"We wanted to build the cabin when our children were young enough to enjoy using it," says Rice, as her daughter, Gleneden, 3, races from the living room to the dining room. Though filled with green technology, the new home brims with Old West charm.

The south-facing windows collect heat that is stored and recirculated by a convective air slab under the reclaimed wood floors. The pewter tea service and dining set are family heirlooms.

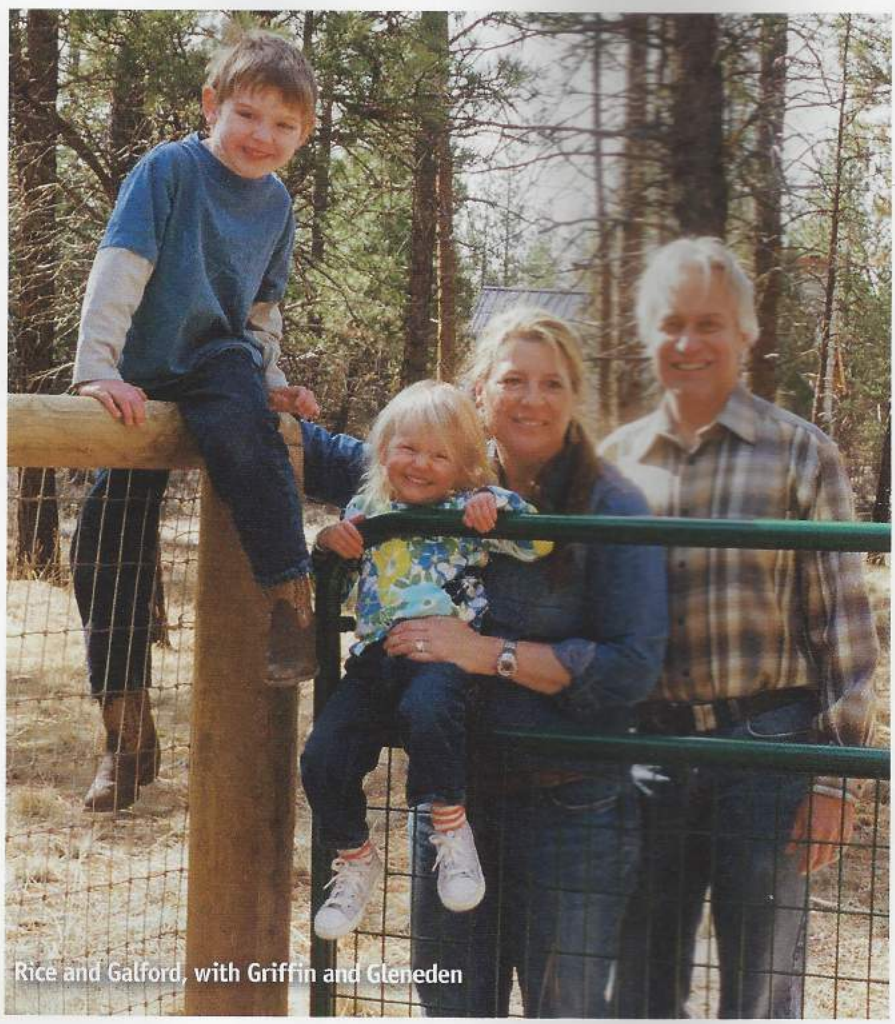
THE CABIN, *reimagined*

Marion Rice and Chuck Galford built an old-fashioned cabin that combines the best of tradition with the best of green.

BY MARGARET FOLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SALLY SCHOOLMASTER

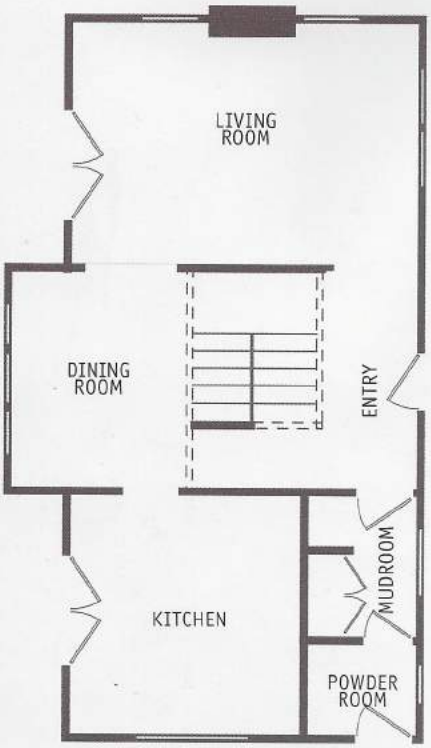
The unmarked red dirt driveway lined with ponderosa pines is just long enough to make you think you took a wrong turn, not only here, but also on the Central Oregon backroads you've just traveled. Then you see a wide open green gate, drive through and come upon a cabin in a clearing. With its weathered wood, it looks as if it's played host to generations of family vacations. Which is why it's a surprise to learn that Portlanders Marion Rice and Chuck Galford's getaway retreat was built less than a year ago. The cabin's always-been-here look is a masterstroke of contemporary green and passive solar design. The technology that built it is new, but cross its threshold and you enter a world that evokes the past.

