

Statement of Intent

7300 Lahontan Drive, Homesite 275

23 May 2011

Arriving at the homesite located on the corner of Lahontan Drive and Dick Barton, one's eye is immediately drawn down the length of the golf course green and then up to the mountains. Your gaze naturally follows the terrain south-east to appreciate the ever expanding views. 7300 Lahontan Drive rests in a vale between the road and a seasonally powerful creek. At the rear of the lot, the manicured golf course contrasts with an adjacent natural meadow and abundant trees.

The views and setting dictate the primary design considerations. A thicket of trees on the south-east and south sides of the lot protect the building envelope from solar gain and buffer neighboring home sites, while large stands of trees separate the home from the two adjacent streets. These features allow for a home that captures the views without reflecting the solar glare onto the golf course or sacrificing privacy.

To represent the natural topography of this location, a low-profile home becomes the best form of integration. Choosing a single story home with low roof pitches makes for a comfortable transition from the plane of the fairway green to the hills which rise up on the other side of the streets surrounding this homesite. Nestling into the bank on the north side of the lot keeps the home close to the ground, melding it with the site. Angling the home off of the north setback aids in capitalization of views, places the patios toward greater solar warmth and in large, creates greater interest and pattern along Lahontan Drive. Subtly mixing old and new, a traditional, masculine form of post and beam with shed roof, protects and heavily shades the more feminine, curved, view window walls.

The garage face orients south for solar gain on the driveway and to hide it from the street on two sides and the golf course on the third. Creating a detached garage reduces scale and adds to the horizontal line; here with a glassed in bridge, a transparent connection is created while still allowing natural drainage to flow under. Great consideration is taken in pulling the garage toward Dick Barter, because of the pie shaped building envelope, the closer towards the street, the more it will block the front of the home and restrict access into the garage.

Board siding and low sloping roofs with deep overhangs, accentuate the horizontal lines while steep-angled knee braces provide a distinguished discern. Contrasting window frame color pronounces the panes of the mullied windows. Minimal use of rock work reflects the location's sparsity of stone while grounding the structure to the site. Medium and dark brown hues blend the home into the surrounding trees and Cor-Ten rusted steel further captures the colors of the surrounding trees.

Transitioning from the low profile home to the wooded meadow, the patio area creates a halcyonic atmosphere with a heavy-timber, covered arbor that provides protection, interest, and deep shadow patterns. Stepping from the patio to the meadow, is the subtle strength of a low sloping-spiral rock wall that envelopes a fire pit marking a private space, while still embracing the interaction of the adjacent golf course.

Lastly, though not least, special considerations were taken to maintain "EPA Indoor airPLUS" environmental standards, such as not placing mechanical equipment in the garage. The home will be Energy Star qualified.

The result is a home that embraces its location while existing as a subtle and elegant presence.