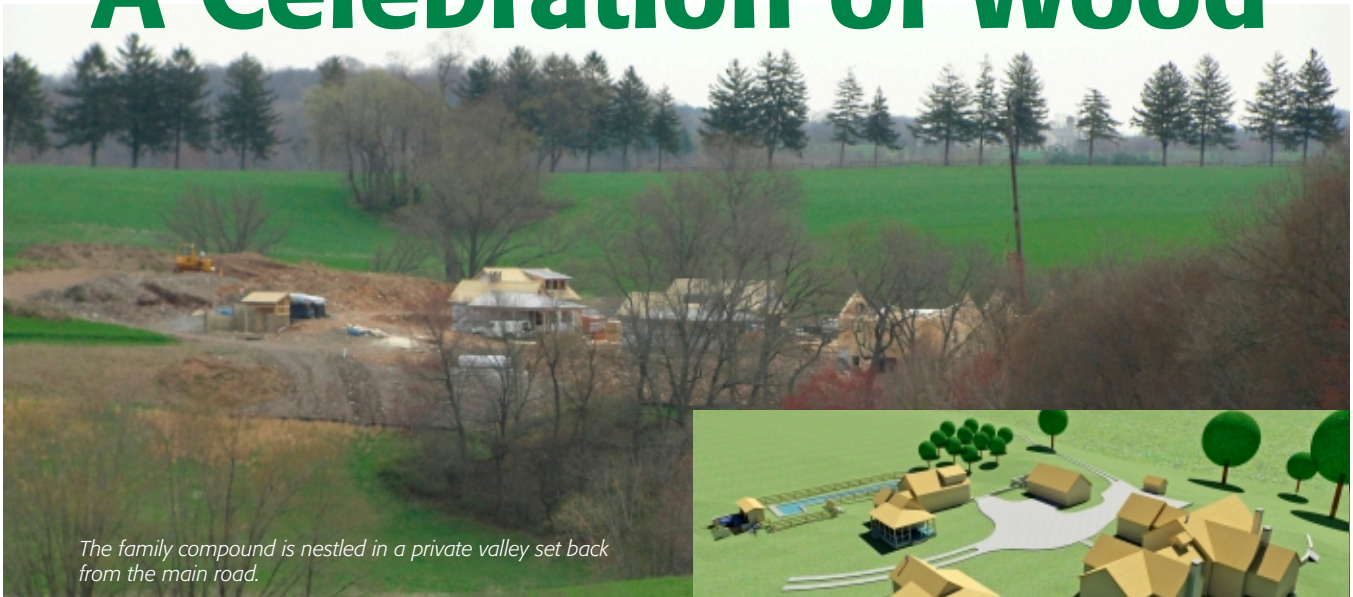


A Celebration of Wood



The family compound is nestled in a private valley set back from the main road.

CASE STUDY: April 2011 (Part 1)

LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Introduction

Set deep in the heart of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is a project that rapidly attained the title *Celebration of Wood*. True to the 140 acre farmland property's roots, this project was designed from the start to showcase the natural beauty of forest products.



Tranquil, tree-lined drive en route to a unique family retreat

Reed Axelrod, AIA, LEED AP of Reed Axelrod Architects in Philadelphia, PA, has a successful 15-year track record with this project's clients. He and Project Architect, Diana Henze, have worked together on three previous projects for this particular client. He describes his clients as "wonderful to work with" as they are open to new ideas, love creative solutions, and encourage spaces that allow for the display of their unique artwork collection. Axelrod greets visitors with a bright smile and a twinkle in his eyes, ready to showcase this *Celebration of Wood*. Many years



A finished Certi-Sawn® yellow cedar tapersawn shake roof

of planning and consultation have gone into this project, and he is clearly thrilled to see his firm's designs come to life.

The theme of this project is "community" and the buildings are designed to suit the lifestyle of a remarkable couple with three grown children, each who have settled in a different area of the U.S. After decades spent in suburban areas, the family decided that a more rural lifestyle was preferred. The owners wanted a fully functional home, equipped with the latest technologies, yet also one that remained true to its country roots. Axelrod has created a design that is perfectly sensitive to his clients' needs by combining modern amenities with living space that permits treasured privacy and reflection.

Certi-label™ member manufacturers are proud to be a part of this family project. Axelrod made extensive use of CSSB Technical Services while working on his design and

stated, "The assistance **CSSB District Manager Tony Bonura** provided was critical to making proper roofing decisions. This custom project is all about tradition and respecting the area's heritage. Wood allowed us to achieve our design goals."