Galford, who works in economic development for a California Indian tribe, came to Oregon in 1972 and fell in love with Central Oregon. "I wanted to buy property out here," he says. "Whenever I visited, I'd look around. When I saw this 10-acre property about 20 years ago, I knew it was the spot I'd been looking for." For years, Galford, Rice and their daughter, Gleneden, 3, and son,

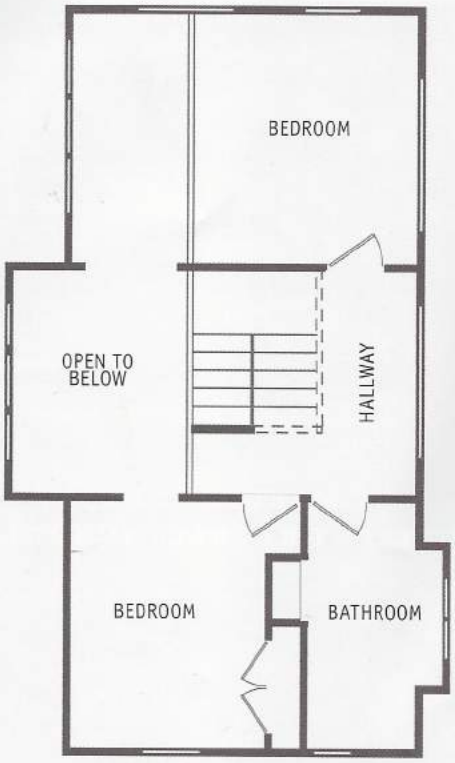


Rice and Galford, with Griffin and Gleneden

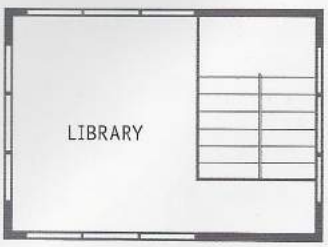
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



TOWER



The top level of the 30-foot-tall tower houses an unexpected library that gives you a never-ending view. "The tower is one of my favorite spaces in the house," says designer Kathryn Gray. "It's timeless and dramatic."

"I like to stand in the kitchen, look down the length of the house and keep my eye on what's going on out back," says Rice. "I love the slate sink, which came out of a farmhouse in New Hampshire that was more than 100 years old. It's just luscious. The work table was made for us out of reclaimed wood. It has a beautiful black walnut top, and I love its hinges." She sourced the sink through her business, Reclaimed Finishes. James Thompson, a woodworker in Portland, built the work table.

Griffin, 7, enjoyed camping vacations on their acreage. Two years ago, Rice and Galford decided to move forward with building on the parcel.

Rice, who owns Reclaimed Finishes, a business that sources architectural salvage, wanted an eco-friendly home. "The thought of tearing up the property to build a house made me sick, so I wanted to build the greenest possible home," she says. "Plus, we're outdoor people. I didn't want a trophy house because I knew that we'd be outside a lot. I wanted a cabin, but one that was green."

To design the house, Rice and Galford turned to Kathryn Gray, the founder and principal of Urbansun Design in Portland, which specializes in designing custom passive-solar dwellings that she brands SunSmart Homes. "We first met at the site to talk about the house," says Gray, who is architecture-school trained. "Marion had a very powerful and aesthetic vision. She wanted the house to be as green as it could be, but she also wanted a house that you wouldn't be able to *tell* was new as you approached it."

Forget an airport-style field of solar panels tilting toward the sun. And don't even *suggest* siding this house in concrete or faux planking made to look old.

