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# BEFORE & AFTER

*From barn to bunkhouse*

by KIM FULLER • photos courtesy NDG ARCHITECTS & BILL WILLINS



A barn wood focal wall is a dynamic component to the open living room.

**B**EGINNING WITH A RUSTIC barn on a property in Lake Creek, NDG Architecture and Carlson Construction Company created a bunkhouse. The result is a lodge-like abode that complements the small log cabin on the same piece of land. Without diminishing the charm of the original barn, the bunkhouse has enough room to sleep

eight to 16 people. And though there are several amenities, television isn't one of them.

"This was to be a tranquil space without the distractions of modern technology," explains Bill Nutkins, principal of NDG Architecture in Edwards.

They designed a single bedroom on the lower level with four sets of bunks — the bunk







Maintaining the character of the barn's exterior was important to architect Bill Nutkins.



The bunk room has four sets of bunk beds.

style that has a double bed on the bottom and a single on top. Across the hall from the bunk room, they put in a bunk bath designed to compartmentalize the separate uses of the sink, toilet and shower. Above, on the existing loft area, they added two separate bedrooms, each with a queen bed and a shared bath. All in, the barn will now sleep up to 16 people.

"Trying to keep the rustic feel of the barn, we used a wood wainscot down the bunk

hall and added a barn wood focal wall to one side of the living area," says Nutkins.

The doors into the bunk room and the bunk bath are sliding barn doors.

"By modifying the existing flat bottom trusses we opened up a clearstory space in the ceiling and added a high picture window to capture the view of the New York Range from the loft level," he adds. "I love the volumetric feel of the living room

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“ I LOVE THE VOLUMATIC FEEL OF THE LIVING-ROOM SPACE WITHOUT LOSING THE QUAINNESS, THE NATURAL LIGHT WHICH COMES IN FROM THE NEW WINDOWS ABOVE THE KITCHEN CABINETS HELPS TO MAKE THE SPACE FEEL MORE OPEN.”

— BILL NUTKINS, NDG ARCHITECTURE



Adding windows helps the space feel more open.

space without losing the quaintness. The natural light which comes in from the new windows above the kitchen cabinets helps to make the space feel more open.”

The feeling of the barn still exists throughout, as the renovation team underframed the wings with a soft slop, and used LED up-lighting to help accent this feature from the inside-out.

“It was important to me as the architect to maintain the character of the barn, at least from the exterior,” Nutkins explains. “Hence using the existing barn doors as accent to the new glass doors.”

The client also wanted a big fireplace to gather



around, so on the exterior, the original barn doors were repurposed as accent panels adjacent to the new sliding glass doors, which open to the new patio and fire pit. [View](#)

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