

The Ultimate Sportsman's Lodge

Do It Yourself Television Network will showcase the efforts of Orion Multi Media celebrity outdoorsman as he builds the idyllic man cave

BY SEABRING DAVIS

IMAGINE YOUR IDEAL RETREAT FOR HUNTING, fishing and outdoor recreation: The Man Cave.

What would it include? The Trophy Gallery for guns and rod glory? The all-male Media Room playing 24-hour ESPN? Detached smokehouse? Sporting clays? Turrets for offensive positioning during paintball battles? Or the Wild Game Room

filled with billiards, poker table and vintage Donkey Kong video game?

These area some of the questions Chris Dorsey, host of *The World of Beretta* and CEO of Orion Multi Media, asked himself as he set out to build "The Ultimate Sportsman's Lodge" at Meriwether Ranch in western Montana. Orion is the world's

Plans courtesy of Locati architects



largest producer of outdoor and sportsman's programming; in this case Dorsey and his crew have teamed up with the DIY Television Network to chronicle every phase of planning and construction for the posh retreat that will embrace both family and outdoor fun. The show is slated to air on the DIY Television Network in the summer of 2009.

His ideas may be a little more refined than the campy guns and glory approach, but no less focused on what today's outdoorsman needs.

First and foremost, was the location. Dorsey searched for recreational properties from South Carolina to Colorado before settling on Montana. With the help of Livingston-based Sotheby's realtor Tracy Raich, the Orion team visited Meriwether and selected a prime lot situated along the Big Hole River.

"We combed the country looking for the right blend of stunning venue and unmatched outdoor opportunities and when we took one look at Meriwether we knew we had found the right place," said producer Chris Dorsey. "The property offers the best of Montana and having it straddle the world famous trout waters of the Big Hole River just made it irresistible."

Drawn to this planned private sporting community for its access to premier fishing, hunting and accessibility, Dorsey heralds the additional amenities at Meriwether, from the ranch's standpoint on open space conservation to the equestrian center on the property. This 724-acre development is located in tiny Melrose, just 30 miles south of the nearest airport in Butte. Clustering a limited number of home sites together on the property to preserve open land and wildlife habitat, Meriwether will have a real feeling of community, including a common lodge and a swimming pool. But the project's main

Left: The Ultimate Sportsman's lodge will be built at the pristine Meriwether Ranch, located on the legendary Big Hole River outside of Melrose, Montana, halfway between Butte and Dillon is home to deer, fox, moose, elk, otters, beaver, osprey, bald eagles, ducks, grouse, geese, Sandhill cranes and prong-horn antelope. Nestled between the 3.23 million acres of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and the Big Hole Valley, Meriwether Ranch offers 724 deeded acres and approximately 180,000 acres of permitted land. Fewer than ten percent of the deeded acres will be impacted by the development of new home sites and other buildings. The remaining acres will be protected from further development by the establishment of a conservation easement. **Above:** Ultimate Lodge takes an ultimate architect and construction company: Bozeman's Locati Architects and Schlauch Bottcher Construction will build the sportsman's retreat for DIY Television



Photo courtesy Meriwether Ranch



Meriwether Ranch is the dream project of outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists Dave and Emille Ellingson (Lincoln NE). Dave Ellingson says it is a "little bit of heaven, right here on earth." Ownership at Meriwether includes use of Meriwether Lodge, concierge services, full access to Crane Meadow Equestrian Center, and access to Canyon Creek Guest Ranch.

amenities may be its options for outdoor activities, including fly-fishing on the Big Hole — known for its Blue Ribbon rainbow trout, as well as an abundance of brook, cutthroat, and brown trout. It also has the only native run of arctic grayling

in the lower 48. Additionally, with part of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, the state's largest, adjacent to the development, which is home to deer, fox, moose, elk, otters, beaver, osprey, bald eagles, ducks, grouse, geese, Sandhill cranes and pronghorn antelope, there will be no shortage of big game and bird hunting.