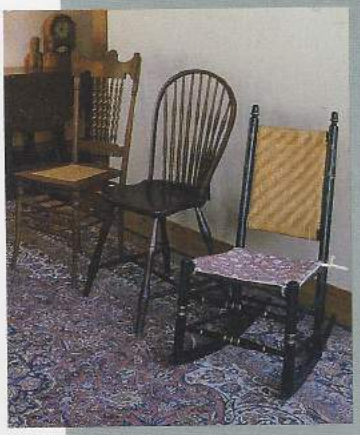
Inside and out, a key to achieving the look Rice wanted was to use reclaimed wood to build the house. Eric Anderson, the owner of EMA Industries in Bend, Ore., which specializes in exposed timber framing, built the house *and* found all the wood for it. "The most fun part

SALVAGED AND STYLISH

When it came time to furnish the new house, Marion Rice knew exactly how she wanted to create its eclectic, yet cozy, style: She'd combine vintage, reclaimed and family pieces. Here are her best tips for making such a mix work in your home.

EMBRACE IMPERFECTIONS. Salvaged items are rarely in pristine condition. If a piece is functional, don't try to return it to its just-out-of-the-box look. Enjoy the marks that time has left behind. "I like that different paint colors are on the tub in the bathroom," says Rice. "And my outdoor sink has character from a drop of cobalt paint on it that matches the color of the sky."

FIND EXPERT HELP. When it comes to installing vintage fixtures and appliances, find someone who has experience with pieces that don't meet current universal standards. It often requires out-of-the-box thinking to make old sinks and stoves function with contemporary pipe and electricity systems. "With plumbing fixtures, the people you hire need to know what they're doing," says Rice. "Working with old sinks and tubs can be tricky, and you often need to come up with unconventional solutions to make them usable."



ENJOY THE HISTORY OF YOUR BELONGINGS. Inherited or family pieces can add another layer to a home's furnishings because of the past they evoke. There's a special feeling about sitting down for a celebration at the *same* table you sat around as a child. "I love old things," says Rice. "My favorite things are old things that have a patina. I have a lot of furniture that my parents once owned, and I have a deep connection to those pieces. It doesn't matter to me that the furniture is mismatched. It looks good to see the mix that's created. And I like that I can look at a rocking chair I had as a child (*left*) and see my daughter sitting on it."

—*M.F.*

Wembley, the family's Old English Sheepdog, enjoys the sun's rays *and* the fire. "Originally, I didn't want a mantel on the fireplace, but then I decided it needed one," says Rice. "Kris Aldous, our mason, just broke off a piece of stone and cut it in." The clean-burning fireplace is from Vermont Castings.

DEFINING DETAILS (*clockwise from above*): A strut in the home's 30-foot-tall tower is as beautiful as it is necessary to stabilize the structure against wind shear. "We didn't want a plain metal rod," says Rice. "A friend—Seth Fox of Bend, Ore.—who is a bike mechanic and welder, designed and fabricated the strut for us; it's a work of art."

The staircase shows off reclaimed wood and heirloom measuring devices. "The rulers belonged to my grandfather, who was a tailor," says Rice.

Bend, Ore., stonemason Kristoffer Aldous built the rustic fireplace. "I *love* the fireplace," says Gray. "One of the great things about the house is that the structure is visible and talks to you."

of building a home is sourcing the reclaimed wood," he says. "We know people who collect old wood, and it's like a treasure hunt when we visit them to see what they have. Some of the cabin's wood is from a 100-year-old barn in Oregon, and some of the flooring is from Kentucky tobacco barns. The challenge with reclaimed wood is that you have to work with what's available and see how and where you can apply it on the house." When the first batch of reclaimed flooring was milled, for example, the tongue-and-groove was off. Rather than waste the wood, Anderson used it to trim the windows.

Rice and Galford also didn't want Anderson to remove the wood's imperfections such as knotholes, embedded barbed wire and paint marks. The remnants of the past life of the wood are visible throughout the timber-framed house. "Marion was open to using whatever wood we found in any way we could," says Anderson. "Even if we had doubts about a piece, we tried to find a way to use it. If you look at the exterior, there are a few boards that still have letters stenciled on their sides or old brand marks."

The house, which took a year to build, is only 1,550 square feet but it seems much larger inside. From the front, it appears low-slung, but once you enter and walk around the staircase, it opens into a brightly lit area with windows and sliding glass doors. There are few interior walls in the main living spaces, and the neutral-toned American Plaster walls provide a warm counterpoint to the home's woodwork and vintage furnishings.

The openness of the main floor is due to one of the home's most unusual focal points: a 30-foot-high tower that gives the cabin its expansive high-ceilinged look and feel. An open-railed, three-story staircase (*see p. 45*) leads you to the top of what Rice calls her Fire Tower. "The tradition of fire-watching is so strong in Central Oregon that I wanted that feature for the house," she says. "I wanted a space that you could go up to and look out over the trees."

