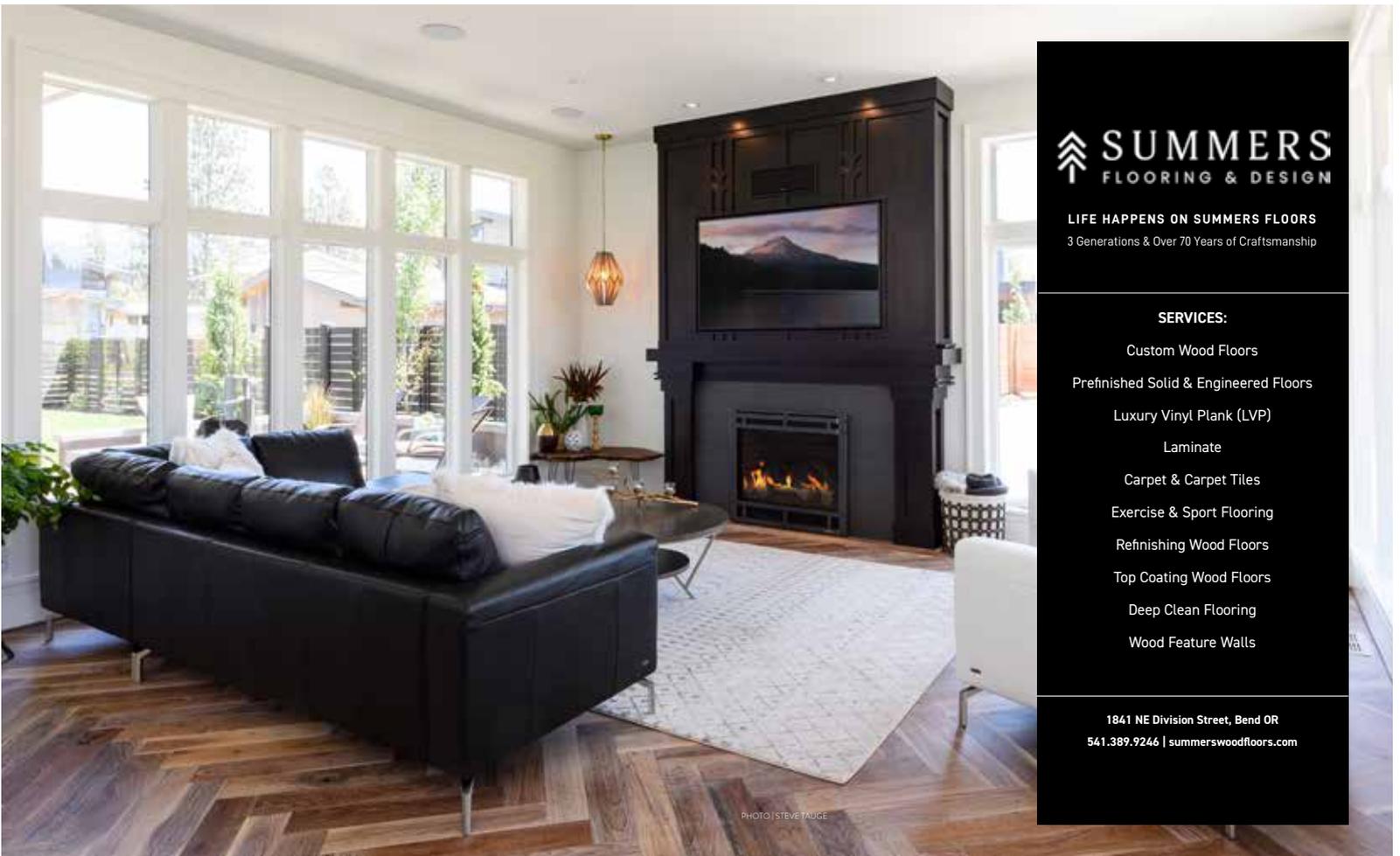
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HOME SPOTLIGHT

Makeover Magic

A 1970s home gets a modern redo

WRITTEN BY **SHEILA G. MILLER**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **CHRIS MURRAY**



When Kathy Lang and her husband, Greg, relocated to Bend from Spokane in 2022, they started out looking on the west side of town. But Greg bike commutes to his job at Summit Health near St. Charles' main east side campus, so they settled in a temporary Hidden Hills rental in southeast Bend and soon saw the perks of that part of town, including a flatter terrain for a safer commute and no HOA to object to their Sprinter van in the driveway.

Bend has plenty of older homes with potential, often in established neighborhoods with larger lots. "Taking on the remodel of an older home is not for the faint of heart," said Tyson Gillard, architect, general contractor and founder of Life Design Build, who worked with the Langs to make the couple's dream house a reality. "But with the right team, you can end up with an incredible, fully customized home at a great value."

The Langs found a 1979 home on King David Avenue in the Kings Forest neighborhood. Yet, the four-bedroom, three-bath, 2,500-square-foot home on a half-acre lot was dark and choppy, like many '70s and '80s homes.



As a real estate agent, Kathy sees a lot of homes and floor plans. “I can relate to how a space flows,” she said. “I can envision what it can be instead of getting caught up in what it is. We walked into this house, and it was dark and heavy, very tight. ... But I thought, ‘I know exactly what I will do to this house.’” The Langs purchased the home, and then the real work started.

Kathy and Gillard’s team spent five months on the design, keeping the dramatic angles of the original architecture. They added a patio, skylights to bring in more natural light, widened doorways to enhance the flow of the home and removed walls that made the space cramped.

“From a design standpoint, the main objective was opening and brightening,” Gillard said. “Functionally, there were awkward areas that we completely restructured.”

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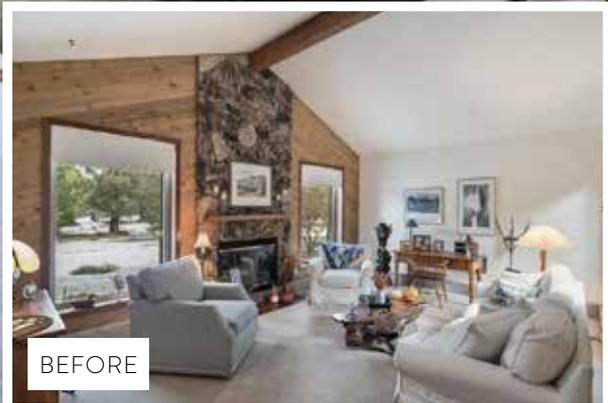
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“From a design standpoint, the main objective was opening and brightening.”

They chose a timeless black-and-white palette, warmed by wood accents. Quartz countertops, white walls and textured white tile in the bathroom contrast with a striking black fireplace wall, loft and stair guardrails, pendant lights, ceiling fan and select furnishings. To soften the high-contrast scheme, the team found cohesion throughout the house with the use of white oak,

incorporating it in the floors, stairs, cabinetry and trim.

