





was altogether different on the other side of the mountains. Then he discovered that the Shaws might be willing to part with their Crystal Creek home to build up the road at Wilder, also a fishing mecca. Wedell and his wife Marsha purchased the property and now enjoy breaks from the heat of Memphis, Tennessee, during the summer and fall months. They also spend time in Florida and New York.

The guest cabin, crafted around 1920, has been refurbished and rebuilt often, the last time by the Shaws and Cappellucci in 1993. Originally a one-room hunting and fishing cabin with an outhouse, it belonged to the Gandys of Monterey, California. The most recent renovation by the Shaws involved carefully deconstructing the cabin board by board, reassembling it and adding a bathroom and bedroom. The outhouse still stands, adding character to the site on the banks of Crystal Creek.

For the first year, the Wedells often hosted guests in the upstairs two bedrooms in the main house but quickly discovered the beauty of having a guest cabin. "We are great afternoon and evening people, but not so much morning people," he said with a chuckle. They stocked the guest cabin with a coffee maker, toaster oven, cereal and coffee and made WiFi available, so both owners and guests can relax in private in the earlier part of the day.

"When a couple of guys visit for fishing,



it works a lot better to have them in the cabin. There are two single beds there," Wedell said. "We always fill the cabin first, and if there's another couple or additional guests, they stay in the main house."

Raspberry Cabin wears its history well, and guests love its "authenticity, comfortable furnishings and coziness," Wedell said. "Plus they can be independent." Having the windows open to the summer breeze is one of his favorite things about the mountain cabin.

# ALPINE RUSTIC: TRAPPERS CROSSING GUEST CABIN

Seth Novatt always envisioned having a rustic mountain home, but the log residence he and his wife, Priscilla Natkins, built in Trappers Crossing ended up being completely modern inside to accommodate large groups of people.

"I wanted the look of rustic cabins in the Irwin backcountry," he said.

Several years after completing their home in the late 1990s, the couple hired Ben Somrak, of Somrak Concept + Structure, to design and construct a guest cabin as overflow for the main house. They also wanted a place for visiting Crested Butte Music Festival musicians to stay in the summer. Novatt describes the cabin as "quiet, private and inspirational," yet close enough to the primary house for guests to go over for meals and socializing.

"As Ben put it, we wanted to build

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something that looked like it had been there for a hundred years — like we found the land, this was on it, and the main house came after," Novatt said. "Tve always loved that spot; it looks right into the aspens in the valley below our house. It's my favorite place on the property."

At around 375 square feet, the quaint cabin has a compact open area, featuring a kitchen, dining and living space, that leads to a small bathroom and an open doorway to the bedroom. Every piece of wood inside and out is reclaimed and purchased from AM Salvage Barnwood in Gunnison, including flooring from a Pabst Blue Ribbon factory used for the ceiling. The furniture is simple and charming, handmade by Will Crim of Crested Butte.

Novatt and Natkins reside in Sleepy Hollow, New York, and spend about three months a year in Crested Butte.

"We have a guest book," Novatt said, "and everyone who has stayed in the cabin has said it is one of the most extraordinary places they've ever stayed."

Great guest cabins offer compact, practical and charming spaces that fit into their natural surroundings. They give guests privacy and inspiration, along with easy access to the primary house. Whether they involve historic remodels or new construction, they greet friends and family with hospitality far beyond the welcome mat.







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