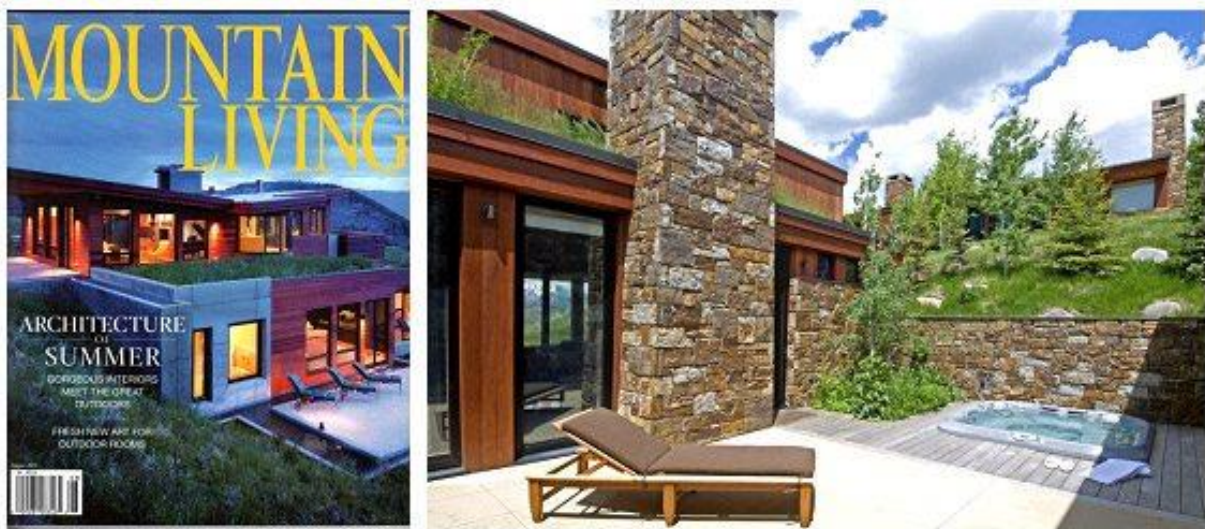


Ward + Blake Architects' Sod Roofs Are Cover Story in August Mountain Living

August 8, 2011

Jackson Hole firm's Wyoming water- and energy-conscious green roofs featured



Left, a sod roof design by Ward + Blake Architects graces the cover of Mountain Living; right, roof-as-garden on a Wyoming deck at a Ward + Blake-designed residence. Jackson, Wyoming — August 8, 2011 — Ward + Blake Architects' "modern soddies" are featured on the cover of the August 2011 issue of Mountain Living magazine. The feature story discusses the Jackson, Wyoming-based firm's experience using sod roofs – also known as green roofs – in modern structures that must stand up to the sometimes extreme weather conditions of the Jackson Hole area.

According to the article, Ward + Blake Architects began exploring ways to incorporate sod roofs into their designs in 1996. "Our desire," said architect and principal Tom Ward as quoted in the magazine, "was to use sod roofs as a historic prototype that anchors architecture visually to its site and surroundings."

Mitch Blake, also an architect and principal in Ward + Blake, added, "Advances in technology enabled us to make sod roofs happen in a smart way that eliminated the problems those early soddies had."

Ward + Blake has designed sod roofs for everything from a multi-million dollar single-family home perched at 8,500 feet atop a blustery butte to a Jackson Hole in-town mixed-use development that averages nearly 13 feet of snow annually. The firm created its own proprietary mix of indigenous Wyoming seed for use in the roofs, which boost thermal efficiency while reducing runoff from rain and melting snow.

Mountain Living is sold on newsstands nationally. In Jackson, Smiths and Valley Books have copies for sale. Or read the article online here via the magazine's website at www.mountainliving.com.

Ward + Blake's use of a 'New West' architectural vocabulary epitomizes the growing Western Modernism movement. The Jackson Hole residential and commercial architects capture the authentic, independent spirit of the West while taking regional design in a fresh and modern direction. The Jackson, Wyo., residential and commercial architecture firm is known for its award-winning eco-friendly innovations and received the Wyoming AIA Award of Excellence. For additional information, visit www.wardblakearchitects.com, or call Mitch Blake at 307-733-6867.

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