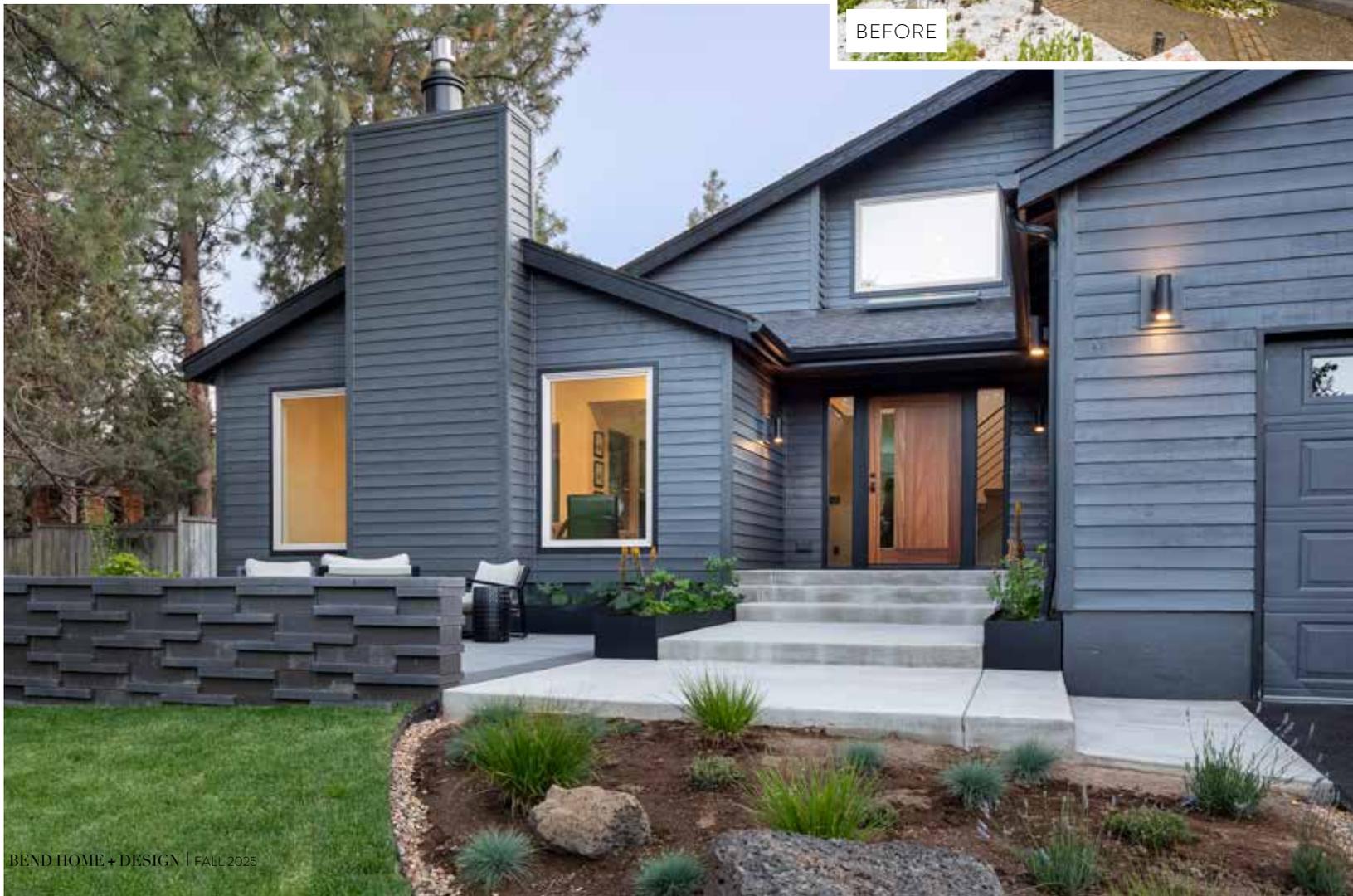
To save costs, Kathy handled demolition, repurposing and donating what she could—the old tongue-and-groove cedar found new life as the walls and ceiling in another home. While Life Design Build did all the architectural work and construction through drywall installation, Kathy took over project management and coordinated subcontractors to finish the job.

Gillard estimated the all-in costs for the home (property, design, permitting and remodel) to be roughly \$580 per square foot—lower than the cost of new homes in other areas of Bend. While it was more than the Langs intended to spend, they say it was worth it.

“I love how our home feels,” Kathy said. “In any space, I can enjoy the lights

and the nature around us. And when friends gather, they move freely, without barriers. That’s what our home needed, and now it’s exactly what it is.” ■■

Builder: Life Design Build | **Carpenters:** Ash Baugher, Against the Grain Carpentry, and Mark Kanitz Hardwood Floors | **Design Services:** Jenny Lanker and Victor Ellingsen, Area Rug Connection | **Metal Fabricator:** Cody Hawes, Simply Fabricated



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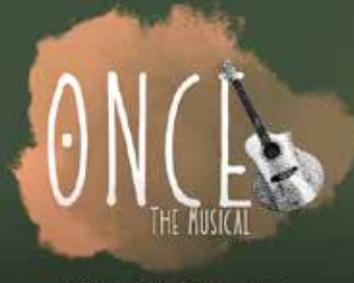
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Chris Murray

HOME SPOTLIGHT

Study in Contrasts

An elegant family retreat where comfort is in the details

WRITTEN BY **CASEY HATFIELD-CHIOTTI** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **PAGE BENNETT**



Bordering the Deschutes National Forest with access to bike and hiking trails, a home in Tetherow was a perfect match for a family looking for a mountain abode.

The homeowners, avid skiers who also reside in Palo Alto, settled on Bend because of its vibrant community and range of year-round activities from fishing to rock climbing.

Arrowood Development constructed the contemporary, Northwest-style home with a cedar and black basalt stone exterior. Inside, Arrowood's brand and design director, Femke van Velzen, curated a material finish palette that stages dramatic

contrasts: taupey, luminous surfaces set against saturated, ebony tones to amplify spatial depth and accentuate daylight and shadow.

The homeowners were drawn to the family-friendly layout, featuring four bedrooms on the ground floor and ample space for entertaining, including a large great room, gourmet kitchen and outdoor fireplace. They purchased it in April 2023, in time to make changes to the finishes, fixtures and landscaping before it was completed eight months later—just as the ski season began.

LIVED-IN FEEL

House of Milo interior designers Sarah Westhusing and Emily Abbassian were brought in to create a family retreat that felt elegant and organic, but durable enough to accommodate hosting visitors and friends.

From vintage terra cotta vases and bowls in the dining room to woven fixtures, the designers chose pieces to infuse each room with character. Furniture needed to be stylish but functional to suit the family's lifestyle.

LAYERED LOOK

The entry, with a tall wall covered in deep blue grasscloth, grounds the space, while a ratan light fixture provides delicate and natural illumination. A console styled with rustic floral arrangements complements the design. To the right of the entry, a custom bench is upholstered in a black-and-white striped fabric.