Property History

It is common in this agricultural area to find an abundance of topsoil; historically, this fertile ground has been farmed to provide fresh dairy and produce that has fed Philadelphia and its surrounding communities for generations. Corn and wheat are grown in the area, and dairy farms are also abundant.

The property was purchased about five years ago, chosen by the owners for its scenic topography that includes a bubbling stream that rumbles through the landscape. Due to local planning and conservation regulations, only a very limited portion of this parcel was permitted to contain a building site. Construction on the project began in October, 2010, and another 18 months will be needed to see it through to completion. Once finished, this acreage will offer its residents a sanctuary from the busy city while providing the proximity needed when a day trip into town is required. The extensive use of wood building products allows the structures to blend in seamlessly with the land.

The Project

The buildings are currently under construction and include a 4,500 square foot main residence, 250 square foot guest cabin, 1,200 square foot pool house with guest quarters and a 700 square foot workshop. All structures are grouped into a quadrangle that will be connected by crushed stone pathways and surrounded by indigenous plants.

The main house living areas are designed with generously-sized, custom wood windows that offer endless views of the wonderful landscape and rolling hills beyond. The kitchen overlooks the winding track that leads in from the main road. Custom walk-in closets plus a spa bathroom offer a true sanctuary in the master bedroom. Downstairs is a library for an extensive collection of books as well as a guest suite, bonus room and mechanical room.

The pool house will contain a full gym, sauna and changing rooms, and is connected by an interior walkway to another guest cabin with sleeping quarters and a common room. A 75-foot outdoor lap pool will serve the needs of the fitness enthusiasts in the family.

Gorgeous wood carriage house doors are specified for the workshop building. One of the owners is an avid woodworker; his tools and sawdust removal system will

be housed in this building. Beautifully detailed stone walls enclose an adjacent service yard which will provide expanded lay-down space for the owner's larger crafts projects.

True Craftsmen at Work

An impressive building crew works on site; friendly greetings are exchanged amongst hard working trades who "...want to build it right, the first time." Axelrod stated that, "...Todd Denlinger, Building Contractor, LLC, is the General Contractor and is a true professional who came highly recommended." Denlinger clearly has earned the respect of his crew and works right alongside them. As CSSB representatives were touring the site, he offered a friendly wave then came over to introduce himself. Denlinger has an obvious love of his craft and reported that there are as many as 20 tradesmen on-site each day to advance the work with their experience and skill.

One only has to step a few feet over the chunky clay and shale to experience real craftsmen at work. They love the opportunity to create something special with Mother Nature's finest stone and wood. Elements that make this project unique are the numerous types of trim and siding designs that are discussed on a weekly basis. No compromises are made and a full discussion amongst architect, builder and owner is completed to the team's satisfaction. Everyone works with a high level of trust, and having the opportunity to observe teamwork in action is a pleasure and is a great thing to learn from this case study project.



Heavy oak timber beams will age gracefully in place, exactly what the owners wanted

Respecting the Land

A love of the beautiful surrounding countryside is evident in the care that has gone into this project; a geotechnical consultant was hired to monitor soil and excavation plans. The design calls for gently sculpted earth that minimizes intrusion to the natural landscape. A fruit tree orchard is also planned for the grounds. The interior courtyard paths

will be composed of crushed stone, as opposed to stark black paving. The long winding road up to the building site will eventually be returned to an ambulance/fire truck - code-compliant tractor path, complete with two wheel tracks and grass growing in the middle.

A neighboring, century-old woodworking mill with a reputation for superior craft was selected to manufacture the highly detailed windows and doors. A local quarry, known for its distinctive, earthen-toned rock, will provide the stone needed for exterior walls and true masonry fireplaces. Hand molded clay brick was chosen from a set of 30 choices to achieve just the right color that blended in with the natural wood and stone.



Natural stone siding will cover part of the walls, blending in perfectly with the natural surroundings

Geothermal heating and domestic water wells have been located carefully below grade as are special storm water management systems. A filtration system was installed for drinking water; unfiltered storm runoff will emerge from external spigots used for landscaping needs. An intricate spider web of pipes and connections are organized underground to provide an aesthetically pleasing landscape. Backup propane generators are delicately concealed behind rock walls and provide a much needed tandem system for the frequent power outages in the area. A lightning protection system was also installed.



Framing work is well underway

Wood Building Materials Used

Wood is celebrated here with an endless variety of natural forest products. Pressure impregnated preservative treated Certi-Last® tapersawn yellow cedar shakes installed by Melvin Petersheim and his crew were used on the roof. Reclaimed chestnut planks in a herringbone pattern will be used as flooring material. Multiple oak timbers and beams, plus exposed western red cedar, are prevalent.

