



NEW ZEALAND *Legacy*

A Sanctuary of Rustic Architecture

WRITER KAREN VANDER WERP • PHOTOGRAPHER W. PATRICK CHAMBERS



After becoming engaged in Africa and honeymooning in New Zealand it was impossible to leave the simple, rustic, outdoor lifestyle behind. After contemplating an assortment of words describing outdoor dwellings, Chris and Louise titled their Fennville vacation home “Batch.” They learned this word while vacationing in New Zealand and found it to be a perfect name for their unique home.

They resisted any temptation to modernize and abandoned the concept of traditional building. Their structure is void of any interior support beams. The steel supports are arranged and constructed to simulate a teepee. Rough cut wood, strong stone elements and unique metal architectural pieces enhance the style. Interesting angles bring the outside in. Builder Jason Dedic brought their vision to reality and, according to the homeowners, “he understood exactly what we were trying to accomplish and he worked with us every step of the way to make sure that our home was built to suit us in every way.”

Chris and Louise refer to the various living areas as “pods.” Pod One is similar to a loft with a pointed roof; perfectly intimate for the two of them.

Pod Two was dug deep into the elevation of the dunes. The expansive guest quarters are below ground and decorated with



canvas. "It looks and feels like a lodge," explains Louise. This space was fashioned after a dwelling they visited in Africa. Its furnishings were selected to create harmony between interior and exterior.

Pod Three is the outdoor living space comprising a furniture arrangement complete with indoor and outdoor living areas, and a breezeway; the entire area is dotted with fireplaces, decks and patios. The primary cooking for most of the year is done outdoors on the outdoor stove, grill and over the open fire.

Visitors approach the home with a sense of adventure. June through October, guests are escorted to the outside breezeway where the coffee maker (an indoor amenity that is now part of an outdoor staple) and a fire beckons you to come and enjoy the natural surroundings. "Even if it's pouring rain, we can enjoy outside dining," shares Louise.

The pods have the ability to adapt to large and small groups for entertaining. Saturday evenings are frequently gatherings of 10 or more. The household is often brimming with an overflow of people.

Materials and furnishings are congruous with their surroundings. Unique iron and steel work for the stairways were naturally rusted by the elements. The walnut used for paneling and a mantle was reclaimed from their former loft in northern Idaho. A vibrant blue stone table top, discovered in France, had been outside for two years. It functions wonderfully, but is gently absorbed into its surroundings. Windows pop out and are replaced with canvas that can be rolled up and down.

The "Batch," designed to harmoniously blend with its surroundings is best described by Chris, "This is the perfect escape from big city life and we're very proud of it." □



TOP: The master bath vanity is expansive and unique—just like the rest of the home.



MIDDLE LEFT: The spacious walk-in shower is constructed of indigenous materials and is flooded with natural light.

MIDDLE RIGHT: The master bedroom is established as a warm, comfortable space with casual furnishings.

BELOW: The fireplace transitions between heavily textured rock and chiseled stone, mimicking a natural rocky slope.



PREVIOUS PAGE:

BELOW: Steps made of large slabs of rock set the tone for the unique, rustic interior.

ABOVE: A soaring ash ceiling embraces the living and dining area.

BELOW: The window seats invite guest to relax and enjoy the views.





Windows are removed and replaced with canvas roll-up shades.



TOP: This modern kitchen provides the homeowners with an outstanding indoor dining venue.
 BOTTOM: A covered area provides a place for outside relaxation—rain or shine.



JPD Construction Inc.

OWNERS:

Jason Dedic & Denise Dedic

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

1999

YEARS IN BUSINESS:

11 Years

EDUCATION:

Associate degrees in business and hotel management from a university in Queensland, Australia.

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

Our business motto is "building with you" and we strive to make the building process enjoyable for the customer, while maintaining budgets and timelines. We are building not only business relationships, but friendships.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

Our business builds unique structures and homes; we excel at the unexpected.

HOBBIES, VOLUNTEERISM, ETC.:

Jason was born and raised on the Gold Coast in Australia. He moved to the states full time in 1999 when he married Denise. After eight years of growing the business and living in the Saugatuck area, we felt the need to return to Australia. We moved our household and family to Brisbane, Queensland, in 2007. We quickly realized that Saugatuck/Douglas is our home, and returned in 2008.

Jason appreciates and enjoys community involvement and has participated in fundraising events for the local school system and Art Center. He appreciates spending time with family—enjoying everything western Michigan has to offer. Outside of family and work, his passion is Tae Kwon Do. He is currently training for his black belt.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER & WEB ADDRESS:

For additional information, call (616) 566-0337, visit www.jpdcconstruction.com or email Jason at Jason@jpdcconstruction.com.



TOP: Most of the couple's entertaining is done in the outdoor living area.

MIDDLE LEFT: Cooking on grills and an open fire pit is every Boy Scout's dream and a reality for these homeowners.

MIDDLE RIGHT: An outdoor shower feels like a natural part of the environment.

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