"These clients weren't afraid of layering patterns like plaids and stripes, which adds a fun pop of their personality," said Abbassian.

The home has a touch of hygge—a Danish concept that includes creating a cozy and comfortable living space—particularly in the dining room, where chairs draped in sheepskin throws surround the wooden RH (formerly Restoration Hardware) table. "I love how they create warmth and absorb sound," said homeowner Michele of the throws.

The homeowners wanted the great room with a vaulted ceiling to be both beautiful and usable, which Westhusing and Abbassian achieved by layering textures and patterns and selecting comfortable furniture, such as two high-backed blue lounge chairs.





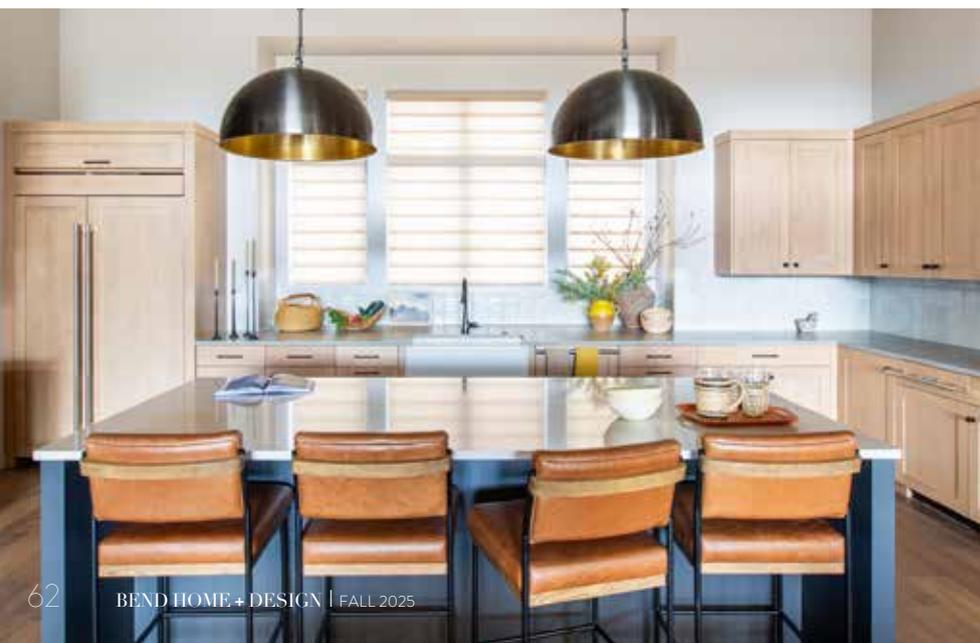
The primary bedroom, with forest views, is a calming space featuring a king-size bed and a cool, blue-toned headboard. The main bathroom, featuring two separate vanities, a herringbone-patterned porcelain-tile floor and a standing tub, feels both timeless and modern.

HOBBIES AND HOSTING

With inky blue walls and preppy, plaid wallpaper, the second-floor rec room above the three-car garage is a stylish space for watching movies and listening to music. A camel-colored leather ottoman lends contrast to the dark color palette. Michele's husband, an executive coach, is also a DJ in his free time. Westhusing and Abbassian incorporated his DJ equipment into the design. Instead of books, records from artists like Pearl Jam and LCD Soundsystem line the walls.

It's not uncommon for multiple people to cook at once in the large kitchen, one of the home's most frequently used spaces. Two dishwashers can handle larger groups, and the kitchen island's satin finish doesn't show fingerprints. The look is polished—with leather bar stools, a Blanco farmhouse sink and bronze dome fixtures. Throughout the home, decorative elements add soul to the decor: a vintage chessboard sits on the ottoman in the rec room and a hanging ceramic art installation in a guest bedroom hums when it catches the breeze.

Reflecting on the project, Michele said she's most proud of how the home's warm design facilitates family togetherness. She shared whether coming in from a day of skiing or fishing, "we all end up hanging out together." **BT**



Architect: John L. Muir, Arrowood Development | **Builder:** Arrowood Development | **Interior design:** Femke van Velzen, Arrowood brand and design director; Sarah Westhusing and Emily Abbassian, House of Milo designers | **Landscape architect:** Mike Szabo | **Landscape company:** LandEscapes



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design FINDS

Nature and artistry reflect the warm hues of autumn in mantle arrangements.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **TAMBI LANE**

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ACCESSORY DWELLINGS

Living Small

New city policies and creative designs for ADUs are reshaping Bend's neighborhoods

WRITTEN BY **CATHY CARROLL**

Imagine turning the space above your garage, a forgotten corner of your backyard, or even a storage shed into something far more valuable—a stylish, light-filled home in its own right. Accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, are transforming properties across Bend into living spaces for guests, family or to generate extra income.

Recent city policy changes are aimed at making these compact homes easier to permit and build, and they can be beautiful, versatile spaces that expand the way you live. The broader community benefits, too, gaining neighborhood-friendly density, more diversity and affordable housing options.

“We look at ADUs as supporting density in a more community-based fashion,” said Kerry Bell, the city’s middle income housing coordinator. “A single-family dwelling homeowner with a small ADU apartment on their property may rent to a college student or for a parent to age in place with their family. ... You end up with that diversity, oftentimes socioeconomic, and it creates avenues for many other types of diversity as well.”

Building ADUs has steadily grown more popular since 2016 when the city began streamlining the process and associated fees. That included eliminating parking requirements, conditional use permits and system development charges for water and sewer, resulting in savings of approximately \$40,000 per ADU, said Bell. The city also introduced a free, pre-approved ADU plan last year and expects to have three more plans available by next year. A homeowner using one of these plans could expect the total city permitting cost to be about \$7,300, said Bell.

Since 2021, the city has been allowing ADUs to be big enough for two bedrooms by increasing the size limit from 600 to 800 square feet. This summer, the city began allowing a second ADU on properties, too.



PHOTO BY JENN MONTTOYA



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“We look at ADUs as supporting density in a more community-based fashion.”

The ADU trend is taking hold, particularly in older neighborhoods, explained architect Jeff Klein, who specializes in ADU design. They make efficient use of existing infrastructure and can accommodate guests, aging parents, adult children, live-in caretakers or childcare providers.

“In some parts of town, where the homes are smaller and older, they often have a storage shed or a garage in back,” said Klein. “If you’re going to have a two-car garage, why not just build an ADU on top of it? You already have the foundation, so it just makes a lot of sense to build up.”

Building an ADU onto an existing home offers flexibility, but requires the significant expense of fireproofing wallboard on any door connecting the unit to the home. Klein is currently creating an ADU above a garage attached to a two-story home in northwest Bend. The owner plans to either rent out the ADU or use it for her retired parents who visit frequently. If she chooses to rent it, she can lock the fireproof door to eliminate access to the main house.

A way to add living space to an ADU is to create a spacious deck, which doesn’t count toward the building’s

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Top: Tucked into a corner of the yard, ADUs can be an unassuming addition.
Bottom: Cleverly arranged spaces make small dwellings feel roomy.

