

Salvaged wood adds touch of aged beauty

In a world where most people are rushing forward, custom home builder Dan Boylan is taking a leisurely step back.

President of DLB Custom Homes, Boylan uses salvaged wood from train trestles, dismantled granaries and old buildings to add historic accents in his Southwestern Territorial and Old World Mediterranean designs.

"Instead of taking conventional wood products, we provide a unique look with reclaimed materials," Boylan said.

Some of the wood that has found a new life in homes built by DLB includes:

- Distressed heart pine recovered from a building that once housed the Durant Motor Co. in New Jersey and from the Haddon Craftsmen Book Publishers in Pennsylvania.

- Oak from the cider barrels and vats once used by HP Bulmer Ltd. Cider Mills in Hereford, England.

- Douglas fir and oak reclaimed from the Seagram's House in Chicago.

- Wood from dismantled grain elevators from Alberta, Canada.

- Timbers from the Lucin Cut-Off Trestle spanning Salt

Lake in Utah and Railroad Ore Dock #6 in Wisconsin.

Added to newly built homes, these wood pieces create an immediate historic value that isn't typically found in new construction.

"Instead of trying to age newly cut beams, we try to find them from the actual era we are trying to recapture," Boylan said. "We're not interested in the gingerbread look."

DLB Custom Homes takes its clientele through every step of the custom process - from architecture and interior modeling to pool and landscape design. The level of detail in each home creates a distinctive atmosphere designed specifically for the customer. DLB builds statewide including homes at Pasión in Gold Canyon and Talking Rock Ranch in Prescott.

"The level of detail in a custom home caters to individual needs. Moving a wall doesn't make (a floor plan) custom," Boylan said. "Custom means that the design revolves around the people who will occupy the home."

Reclaimed wood is being used in floors, beams, mantles, niches, wainscoting and barrel arches.



Dan Boylan uses salvaged wood from train trestles, dismantled granaries and old buildings to add historic accents to the custom homes he builds in Gold Canyon.

But DLB Custom Homes plans on bringing even more of the historic pieces into the architectural details in the form of window frames, cabinets and doors.

"These products add to the structural component of the

homes," Boylan said. "Aged timber has already withstood the test of time."

Best of all, his clientele can tell stories about the pieces of history embedded in the walls of their homes. For example, reclaimed oak from the

Seagram's Whiskey Warehouse Complex came with the discovery that the dismantled building revealed a secret passage used to move whiskey during Prohibition.

Boylan, who started DLB Custom Homes in 1997, said that

the use of these rustic products is just part of the evolution he has experienced in his role as a builder of dreams.

"These houses don't build themselves," Boylan said. "We're not trying to be the biggest, but the best."