



Kids' Krafts

Children can make an Uncle Sam lawn figure for Labor Day.

E2

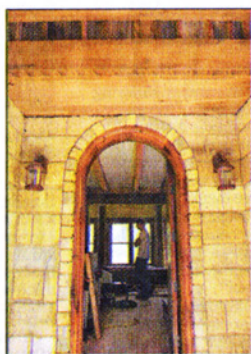
Your Home



ED SUBARJ/Akron Beacon Journal photos

Mandy Sancic (left) walks to the back of the home that she and her husband, Thomas, are building from salvaged materials in Stark County's Pike Township.

HONEY, I FOUND US A HOUSE



Sandstone from old barns, the smaller pieces cut, and bent walnut frame the main arched door to the Sancic home.



A worker looks over worry chestnut planks installed as the kitchen floor of the Sancic home.

Stark couple builds home mostly of stuff salvaged from other structures

By Mary Beth Breckenridge
Beacon Journal staff writer

PIKE TWP.: Tommy and Mandy Sancic's new home is somebody's old house.

And somebody's old barn.

And somebody's old factory.

The Sancics are building a house in rural Stark County primarily out of materials that were salvaged from old structures. Even though construction isn't complete, the house's weathered siding, barn stone foundation and slate roof already give it a patina of age.

"Everybody always says, 'I thought you were building a new house.'" Mandy Sancic said with a smile. But the couple embraces the house's timeworn appearance. "That's the point," she said.

The house is both a representation of the couple's passion for recycling old materials and a showpiece for Tommy Sancic's business. Sancic owns Olde Wood Ltd., a company that reclaims antique wood and then kiln-dries and mills it for flooring and other uses. It has a retail showroom at 6203 Alliance Road (state Route 183) near Malvern and a Web site at <http://oldewoodltd.com>.

The approximately 7,400-square-foot house has been in the works for five or six years, since Tommy Sancic started accumulating materials for the project. Construction began a year and a half ago, and the Sancics were racing last week to get part of the house livable



Tommy Sancic looks over pine planks with an especially pronounced grain used in the upstairs hallway and guest room.

so they could move from Jackson Township before the start of school for their children, Tommy, 10, and Shayla, 5.

Getting the house built required more planning and hoop-jumping than most home construction, the Sancics said. Tommy Sancic is the general contractor, but the project involved the input of an old-building consultant, Dennis Baughman of Hudson, and the design work of

architect Milton Studer of Minerva. Stark County required an engineer's involvement to make sure the structure would support the 80,000-pound slate roof and laboratory testing of wood samples to make sure they were sufficiently strong and durable. (They exceeded the numbers for new wood, Tommy Sancic said.)

Building with reclaimed materials

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House

Couple likes to point out where stuff came from

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isn't necessarily a money-saving proposition, either. Tommy Sancic said recycled materials typically cost about twice as much as new.

The house has a main building and two wings, one of which houses the master suite and a home office and the other, a multiple-bay garage and guest room. The main section is a post-and-beam structure constructed from timbers from three or four old barns; the wings are conventional wood-frame construction.

Tommy Sancic said about 85 percent of the wood used in the house was reclaimed, except for the window frames, the dimensional lumber inside the drywall and the roof rafters.

The Sancics love to point out the origins of many of the elements of their home. The Douglas fir for the floor joists, for example, came from the Fostoria Glass Co. factory in Moundsville, W.Va. The bricks in the chimney and the yellow pine posts that support the garage roof came from a lumber company in Cleveland's Flats. The porch decking was once redwood siding on a house in California; the unusual octagonal beams that flank the fireplace opening in the great room came from a barn just down the street.

"Just about every piece, we could tell you some sort of history," Mandy Sancic said.

Modern feel

Despite the old materials, the house has a modern feel, with open spaces and large windows that bring in the sunlight and view. It's a mixture of rustic elements, such as exposed hand-hewn timbers, and refined ones, such as the slate tiles on the bathroom floors and walls. The tiles were cut from slate roof shingles from seven or eight barns, all hand-picked for their color variation.

The wood flooring was made from antique lumber - chestnut in the kitchen, walnut in the loft, pine with an especially pronounced grain in the guest room. The carpentry team of Bruce Koehn and sons Andy,

Tyler and Kirby built 30 interior doors from wormy chestnut and casings and trim from black walnut. The Koehns also constructed the home's timber frame and crafted special touches, such as shaping barn timbers into newel posts.

Craftsmanship is evident throughout the house. For example, the massive fireplace is faced with a stone veneer that Tommy Sancic's brother, Alex Kulscar, created by hand-cutting old barn stones into 4-inch-thick slabs. Bruce Koehn laboriously bent the walnut that frames the arched door, and Kulscar cut smaller pieces of barn stone to edge the opening of the door and a round window. Even the soffits - the undersides of the eaves - are reclaimed walnut.

Mandy Sancic said the house has piqued the curiosity of quite a few passers-by, who slow their cars to look. But the couple likes having a house that's not like everyone else's.

"There's so much character and history in that house," she said, "that it already feels like home."

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