800-square-foot size limit. “You can make [the outdoor space] as big as you want, as long as it’s within the lot’s setbacks,” said Klein. For example, for an ADU on the second level of a home on NW Newport Avenue, his design included a 16-by-18-foot deck. It faces south to take advantage of the sun exposure and provides access to the ADU entrance via stairs from the ground level.

As more homeowners recognize the versatility of ADUs, especially through thoughtful, creative design and evolving city policies, ADUs are proving to be practical, inviting, livable spaces that expand the possibilities of what home can be. **BT**



PHOTO TOP BY RILEY VISUALS | BOTTOM BY ANNA JACOBS



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Joe Feddersen (b. 1953, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation), *Floating By*, 2020, blown glass with enamel. Collection of the artist. Photograph by Dean Davis.



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## OUTDOORS

# Rethinking Landscaping

Designs with safe materials can be both  
resilient and beautiful

WRITTEN BY **BY LEE LEWIS HUSK**

The potted ornamental juniper tree between my two garage doors nearly reaches the eaves of my home. After reviewing wildfire preparedness measures in fire-prone Central Oregon, I began to see the tree in a whole new light. The juniper I'd nurtured for 10 years was what firefighters call a flammable threat—something that shouldn't be within the first five feet of a home's foundation.

"The biggest factor in whether a home will burn in a wildfire is the immediate zone around it," said Kevin Moriarty, a forester with Deschutes County who promotes the principles behind Firewise USA. "We encourage people to protect the first five feet by replacing mulch with gravel or rock and removing vegetation within that zone." It also means keeping roofs and gutters free of debris and needles, and covering vents with one-eighth-inch screening—rather than the quarter-inch screening sometimes found in older homes—to prevent embers from getting inside.

He added that many homeowners overestimate what's required. "A lot of folks think it means massive land clearing to meet [Firewise] standards, and it really isn't. We're not asking them to take out large trees and deciduous shrubs," Moriarty explained. Instead, he recommends limbing lower tree branches within 10 feet of structures and focusing on removing small trees and overgrown brush. "We worry about the understory," Moriarty said.

That doesn't mean the first five feet around a home must look stark or barren. Homeowners across Central Oregon, even in high-end neighborhoods like Broken Top and Tetherow, are creating beauty and interest with hardscape features such as pavers, boulders, metal and stone furniture, statues, bird feeders and water features.



## Tips to Help Protect Your Home Against Wildfires

- Immediate Zone: 0'-5'**  
Remove all dead leaves, needles and flammable debris from roofs and gutters, and move any firewood piles or flammable material away from exterior walls.
- Intermediate Zone: 5'-30'**  
Thin out dense groups of trees and remove vegetation under trees. Prune trees 6-10 feet from the ground.
- Extended Zone: 30'-100'**  
Remove heavy accumulations of ground debris, and remove dead plants and trees. Remove small trees growing near mature trees.

Not all trees are created equal when it comes to fire safety. The region's most common native tree, the ponderosa pine, has become remarkably fire-adapted. Mature trees have thick, insulating bark that can often withstand a ground fire and don't necessarily need to be removed from defensive space. They provide shade and cool the ground around them during a fire. But keeping them in a landscape also means raking up pine needles and keeping them off the roof and out of gutters.

The Firewise USA program, developed by the National Fire Protection Association, teaches people and their communities how to live more safely in fire-prone areas, such as Central Oregon. The program is based on scientific evidence regarding fire behavior and the creation of defensible space around homes.

Deschutes County has 78 certified Firewise USA neighborhoods, with the first one—Fall River Estates—located roughly 30 miles south of Bend, achieving recognition in 2004. Aspen Lakes Estates, a gated community on the edge of Sisters, another Firewise community, was evacuated during the Flat Fire but lost no homes.

Wildfire preparedness is becoming a more community-driven conversation, according to Julie Craig, code enforcement officer for Bend. "The city council is taking the issue seriously and has goals to create a more resilient community," she said.

Tragedies that unfolded elsewhere (California, Colorado, Hawaii) that took lives and properties, and destroyed whole communities in recent years, have caused alarm and raised awareness. "People are having conversations about creating defensible space and taking advice to heart, including some neighborhoods that are revising covenants, conditions and restrictions," said Craig.

Melissa Steele, Bend's first deputy fire marshal of wildfire preparedness, knows firsthand what's at stake. A former firefighter and EMT with the U.S. Forest Service and CAL FIRE, she was on the ground during the devastating Paradise Fire and even lost her own home. "When the big fire comes through—and it will—we can minimize property loss and save lives," she said. "We know why catastrophic fires happen in urban areas. It's embers and wooden fences connecting homes. The harder part isn't just losing your house—it's when an entire community is destroyed. We can change that by changing the culture of how we think about wildfires."

In the end, I relocated the juniper from the most vulnerable zone around my home. Central Oregon homeowners are making similar decisions to trade flammable vegetation for safer alternatives and reimagining their landscapes with resilience in mind. Each step strengthens not just individual properties but the safety of entire neighborhoods. **BI**



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## OUTDOORS

# Roots for Next Year

Fall gardens thrive with timing and care

WRITTEN BY **SIENA DORMAN**

**D**uring the fall at Well Rooted Produce and U-Pick farm, tomatoes ripen on the vine while pumpkins grow in the field. The farm not only supplies produce across Central Oregon but also welcomes visitors to its U-Pick and farm stand, where fall harvest is on full display. Owner Scott Maricle and Anne Christmas, assistant to the president, say it's the time for collection and preparation. "Don't believe people who say you can't grow in Bend," said Christmas. "You can, you just have to be mindful of the frost."

For Central Oregon gardeners, frost is never far away, but autumn is not the end of the season. With the right timing and techniques, it is possible to plant vegetables, build soil and set up your garden for success next spring.

Scott Maricle, owner of Well Rooted Procue and U-Pick





## WHAT CAN YOU PLANT NOW

Cool-season crops thrive in Central Oregon's shorter days, and many are well-suited for fall planting. Leafy greens, such as spinach, lettuce, arugula and kale, continue to grow as the weather cools. Root crops like beets, carrots and garlic also perform well, while brassicas such as broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, bok choy, cabbage and collards are hardy enough to withstand the cold temperatures. Even some herbs like parsley prefer cooler weather. Maricle recommends planting quick-growing carrots, such as Nantes or Mokum carrots, at the end of October. These varieties perform well locally, unlike longer-season carrots, which can take up to 120 days to mature. Well Rooted also plants onions in fall, including Walla Walla sweets, which overwinter in the ground and are ready to harvest come summer.

## WINTER PROTECTION: SOIL, BEDS AND MORE

Tending to the soil is crucial in fall. The team at Well Rooted plants cover crops such as peas and grains to feed and protect the soil through the winter months. "The roots give off sugar that keeps everything alive," said Christmas. Home gardeners can focus on building soil by layering newspaper or cardboard topped with mulch to add organic matter and keep weeds out. Perennials such as asparagus, rhubarb and berries benefit from a layer of compost in the fall, while mulch helps insulate roots. Cold frames, row covers and small greenhouses can extend the season, keeping greens and brassicas alive well into winter. Even a compact kit greenhouse or one built against a sunny wall offers a sheltered space for fresh harvests past the first snowfall.

