

HOME & GARDEN

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Second thoughts about the first home

Craig Brumfield doesn't spend much time in Miami anymore. The retired investment banker from Florida spends nearly all his time at the home he built with his girlfriend in Sunset Falls at Bald Creek.

Near Crabtree, north of Waynesville, the development is Craig's own (well, his and his fellow investors). He and longtime girlfriend Randy Gallupe started construction last spring and moved in on Christmas Eve.

Randy, whose 15-year-old son is in high school in Florida, spends more time in south Florida than Craig does. But they were up at the house all summer with Craig, a West Virginia native who always wanted to return to the mountains.



"The mountain setting is magnificent," he said. "And this is definitely a mountain house. We tried to make it as if we had found a house built in the 1700s out here in the woods."

Well, a house with modern conveniences, any way. But, with floors and beams salvaged from old barns and buildings, it does look old. The low luster of hardware and countertops also gives it an antiquated look. Craig was looking back while keeping his eye forward.

"I built it for the family to be in for the next few hundred years," he said.

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TOUR THE HOME OF THE WEEK ON PAGE 3.
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BRILLIANT COLORS



One of the first trees people think of when planting for the fall is the sugar maple. Columnist Linda Blue offers fall color planting options. **PAGE D2**

A REAL HE SAID/SHE SAID



How can you blend masculine and feminine in one room? Our interior design columnists have some answers. **PAGE D4**

REMEMBER WHEN



Celebrity chef Art Smith cooks up a burger that's big on flavor and memories. **PAGE D7**



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An elk antler chandelier by Matthew Chad Collins of Cashiers floats above the great room.

Bobcats, turkeys and bears — oh my!



A breezeway connects the main living quarters to the garage and its exercise room/home theater above.



"People always walk in and say 'who was your designer?' Craig said. "And Randy and I look at each other and say, 'well, we were.'"

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Dressed appropriately

Clad in Tennessee fieldstone, cedar, cypress and pine, the house's siding is vertical (board and batten), horizontal (lap siding) and checked (shingles in accent areas). The metal roof over the front porch is reclaimed tin metal (in the rain, it sounds "just like you would hope," Craig said). All of the tall, thick (and custom-made) doors inside and out are knotty alder. The door fixtures are finished in a flat black to give them an antique look.

High elevation

The house is actually two buildings connected by a porch and breezeway. On the upper floor of the detached garage is "the barn," the name the couple gave their exercise room and home theater because of the room's vaulted ceiling. The house, set against the woods, has a view of the meadow, where cows graze and turkeys forage. At an elevation of 4,100 feet, the house can be surrounded by bracing air, something Craig noted while walking through the cold air zipping through the breezeway last winter.

Take your pick

Outdoor living is big for Randy and Craig. Their porches are 13 feet deep and have lots of seating areas. The outdoor dining area, with grill and outdoor TV, can accommodate eight around the table. The back porch has two sets of three rocking chairs and a sun porch with two chaise lounges. There are also a couple of rockers on the front porch, where Randy and Craig often have morning coffee and look for wildlife (bobcats among them) in the meadows.

Old stories

The rich tones in the kitchen are due to the naturally distressed alder that was used in the custom-made cabinets. Contrasting is the kitchen island, glazed white and topped with a shiny granite slab. Tying it all together is the burnished barn wood floor, which runs through the house (excepted for the carpeted upstairs guest rooms and the tiled bathroom floors). "Everyone agrees that these (barn wood) floors are the key feature to the house," Craig said. Irregular in width and length, the planks vary in color and blemish, indications of the long, hard life they had dealing with the elements.



Randy and Craig have a choice of where to sit outside, including around this large table with their four children (between them).



Old wood helps a modern kitchen appeal to the couple's love of the past.



Italian travertine lines the bathrooms, blending in warmly with the wood choices Randy and Craig made.

NUTS & ABOLTS

The home: A 4,100-square-foot, three-bedroom, four-bath Mountain Rustic house at Sunset Falls at Bald Creek.

The homeowners: Randy Gallupe, a muralist and faux finisher, and Craig Brumfield, a retired investment banker

Defining aspect: Practically new, the house is made from old wood, giving it a weathered appearance that makes the home seem far older than it is.

THE TEAM

Architect: Moss Creek design modified by C. Allen Brown, Cashiers

Builder: Rolando and Tracy Paez, Buena Vista Construction, Canton

Old wood: Zac Guy, Appalachian Antique Hardwoods, Waynesville

TO VIEW VIDEO AND PHOTOS OF THE HOUSE, VISIT CITIZEN-TIMES.COM.