Throughout the entire complex, only a few rooms will show exposed drywall or plastered surfaces. Pine or cedar has been selected to clad nearly every ceiling and interior wall surface in each structure. Much amusement has been enjoyed from the comment that this project will include "3/4" wallpaper" throughout its interiors.

Smiles continue when discussing wood's superior insulation qualities and environmental friendly aspects. This project will actually have an R-value that exceeds state building code. Wood ages gracefully over time, and this is one of the key reasons why the owners chose wood as their building product of choice. The concept of having a home that immediately blended in with the land greatly appealed. No other building product offered the dignified weathering or the deep character of wood.



Partial finish work on ceilings is complete



Reclaimed chestnut plank flooring was selected for this project



Mock up detail work ensured the perfect selections were made



Restored barn that houses the Certi-label™ roofing materials - Tony Bonura is smiling, in proud possession of a Certi-label™!

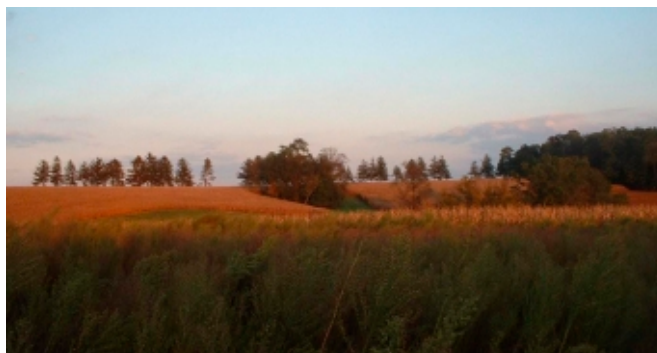


Conclusion

The style and longevity of Certi-Last® yellow cedar tapersawn shakes are an integral part of this family compound, a warm retreat where busy owners can enjoy the privacy and serenity of their idyllic surroundings. Axelrod and all the craftsmen involved with this project should be proud to add it to their portfolios. They have met a challenging list of requirements, resulting in a seamless blend of elegance, timelessness and functionality.

On misty mornings, the long row of pine trees on the upper entrance road look almost two dimensional, as if a talented origami artist has carefully arranged them on the landscape. A plethora of vibrant colors track the land during the autumn foliage season. There are so many new home pleasures that await the fortunate owners: waking up in the morning to the gentle rush of the stream down below... enjoying a late lunch while overlooking the meadows and the occasional thoroughbred horse and rider that gallop past... taking advantage of an early evening workout in the all-weather lap pool... This project welcomes Mother Nature both inside and throughout the lovely grounds. Natural building materials will stand the test of time, the bounding about of future grandchildren and most of all, age gracefully in place.

Note to our readers: the CSSB will provide a follow up article with finished project photos once the craftsmen have completed additional work.



A Weathered Barn's Treasures

One of the most intriguing aspects of the CSSB team's visit to this farm was when Axelrod guided his visitors over to a restored wooden barn near the caretaker's house. A friendly, pet rescue dog bounded up with her greeting, almost as if she were just as eager to see what was inside. As the wide barn door was slid open, the faint, sweet smell of straw and hay emerged. At the very back of the barn, carefully sheltered from the weather, were several pallets of yellow cedar shakes, along with bundles of ridge cap units. Axelrod was glad to show off the product that awaited installation; Certi-label™ member branding was apparent on both labels and pallet caps. Waldun Forest Products Partnership manufactured the yellow cedar Certi-Sawn® tapersawn shakes used for the field of the roof (18" x 5/8"-3/4" Premium Grade, 100% edge grain). Yellow cedar Certi-Ridge® tapersawn hip and ridge units, manufactured by G&R Cedar Ltd., were used at the roof peaks. Certi-Last® pressure impregnation preservative treatment, giving even more protection to an already durable species, was provided by Western Wood Preservers, Ltd.



Written by:

Lynne Christensen is the CSSB's Director of Operations. She has worked for the CSSB since 1998 and is involved in a variety of departments with a focus on marketing. Christensen holds a Master of Business Administration degree as well as the Certified Association Executive credential. She resides in British Columbia.



Photos by:*

Tony Bonura is the CSSB's District Manager, Northeast. He has over 40 years sales and marketing experience in the forest products industry and shares his immense knowledge with a wide range of marketplace participants. Bonura is the current Chairman of the Joint Forest Products/Coatings Committee, headquartered at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI. He resides in New York State.

*Photos also provided by Reed Axelrod, AIA, and Lynne Christensen

Do you have a Certi-label™ project that qualifies for a case study article
Email Lynne Christensen, Director of Operations, with more details.
While we can't promise to profile every project brought to our
attention... we do try our absolute best!