## FALL CROPS, WINTER BOUNTY

Fall harvest entails much more than pumpkins. Tomatoes can be picked green and left to ripen indoors, while potatoes should be dug up and stored in a cool, dark space kept around 40 degrees. Apples keep best in moderately humid, cool spaces, and vegetables such as squash and beets will last through winter if properly stored. Fall is one of the most abundant times of the year at Well Rooted Produce—go there if you don't want to grow your own. "We still have loads of squash, corn, tomatoes, peppers, carrots and beets," said Christmas.

## END OF SEASON TIDYING

Seasonal maintenance is another way to set a garden up to flourish. Composting healthy plant debris while discarding

“Fall is one of the most abundant times of the year at Well Rooted Produce—go there if you don’t want to grow your own.”



# Seasonal Checklist

Fall is the season to button things up outside and set the garden up for a bountiful season next year. Completing autumn chores now will protect plants, keep your grounds in good shape and make the colder months a well-deserved time of respite.

## 1. Rake and reuse fallen leaves

Instead of bagging leaves, use them as free mulch. Shred or layer them into compost to feed the soil. Fallen leaves can also make a blanket for garden beds as winter approaches. Just make sure you follow our firewise safety tips when reusing leaves and debris (pg. 72).

## 2. Plant spring-blooming bulbs

Fall is the hidden season for tulips, daffodils and crocuses. Tuck them into the soil before the ground hardens. Come March, your garden will blossom with spring's first blooms.

## 3. Add bird feeders or water sources

Fall and winter can be hard on the birds that stick around. Hang a feeder near a window so you can enjoy the show. They'll return the favor by keeping garden pests in check next year.

## 4. Check gutters and downspouts

Clearing out leaves and needles prevents water from spilling over into beds or pooling near your foundation. A quick climb up the ladder makes for less damage when the snow arrives.

## 5. Inspect the grounds

A walk-around inspection goes a long way. Take note of what's leaning, sagging or separating. A loose screw or cracked board is much easier to fix in the fall. Check exterior caulking and weather stripping, and seal up any gaps to keep the heat in and the drafts out.

## 6. Evaluate garden lighting and pathways

Central Oregon days get shorter, and evenings sneak up quickly. Test light bulbs or add a few solar lights along paths as needed. An illuminated path makes a huge difference when toting in groceries or taking out the compost after dinner.



diseased plant sections prevents problems from carrying over into the new year. Raspberries benefit from pruning, and trimming back other perennials to two to six inches above ground reduces the risk of wind damage. Cleaning and sharpening garden tools before storing them keeps them in good condition, while draining irrigation systems with insulated valves prevents freezing damage. Mulching beds in the fall both suppresses weeds and helps prevent soil erosion. In Central Oregon's climate, it is also a great idea to wrap young trees with protective paper in late fall to avoid sunscald, and water newly planted perennials every six to eight weeks during dry spells, as long as the ground is not frozen.

Once beds are taken care of, winter can become a season of preparation and planning. This is the time to plan gardens for next year, order seeds and force bulbs indoors for winter blooms. OSU Extension encourages gardeners to test their soil during the winter months so they can adjust fertilizing practices in spring. For Well Rooted Produce, winter is a quieter but equally important part of the year. During the colder months, the team is busy ordering seeds for the next season's fruits, vegetables and flowers. "From November through February, we order, go to conferences, read and watch videos," Christmas said. "We still work every day."

Fall harvest at Well Rooted Produce means visitors can walk the fields to pick their own goods or visit the farm stand that stays stocked with produce long after summer's end, proof that with careful planning, a bounty can extend well into autumn. Well Rooted Produce is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 20377 Swalley Road. See [wellrootedproduce.co](http://wellrootedproduce.co) and [extension.oregonstate.edu](http://extension.oregonstate.edu). **BI**

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HOME + DESIGN

# ART + EXHIBITS

WRITTEN BY **SIENA DORMAN**



Opposite page: Tyler Swain "Bohemian Waxwing"  
Top: Sandra Pratt "Along the River"  
Bottom: Rebecca Haines "Alliance"

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## PETERSON CONTEMPORARY ART

### TYLER SWAIN: OCTOBER

Utah artist Tyler Swain blends sophistication with simplicity, honoring nature's details through realist painting. The recipient of multiple awards for his technique, Swain elevates commonplace forms into lasting reflections on design, light and presence.

### SANDRA PRATT: OCTOBER

A self-taught landscape painter from Colorado, Sandra Pratt utilizes a palette knife to translate light, form and atmosphere into gestural and bold compositions. Her contemporary impressionist works, shaped by her travels ranging from the American West to Europe, prioritize emotional resonance over precision. Textured and immediate, Pratt's paintings offer viewers pause and an opportunity to rediscover beauty in dismissed places.

### REBECCA HAINES: OCTOBER

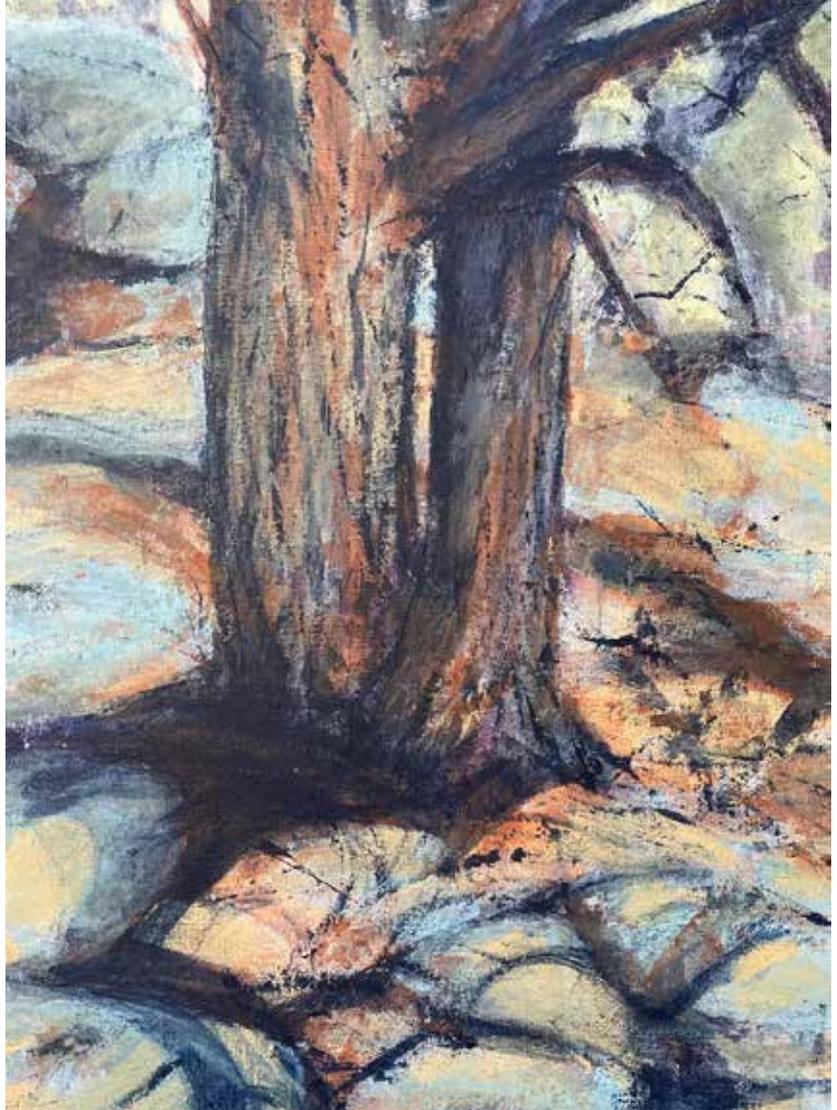
Rebecca Haines of Santa Fe fuses photo-realism with abstract mark-making to reveal the spirit within her animal subjects. She draws inspiration from dreams, Indigenous stories and her Wyoming upbringing, to create works in oil and china marker on wood. Each portrait becomes an outlet that is part fable and part observation, taking viewers into a quieter, more wonder-filled way of observing the world.

