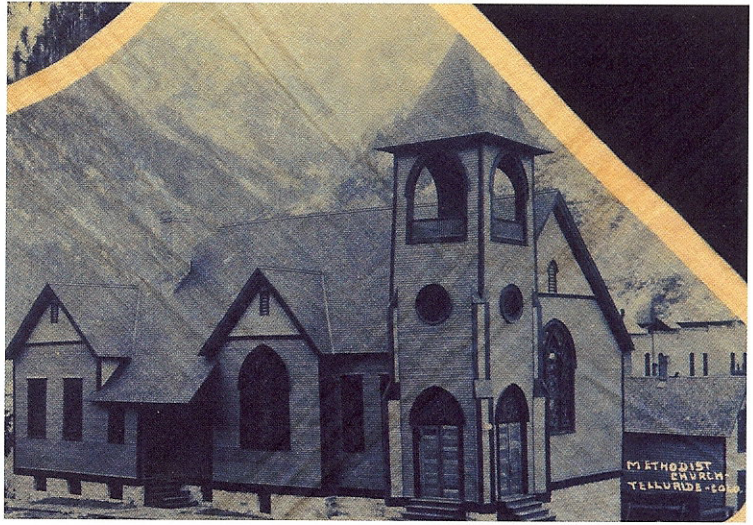


MOUNTAIN HISTORIC TELLURIDE CHURCH RENOVATION CREATES AN INSPIRED MULTIFAMILY HOME MAKEOVER



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- > BY AIMEE MILLER
- > PHOTOS BY XTREME MEDIA AND MORTON ARCHITECTS



Steve Morton, AIA, of Telluride's Morton Architects stepped back in time to restore the heart of a historic local structure and transform it into two distinctive residences. Originally constructed as the First Methodist Church in 1900, the building has been a fixture in this quaint ski town for more than a century, serving as a worship facility for more than 20 years and later as a dance hall and bar. For the last decade, this town landmark functioned as a 24-room economy hotel coined the Oak Street Inn.

Morton worked closely with the Herrick family—the inn's owners and part-time Telluride residents—on the overall use and design of the building while transforming the lower level into their personal residence. He also collaborated with long-time friends of the owners, the Days, to turn the upper unit into their home while designing a lower-level common area that both families would share.

Collectively, the group embraced the building's charmed history and developed a vision for restoring it to its original glory.

HISTORIC INTEGRITY

"The original shell maintains the building's historic integrity," says Morton, who is known for his high-end residential designs in the San Juan Mountains.

Deemed a contributing structure to the town's historic landmark district, the building's historic nature is complemented by classical interior elements such as custom cabinetry, fireplaces and beam work designed by Morton and built locally

by Telluride Woodworks. The historic elements were blended with a more modern floor plan for both units, including a gourmet kitchen, dining area, family and living rooms, den and bar with shared access to the 3,000-sq-ft common area comprised of a media room, billiards room, exercise area, bathroom, mud room, wine rooms and parking.

“We did a lot of interior design and planning work to get the individual units to configure properly and coordinate with the existing historic openings and internal flow of the building,” says Morton, who researched the historic rehabilitation process in accordance with the U.S. Secretary of Interior’s standards.

Morton also spearheaded the local review process to garner approval from the Historic Architectural Review Committee on elements integral to the renovation such as the re-creation of several arched windows, a gabled roof and the removal of dormers that had been added over the years.

Morton proposed the reconstruction of the building’s original steeple but was denied the necessary height variance by the town council. Single glazing was installed in the original windows, “making them look as historically accurate as possible,” Morton says.

CRAFTSMAN TRADITIONS

Morton worked with the Herricks on the layout and design of the interior spaces and theme for their home, combining the historic elements with the Herricks’ love for Craftsman traditions. One of the most unique aspects, inspired by the Herricks’ travel, is the groin-vault corridor with handsome brick accents and custom, corbel-style light fixtures.

While partnering with LuxWest Interiors on the material selections for the Herrick residence, Morton ensured that the interior design blended old and new.

“We used an eclectic mix with the goal of softening the Craftsman details a bit,” says Barbara MacIntire of LuxWest. For the Herrick residence, she selected traditional furnishings such as leather complemented by warmer, softer fabrics.

The building’s rich history also inspired the design of the Days’ 4,000-sq-ft residence on the two upper levels. “I wanted to maintain the idea that it was a church,” says Kim Day, noting that the arched windows, stonework and ceilings incorporated an Old World theme.

Rubble stone, reclaimed timbers and custom Gothic arch doors were used to accomplish the desired look and feel. “We really part-





PREVIOUS TOP The First Methodist Church building as it existed in 1900. (From the collection of the Telluride Historical Museum, all rights reserved.) **PREVIOUS MIDDLE** The Oak Street Inn before restoration and renovation. **PREVIOUS BOTTOM** The Oak Street Inn after restoration, showing the re-created north gable end and large Gothic arch-influenced windows the church once touted as iconic features. **PREVIOUS RIGHT** Re-creation of the gable roof form, Gothic windows and the restoration of the historic materials are apparent from the main street elevation. **OPPOSITE** The Old World character of the upper unit continues in the kitchen with a rubble stone surround at the cooking area, painted cabinetry, lighted glass uppers and natural and handmade materials. The upper cabinets are fitted to the slope of the existing historic rooflines. **ABOVE LEFT** Living area of the lower level unit illustrating the strong reference to Craftsman-style interior architecture. **ABOVE RIGHT** The hall off the main living area consists of an elaborate series of brick-accented cross groin vaults with custom metal and glass corbel-shaped light fixtures.

OAK STREET INN

LOCATION Telluride
CONSTRUCTION COST Confidential
SCOPE 10,000-sq-ft renovation of the historic Oak Street Inn into two luxury residences
COMPLETION 2006

OWNER Oak Street Ventures LLC
ARCHITECT Steve Morton, AIA, Morton Architects
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER Dean Bosworth, PE
GENERAL CONTRACTOR deLuca Construction
INTERIOR MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS (Herrick Residence): LuxWest Interiors
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Outer Spaces
AMONG THE SUBCONTRACTORS Rock Star Masonry, Stecher Lindley Corp., Edelweiss Wood Floor, Telluride Woodworks, Alley Forge, Coal Creek Studios, Santa Fe Door, Mesa Monument Millworks, Gall Tile, Southern Wood Imports, Artistic Systems

OTHER NOTABLE PROJECTS BY MORTON ARCHITECTS

- > Silbermann Residence, Aldasoro Ranch, Telluride
- > Aztel Residence, Town of Mountain Village, Telluride
- > Robbins Residence, Idarado Legacy, Telluride
- > Chang/Chavkin Residence, New York & Massachusetts
- > Ridge 5 Residence, The Ridge, Telluride

nered on the interior design,” she says, recalling that she worked side by side with Morton to bring their vision to reality. Not only was Day instrumental in the design and development of the interior concepts, but she also contributed to the interior design by selecting the flooring, stonework, railings, fireplace details, furniture and fabrics for their unit as well.

“Steve had a challenge in that the building was ‘out of square’ and there were really no accurate dimensions,” says Pete deLuca of deLuca Construction, the project’s general contractor. “He had to be an onsite architect with a lot of designing in the field, working with the existing conditions.”

deLuca says the most challenging part of the project was working with the historic nature of the building, but it was one of the most gratifying aspects as well. “It’s a classic, unassuming building on the exterior, but everyone who walks in it has been blown away by what’s been done on the inside,” he says.

“It’s been fulfilling to see this historic structure revitalized and evolve into two custom homes that truly complement the original character,” Morton says. ♦