

TETON HOME

Spring/Summer 2007

and living

BACKYARDS AND BARBECUE

STELLAR WINE CELLARS

15TH WESTERN DESIGN CONFERENCE

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ARNE JORGENSEN & BRUCE HAWTIN: hawtin jorgensen architects

Bruce Hawtin began working as an architect in Jackson Hole in 1969 and opened his own office in 1971. Arne Jorgensen, who was born in Jackson in 1964, returned in 1989 to work with Bruce, becoming a partner in 1999.

Q: Can you describe your style?

A: There is no set style in our office; each project is unique and designed for a specific site with its natural amenities, the clients' needs and dreams, and a budget. No client receives a repeat of a past project.

Q: What is the first question you ask a potential client?

A: What brought you to Jackson Hole, rather than somewhere else in the world? Most of them have had some past history here—a camping trip or a summer job, perhaps—that greatly impressed them.

Q: Do you use the landscape to inspire you?

A: We always consider and take advantage of environmental factors: exposure to sun, view, wind, natural landforms, and vegetation; and access by car or foot. Overall, we want a building to fit the site with as little intrusion as possible. Crucial to accomplishing this are the materials used.

Q: Have your approach and style changed in the past five years?

A: Our basic design approach hasn't changed, but people's expectations may have to some extent—they might want a more open kitchen than previously, for instance.

Q: What is new and exciting in architectural trends?

A: We've always been very energy aware, but today there are many more choices we can use to address sustainability concerns. For example, we try to utilize materials native to the region so there aren't huge transportation costs and impacts.

Q: What is your favorite part of creating a new project?

A: Working with a new client, site, and budget. Also, the possibility of creating something the client may not even have thought of, but which they end up loving. We also get great satisfaction in creating a beautiful building.

Q: Do you leave a signature, or mark on a project?

A: Very happy and excited clients! ☺