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Top: Anne Gibson “We’ve Got This”  
Bottom: Dee McBrien-Lee “Coffee Time”

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## TUMALO ART CO.

### ANNE GIBSON: NOVEMBER

Anne Gibson paints landscapes not to mirror them, but to capture their essence. Created in her Bend studio, Gibson’s impressionistic works draw on the rivers, lakes and trails of Central Oregon, translating light, movement and memory into layered color and texture. With place as her inspiration, Gibson dances the line of what truly was and what’s remembered—an examination into how memories can feel more real than what’s in front of us.

### DEE MCBRIEN-LEE: OCTOBER

Born on the East Coast, abstract artist Dee McBrien-Lee began her creative journey as a child, forming landscapes in oils, and later, in the 2000s, made contemporary Western acrylic pieces. Since 2014, she has traded this style for abstract and mixed-media painting. Now living in Bend, McBrien-Lee builds color, texture and collage into expressive compositions that embrace surprise as much as intention. Her works—like “Coffee Time,” featured in October’s Gather exhibit—reflect her belief that art is equal parts inspiration, question, statement and joy.



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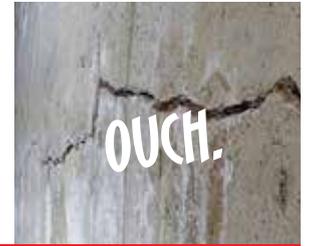



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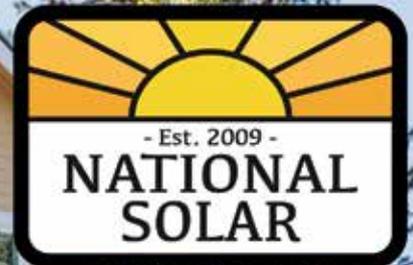
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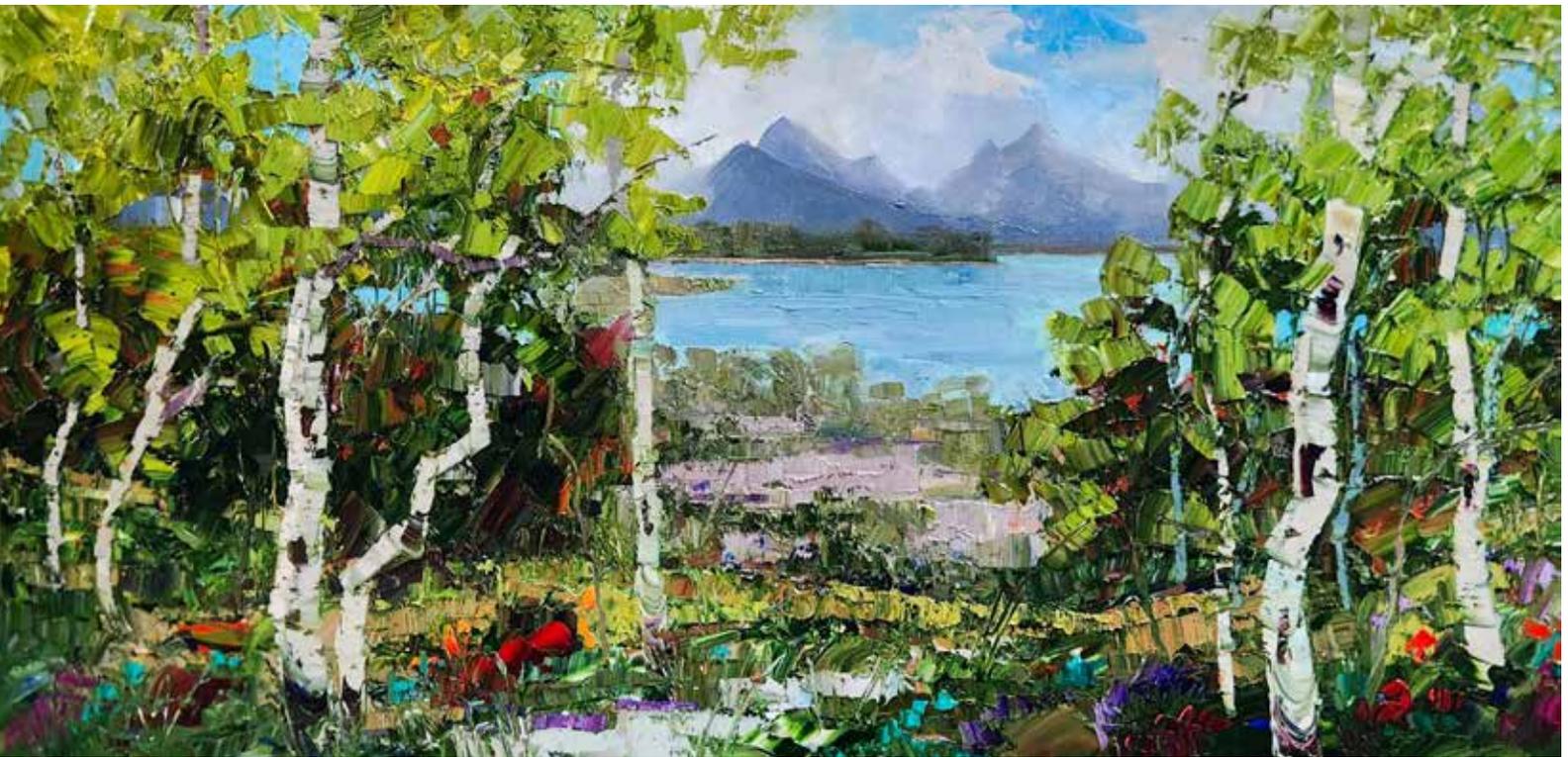
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## MOCKINGBIRD GALLERY

### TROY COLLINS: NOVEMBER

From his Bitterroot Mountains studio, Troy Collins paints Western landscapes in radiant, textured color. His impressionist works have been collected in state capitols, embassies and in private collections worldwide. Each piece reflects both grandness and closeness. Collins brings vitality and optimism to each scene. He is a member of the Montana Arts Council and the C.M. Russell Museum's Russell Skull Society of Artists.