"This reclaimed sink is solid porcelain," says Galford. "J.L. Mott Iron Works—the company that supplied sinks for the White House—made it." The black and white hex tiles that give the floor its old-fashioned look are from Pratt & Larson in Portland.

The kitchen's energy-efficient appliances share space with a small island made from reclaimed wood, a 1940s stove from a home Rice and Galford owned in Chico, Calif., and a 120-year-old slate sink that came out of a New Hampshire farmhouse.

The highlight of the living room (*previous page*) is a large stone chimney that houses a sealed combustion wood-burning fireplace that provides a warm and cozy area for the family to curl up or play games. "Once the fireplace gets going, we can actually use it to heat up the whole house," says Galford.

Upstairs, sloped ceilings create Goldilocks-style spaces for bedrooms that are furnished with warm blankets and vintage bedsteads and nightstands. The bathroom (*above*), tucked into a corner off the hallway, features a vintage claw-foot tub and sink. "The upstairs bathroom was a design struggle," says Gray. "I love the corner with the slanted ceiling over the tub, but to make it happen, we really had to get the dormer to work and to stuff the bathroom into the little space we had. The things I love about

the house are the things that were most challenging to create."

The tower, which adds a dramatic element to the back of the house in contrast to the simplicity of the facade, would probably make Gray's MOST CHALLENGING list. In nice weather, the back of the house is an extension of the home's living area. Sliding doors off the kitchen and living room lead onto a large flagstone deck and a long, narrow swimming pool, designed to mimic a reflecting pool, that's covered when the family is gone. A reclaimed outdoor shower and sink provide a place to clean up after a day outdoors.

With its small footprint, one of the biggest challenges was making the mechanical systems fit. "Marion and Chuck didn't want those aspects to impose into the house," says Gray. As a result, she tucked away the green features that would aesthetically clash with the cabin-look of the interiors. The Lifebreath solar-assisted furnace and solar tankless water heater are in a utility room. The few new fixtures that you do see, such as dual-flush toilets, Asko energy-efficient appliances and a low-emission fireplace, were carefully chosen to match the vintage décor.

Atop the south-facing roof that overlooks the backyard, SunTech solar panels and SunEarth solar water heating panels blend in with the roof shingles. "The house is tied to the grid, but it doesn't need to be," says Galford. "In the summer, we send a lot of energy back into it."

To get away from all the activity, family members can climb to the top of the tower to a small library and choose a book from bookcases filled with old hardbound classics or be on the lookout for the wildlife that makes forays onto the property. "We see lots of deer and owls," says Galford. "At night, we hear coyotes." A pulley system hauls wood through the one of the tower's windows to fuel a woodburning stove.

Now that the cabin is finished, the family can enjoy outdoor activities from archery to skiing all year long. "I love the way the cabin turned out," says Rice. "It's what I envisioned, and I know it'll be in our family for a long time. So many great people worked on this project. The cabin is so much more than the sum of its parts." ■

THEY KNOW GREEN

The Designer

Kathryn Gray, founder and principal, Urbansun Design, and builder of SunSmart Homes, custom passive-solar homes, Portland

Years in business: 27

On heat storage in solar homes: "The passive solar components—the south-facing windows, the stone fireplace and the convective air slab—provide at least half of the cabin's space heating and cooling demands," she says. "The convective air slab permits the heat collected through the solar windows to be absorbed and re-circulated throughout the main floor when the sun goes down. Without the heat storage, the house would seriously overheat in summer and experience huge temperature swings in winter."

Contact info: 503-283-9776 or go to sunsmarthomes.com.

The Builder

Eric Anderson, founder and owner, EMA Industries, Bend, Ore.

Years owning his own business: 10

On using reclaimed wood: "When people talk about using recycled wood, they forget to mention all the horse manure, bee stings and slivers," he says. "It's a lot of work to get the wood to a point where you can use it, but you always find great stuff under the old gray boards. Any pile of wood has potential. I enjoy working with reclaimed timbers because it's wonderful old-growth wood."

Contact info: 541-419-8720 or send Anderson an e-mail at oregontimbers@gmail.com.

The cabin's dramatic tower staircase overlooks the backyard's energy-efficient lap pool. "Because of the home's size—just 1,550 square feet—we had to fit the staircase exactly into its space to meet code," says builder Eric Anderson. "There was zero room for movement."

Bend, Ore.-based E^2 Powered installed the 14 SunTech solar panels visible on the south-facing roof to the left of the staircase (each panel provides 175 watts of electricity) and the flat-plate Empire Solar Collectors by SunEarth, part of the home's solar water heating system, to the right of the tower.