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Eric Logan, AIA | Carney Architects | Jackson, Wyoming

It's said that architects pray for a great site and a great client. Eric Logan, principal of Carney Architects in Jackson, Wyoming, got both when it comes to ongoing residential work for a client's scenic, 160-acre property north of Jackson. Carney's most recent project for the site is a three-level wine silo, designed to house the owners' wine collection and to provide an aerie from which to view the Tetons while enjoying a glass of pinot noir.

Photography by Paul Warchol

The clients, a family of four from Phoenix, bought the property in the 1990s to use as a vacation retreat. They fell in love with the locale, a riparian zone laced with spring creeks and ponds not far from the Snake River. Elk reside on the land, and there are views not only of the Tetons but of other mountain ranges as well.

"The wine silo is the fourth project we've done on this

Below and right: A silo stores a private wine collection and offers a rooftop deck for sipping and viewing. The silo, covered in weathered steel, is connected to an office/gym/entertainment building, made from reconstructed timbers.





The silo overlooks the scenic property, which is laced with creeks and ponds.



Structural vertical fins ring the perimeter of the silo's interior;
the fins also organize the wine collection, which is stored along the perimeter.

property for the owners," says Logan, who worked on its design with intern architect Jeff Lawrence. "We did a main house in 1995, then a combination office/gym/entertainment building in 1999, and, later, a covered bridge that leads to a remote site on the property."

When the owners expressed an interest in building a structure for their burgeoning wine collection, they were confident that Logan could envision something creative. "The site is actually in a floodplain," Logan says, "so a traditional cellar wouldn't work here." Instead, the husband came to Logan with rough sketches of a cylindrical building, and Logan came up with an elevated structure, one inspired by both regional agrarian structures and by the woody appeal of a wine cask.

Rather than placing the wine silo separately on the property, Logan suggested connecting it to the office/gym/entertainment building, itself a rustic, two-story structure made from the reconstructed timbers of two 150-year-old cabins dismantled and moved from the East Coast. "The wine silo is essentially an entertainment building, so it made sense to connect it to the other building," says Logan.

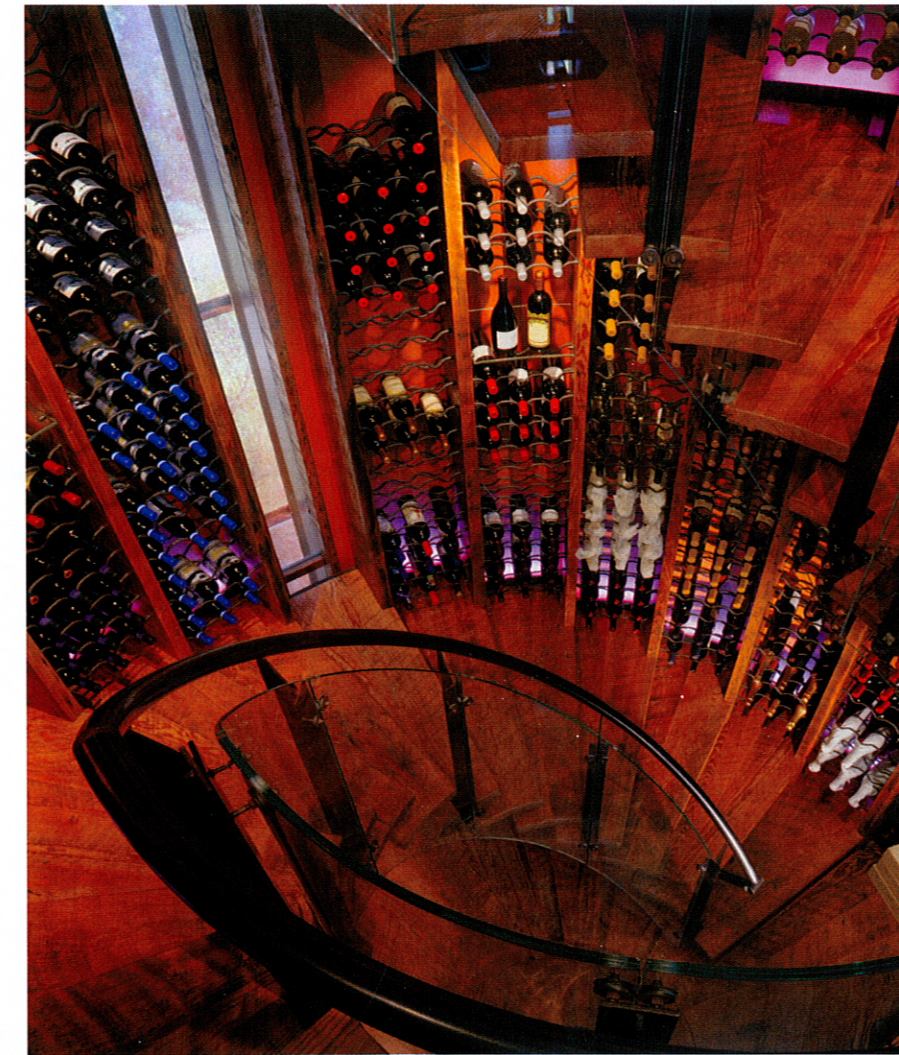
In plan, a passage connects the main entertainment building to the 300-square-foot wine silo, which measures 14 feet in diameter inside. A spiral staircase leads from the first level to the second level of wine storage, and then to a turret-style roof deck, capped by a round, pitched roof.

Structural vertical fins ring the perimeter of the silo's interior; the fins also organize the wine collection, which is stored along the perimeter. Logan placed two six-inch-wide slots of glass that run floor to ceiling in the silo's perimeter to provide daylight and snippets of views.

Logan suggested rugged, honest materials that would age well in the northerly climate. The silo's exterior, as well as its roof, is covered in a series of 3/8-inch-thick steel plates, patinaed to age to a ruddy brown hue. The passage to the wine silo from the main entertainment building is clad in glass. While the glass on the north side of the passage remains uncovered, the south side is protected by a series of perforated oxidized steel screens. The same screening was used to protect the silo's south-facing glass slot. The radius door to the wine cellar is clad in zinc. Inside, wood for the flooring and stair treads came from a dismantled Canadian sawmill.

The sheltered roof deck, the final destination for the wine sampling, is accessed through a motorized steel hatch in the deck's floor. The deck's railing is made of curving glass panels, allowing guests unobstructed views when seated.

Completed in 2005, the wine silo has provided the owners with a handsome spot to enjoy vintages and views. It's also won Carney Architects several design awards. ■



Opposite page: The passage to the wine silo from the office/gym/entertainment building is clad in glass. The radius door is clad in zinc. Above: A spiral staircase leads past the wine storage and up to the roof. The flooring and stair treads are made with reclaimed wood.

Architecture: Carney Architects, Jackson, WY; (307) 733-4000 or www.carneyarchitects.com.

Builder: Bontecou Construction, Inc., Jackson, WY; (307) 733-2990 or www.bontecouconstruction.com.

Lighting: Dave Nelson & Associates, LLC, Littleton, CO; (720) 981-4560.

Interior woodworking: Spearhead Timberworks, Nelson, BC, Canada; (250) 825-4300 or www.spearheadtimberworks.com.