

FOUR QUESTIONS WITH

# Shaeffer Hyde Construction's David Hyde and Rob Fawcett

Compiled by KIM FULLER • photos courtesy SHEPHERD RESOURCES/GIBEON PHOTOGRAPHY



CUSTOM HOME BUILDING company Shaeffer Hyde Construction has been in business since 1979, founded by George Shaeffer. Initially, the company worked primarily on remodels, and had a close working relationship with Gordon Pierce and Jim Mortar,

two early Vail architects.

“George always has believed in and felt our mission was quality work as well as quality relationships, with everyone involved,” says Rob Fawcett, director of operations. “From the owners, architects, designers and engineers, all the way through every tradesperson

involved in each of the projects. That quality goal has also involved and required a great deal of trust with everyone in the building process.”

Vail Vally HOME asked Fawcett and Shaeffer Hyde Construction president, David Hyde, about how the company works with renovation projects.

**VAIL VALLEY HOME: How does Shaeffer Hyde Construction approach a renovation project?**

**ROB FAWCETT:** A renovation project is different than new construction, but it’s also basically the same because we have the same goals: quality planning and quality experience during the work to reach a quality product in the



end. The systems and procedures may not necessarily be as much excavation and concrete work in remodels, but it's still building.

**DAVID HYDE:** We listen. We listen to the client's goals and aspirations, and we listen to the land and the relationship to the property. We explore. We explore the possibilities and thoroughly vet all options. These include:

- How can the views be improved?
- Is there any opportunity to add square footage and add real estate value?
- Is the layout of the home how the clients will want to live?
- Are the relationships with the land optimal?
- What sustainability or energy efficiency technologies and methods can we take advantage of?
- What level of technology does the home want?

Often we'll encourage the clients to live in the home for

a season to see how they really live on a day-to-day basis and how this can be improved.

**VVH: What are some of the trends or methods in the renovation process that Shaeffer Hyde Construction has seen recently?**

**RF:** Remodeling is seeing similar trends as new construction, with quite a bit of 'Mountain Contemporary' design. This includes clean and crisp modern lines with some creative wood and metal features to the design and detailing. We do, however, see some out-of-area architects who bring some more traditional ideas and details to the projects which are fun and rewarding to build.

**DH:** Popular methods we are seeing:

- Kitchens and baths will transform any home and are generally the biggest "bang" for your buck.

- Bringing dated architecture into a more present-day aesthetic.
- Use of modern technologies — glass sizes and smaller mullion sizes can transform views.
- Sustainability and the use of improved insulation, solar panels, high efficiency equipment — all to improve home performance.
- We have seen a phased construction approach with smaller projects within an overall master plan being completed during the periods when the home is not being used by the clients.

**VVH: What are some common challenges you run into during a reno project, and how do you work with clients to overcome them?**

**RF:** Working in some of the tighter areas of the valley



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— ROB FAWCETT

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