### LIZ WOLF: NOVEMBER

Santa Fe sculptor Liz Wolf fuses figurative and animal forms in bronze, clay and wood. She weaves influences from Inuit and Southwestern Native traditions. Wolf's minimalist yet soulful works embody animism, the belief that every object holds a spirit. Pieces open worlds where horses, crows and human figures radiate powerful energy and stories. [BI](#)

### MOCKINGBIRD GALLERY

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Top: Troy Collins "Beauty That Leads Us Home"  
Bottom: Liz Wolf "Guiding Chinook"

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## ARTIST PROFILE

# Walls Worth Talking About

Evan Namkung's custom murals bring personality, scale and emotion into homes

WRITTEN BY **CATHY CARROLL**

**B**lending the energy of street art with the beauty of Central Oregon's wild, open spaces, muralist Evan Namkung has developed a style that's both bold and deeply rooted in nature. His work can be seen across Bend and beyond—the vibrant portraits of river birds enlivening a once-drab Old Mill District staircase, an evocative downtown mural merging urban and alpine imagery, or even the lone elk that appeared on Deschutes Brewery's 2024 Jubelale packaging art and bottle labels.

Merging geometric abstraction with natural forms, his self-taught technique reflects his love of the outdoors, which he embraces through trail running and mountain biking. His style evolved from trying to represent light and contrast differently.

"I started playing with shapes in nature—like a tree—and made it more precise," said Namkung. By adding bold, nontraditional colors, he could depict something familiar in an unexpected way, and it became his language for seeing

“It certainly doesn’t get more personal than something painted directly onto the wall, specifically for that space.”



and sharing the world. Bringing this talent into a home can clearly inject verve and personality into a private space.

“More and more, people are interested in art that isn’t necessarily traditional, like a painting in a frame or a picture framed on a wall,” said Namkung. “It’s having something that’s unique...created just for them. It certainly doesn’t get more personal than something painted directly onto the wall, specifically for that space.”

Beyond the aesthetic impact of custom art, murals can be the answer to interior design challenges. Namkung has worked with several clients who were stymied by walls that defied ornamentation by virtue of their size or location, especially in Central Oregon homes where vaulted ceilings and tall stone fireplaces often make decorating a challenge.

In a Sisters home, a roughly 20-foot wide wall with an 18-foot vaulted ceiling above a fireplace created the perfect canvas for a mural. For that space, he created a mural of a Great Horned Owl in flight adorned with some of his signature geometric elements. Instead of painting directly on the surface, he chose to make the mural removable by using a 12-foot by 6-foot canvas.

When meeting with clients, Namkung often discusses whether the mural should



PHOTO BOTTOM RIGHT BY PHEALAN ROBINSON



be permanent or portable—something they can take if they move. As a muralist, he’s at peace with not knowing whether someone may eventually paint over it. “That’s part of it,” he said. “That’s always a possibility.”

Namkung said some clients come to him with a very specific idea and then give him the freedom to play around with color. “Others give me total creative freedom,” he said. “I’m focused now on landscapes and wildlife—so if someone asked for a portrait of a person, I’d probably turn that down.”

A fox mural theme was specifically requested by the client for a hallway visible from the living room and kitchen. Namkung did some digital sketches based on a few images to create the look he wanted. “It felt as though it was tiptoeing around a corner—as you come out of the kitchen, it would be right there in front of you,” he said.

Like a street artist, he works primarily with spray paint. “I’ve been figuring this all out along the way, and coming up with all my own techniques,” said Namkung. “That’s part of the fun of it, trying to problem-solve and figure out how to get my art to look the way I want, depending on the project.”

Most of the work, however, is the design process, with Namkung drawing digitally on his iPad, figuring out the shapes, colors and overall feel. Depending on the project, he sometimes uses a projector to trace outlines on the wall—a method that works well in tighter spaces such as hallways. Other situations, such as the staircase in the Old Mill District, required dividing the art into boxes with a matching grid on his iPad to scale the design.

He balances his creative work with a full-time role managing a behavioral health program for Deschutes County. At the same time, demand for his art is growing, with a recent commission for a large-scale mural for the renovation of a shopping center in Southwest Portland.

For now, Namkung is hesitant to pursue murals full-time—preferring the flexibility to step back and choose only the projects that truly excite him. “Having that freedom,” he said, “is ultimately going to make my art better.”

Whether it’s a fox tiptoeing through a hallway or an owl soaring across a vaulted ceiling, Namkung’s murals give homeowners a way to live more closely with the wild beauty that surrounds them. **BT**

PHOTO RIGHT BY HALEY HARROLD



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## CHEF'S KITCHEN

# Breaking Bread

A bakery with south-of-the-border ties brings community to the Old Mill District

WRITTEN BY **CASEY HATFIELD-CHIOTTI**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **CODY RHEAULT**

**M**'s Bakery hums with activity from the moment it opens at 7 a.m. Guests and passersby watch bakers laminating dough and cutting croissants in the open production space. A line stretches to the door. Families, couples and groups of friends eat avocado toast topped with roasted pepitas and microgreens or breakfast sandwiches with chimichurri aioli at indoor and outdoor tables. It's not uncommon for pastries to sell out daily.

"It's still such a dream; I can't believe it," said Dario Muciño, who owns and operates the bakery with his wife, Macy Davis. Muciño grew up in Mexico City and went to culinary school in Mexico.

M's uses only high-quality ingredients, including organic, easier-to-digest flour from a specialty mill in Eugene and real butter and eggs. Filling the shelves are golden loaves of sourdough bread flecked with Castelvetrano olives and frosted cinnamon rolls. The bakery also serves a machaca burrito (machaca is a dry, shredded beef from northern Mexico) and a guajillo Caesar salad.

"The vision was to create a bakery that had European-style breads, but the heritage of my background," said Muciño.

The two met in Arizona while employed with the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North. Muciño was working in the kitchen, and Davis was working at the pool. The experience taught them about hospitality at the highest level.

After the couple moved to Orange County, Muciño realized he had a passion for fermentation and making



# M'S BAKERY



## CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

### INGREDIENTS

- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups (3  $\frac{1}{2}$  sticks) butter
- 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups packed brown sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour
- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoons salt
- 1  $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoons baking soda
- 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups chocolate chips

### INSTRUCTIONS

Partially cream the butter and brown sugar in a large mixing bowl, stopping before the mixture becomes fluffy or lighter in color and the sugar granules are still visible. Set mixer on the slowest speed, then add one egg at a time into the sugar-butter mixture, blending each egg completely before adding the next. Add vanilla with the last egg and mix. In a separate bowl, combine flour, salt and baking soda. Slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients in three parts, mixing until each portion of the dry mixture has been almost fully absorbed. When adding the last third of the dry ingredients, mix partially. Add chips and mix on low until just combined.