Working with a team of knowledgeable local experts is a priority for Dorsey with this project. He assembled a well-known team to design, build and decorate the lodge. In search of an architectural style that defined contemporary living in the West, Dorsey

hired Jerry Locati of Locati Architects in Bozeman, who brought the unmatched general contractor skills of Schlauch Bottcher Construction (SBC). When the lodge is finished, Dorsey also intends to work with world-renown wildlife artist

Photo courtesy Meriwether Ranch

MONTANA LIVING



MONTANA HOMESTEAD

This early MT homestead sits in the heart of Livingston Montana's Paradise Valley and is one of its most exquisite historic properties. The homestead comes with breathtaking mountain views, wooded acreage, a seasonal creek, log caretakers cabin, 3 stall barn, wood burning sauna, and pasture. Minutes to the Yellowstone River, wilderness boundary & Yellowstone National Park. \$2.995 Million

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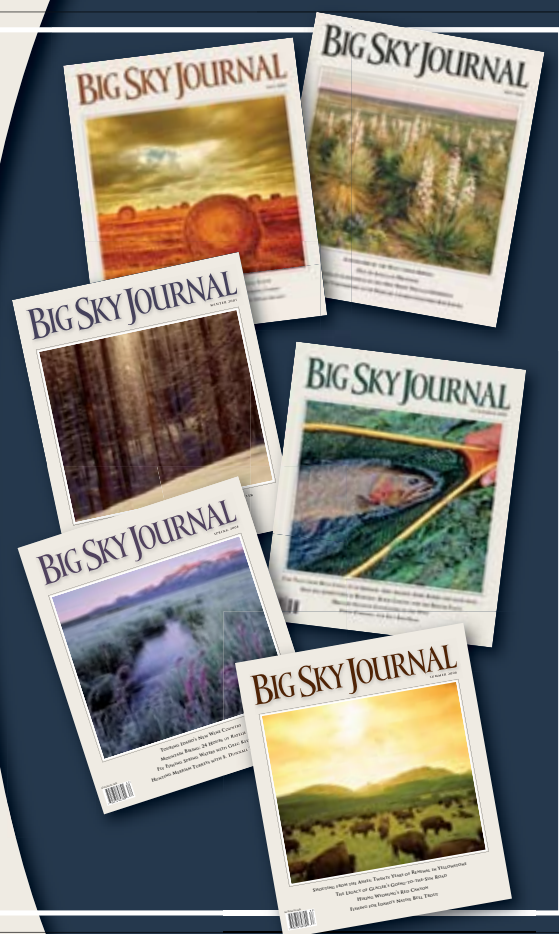
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Key to the design is a functional, open layout that flows comfortably between inside and outside. The element of seamlessly connecting interior living spaces to the outdoors is a signature feature in every Locati-designed home.

John Banovich. Even in the initial design stages, Dorsey's team is anticipating space for art that reflects a sense of place.

"My job is to turn the ideas and dreams of the client into a reality that they will be able to enjoy for years to come," said Jerry Locati, principle at Locati Architects.

Key to the design is a functional, open layout that flows comfortably between inside and outside. The element of seamlessly connecting interior living spaces to the outdoors is a signature feature in every Locati-designed home. Drawing inspiration from the home site for the 4,000-square-foot lodge, the architect will incorporate natural materials — wood, stone and glass — to create an inviting home with an aesthetic tip toward the rustic cabin applied in a timeless way for contemporary living.

When it's finished, the home will feature a Liar's Bar; Labrador Lounge; and the Ultimate Food Chain Kitchen for the band of brothers, yet it will be balanced with welcoming spaces that bring families together, too.

"I'm the guy who is throwing out all these ideas," said Dorsey, "but my wife has a much more practical side and will ask the realistic questions about room for the family and how this will fit into our lifestyle. On air we will have some fun with that component of back and forth and designing the lodge together."

The series is designed to help people understand that they can spend money on certain features to achieve a signature look from professionals like Locati and SBC without breaking the bank. Each episode of *The Ultimate Sportsman's Lodge* will be woven with a segment from comedian Jeff Foxworthy, the popular comedian is well known as a sportsman and outdoorsman. He has his own lodge in Georgia and will provide vignettes with comic relief and a personal account of how much the lodge has meant to his own family and what a good investment the lodge has been. In the end, Dorsey hopes the Man Cave will become as much a family retreat as a clubhouse and will be an inspiration to viewers to invest in their own getaway venues at whatever scale they can afford. **11**

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