Divide the dough into two parts, forming logs about 6 to 8 inches long. Wrap them in separate pieces of parchment paper, twisting the ends to seal them. Refrigerate the dough for at least four hours and up to three days.

Heat oven to 350 degrees. While the oven is preheating, take the dough from the fridge and slice the log into half-inch pieces. Place the dough onto a parchment-lined sheet pan, spacing them at least 2 inches apart, and let the dough soften for five to 10 minutes.

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes—shorter for a softer, doughier cookie and longer for a harder, crunchier cookie. When the cookies are finished baking, let them cool for a few minutes on the sheet before moving them to a cooling rack.



sourdough bread. “The idea of sourdough was interesting to me because it felt different compared to popular breads in Mexico,” said Muciño.

They rented a commercial kitchen space and started a bakery in 2020. The goal was always to open a brick-and-mortar bakery, but because of the competitiveness of retail in Orange County, no lender wanted to take a chance on a mom-and-pop shop. Looking back, the couple says it was a sign they might be happier elsewhere. After visiting friends in Bend, they could see themselves enjoying Central Oregon’s fresh air and beautiful rivers and decided to move in October 2023. They began selling bread at farmers markets and wholesale, then opened the bakery in the Old Mill District in March 2025. They welcomed their second child just a month later in April. “We feel like we got hit by a train a little bit,” said Davis, laughing.

It’s hard to believe the corner space with big windows and high ceilings used to be a Jimmy John’s. “We wanted [the design] to be very clean and simple,” said Davis of imagining the space.

The couple worked with Blue Forty Architecture’s founder, Alex Collins, and Bigfoot Contracting’s Todd Ashley to turn it into a space that would be at home in Mexico City, with clay walls and Indigenous and colonial design inspiration.

The Heath Ceramics Geyser Green tile that lines the bakery counter and serves as a focal point on one wall reminded Davis of the earthy, natural tones of Bend, but she knew it wasn’t within their budget. So she emailed the company. They loved Muciño’s immigrant story and were willing to work with them. “[The tile] helped make the space come to life,” said Davis.

The rustic red Alcazar tile in the bathroom was made just outside San Miguel de Allende, where Muciño and Davis were married and plan to retire one day. The textile artwork above the water station was created by a third-generation Mexican sheep and wool farming family.

This fall, visitors will spot even more ties to Mexico at the bakery, including a selection of Mexican wines, chocolate from Chiapas and *pan de muerto*—a sweet bread traditionally made for Day of the Dead celebrations, which will be available throughout October.

By the end of the year, Muciño and Davis plan to launch afternoon breadmaking classes in the production space, creating connections one loaf at a time. “We want people to bake in the space that we bake in,” said Davis, “so it feels genuine and authentic.” **BI**

# CRANBERRY BUTTERMILK SCONES

## INGREDIENTS

2  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups organic bread flour  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup whole spelt flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking soda  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup plus 3 tablespoons sugar,  
plus extra for top  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{2}{3}$  cup (10 tablespoons) butter, cubed  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dried cranberries  
 $\frac{3}{8}$  cup buttermilk  
1 tablespoon loosely packed lemon zest

## INSTRUCTIONS

Sift all dry ingredients together in a large mixing bowl. Add the cubed butter into the flour mixture and toss to coat the butter lightly. Place in the freezer or refrigerator to keep the ingredients cold.

Measure the buttermilk and zest, and also place in the refrigerator to keep cool.

Put the cranberries in a heat-proof container and pour hot tap water over the top, just to cover. Allow to rehydrate for 20 minutes, then strain.

Make an egg wash with one beaten egg and a pinch of salt.

Once all the ingredients are measured and cooled, cut the butter into the flour using two butter knives or a pastry cutter. Blend while trying not to warm the butter. Once the butter has been incorporated, the mixture should be loose with pea-sized chunks of butter. In the center of the flour-butter mixture, add all the liquid and zest. Slowly work from the inside out to form a rough

dough. Before the dough is fully mixed, gently incorporate the fruit, ensuring no dry spots of flour remain. Do not overwork—mix the dough just until the liquid has absorbed the flour.

Shape the dough into a block about 12 inches long by 4 inches wide. Brush generously with egg wash and sprinkle with a liberal coat of sugar over the top. Divide the dough evenly into triangular pieces, transfer to a tray and put in the freezer. Allow to cool for at least 60 minutes to prevent the scones from spreading too much during baking.

When ready to bake, heat oven to 350 degrees, place the scones a few inches apart on a parchment-lined tray and bake for 20 to 35 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.



# BANANA NUT CRUMBLE MUFFINS

## INGREDIENTS

2  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour  
 $\frac{3}{8}$  cup whole wheat flour  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons salt  
1  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon baking soda  
1 cup plus 1 tablespoon butter, melted  
2  $\frac{1}{8}$  cups sugar  
3 cups mashed bananas  
(about 6 medium bananas)  
3 large eggs  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon maple syrup  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups chopped toasted pecans, cooled

## Crumble Ingredients

6 tablespoons, plus 1 teaspoon organic  
all-purpose flour  
4 tablespoons packed light brown sugar

$\frac{1}{3}$  cup rolled oats  
small pinch of salt  
3 tablespoons, plus 1 teaspoon cold butter

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Oat Crumble

Put all ingredients into a large mixing bowl. Using a pastry cutter or two butter knives, cut the butter into the dry ingredients. When the butter warms slightly and becomes pliable, use your hands to rub the butter into the flour and oat mixture until the texture becomes coarse. Set aside.

### Muffins

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine the flours, cinnamon, salt and baking soda. Set aside. Mix melted butter, sugar and bananas

with a wooden spoon until the bananas are broken into smaller pieces, about the size of a dime. Add eggs, vanilla extract and maple syrup to the banana mixture and mix gently until incorporated. Combine the dry ingredients into the wet in three stages, mixing slowly until fully combined. Then include the toasted pecans. Once all the ingredients have been combined, pour the batter into muffin cups and top with oat crumble. Bake for 30 to 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the middle of a muffin comes out clean. Cool on wire racks for at least 20 minutes.



*Bend Home + Design adapted these recipes for the home baker from originals by Central Milling Company.*



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A dining room featuring a round, dark-colored table surrounded by teal upholstered chairs with light wood frames. The room has patterned wallpaper with a repeating motif of stylized, overlapping shapes in shades of grey and white. Three large, textured, brown pendant lights hang from the ceiling. A window in the background shows a view of trees and a person walking. A small white bowl with green moss sits on the table.

“Listen! The wind is rising, and  
the air is wild with leaves. We  
have had our summer evenings,  
now for October eves!”

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