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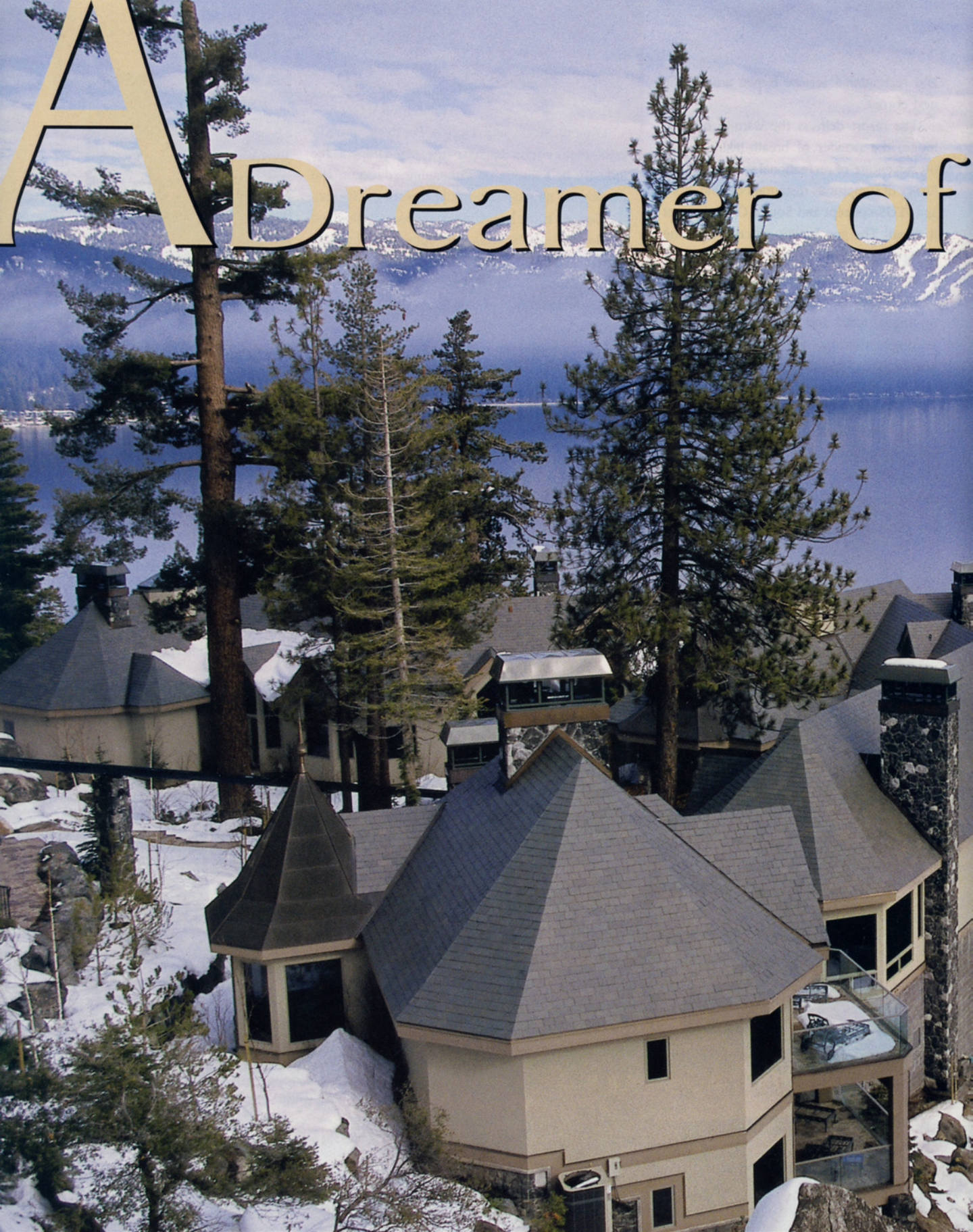
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A Dreamer of



"LASTLES"

By Sheila Muhtadi



Architect of stunning estates, Jeffrey Lundahl's work explores a blend of lodge and castle styles coined "lastles." In two recently completed projects—a lakefront home and a mountain-top estate—Lundahl has brought lastles to life.

Photo by Chaco Mohler



For over a 100 years Lake Tahoe has inspired people to build castles by its shores. Whittell Castle and Vikingsholm mansion are two shining gems in the Tahoe crown of estates- finely crafted lodges with secret tunnels and grand rooms for recreation and entertainment. But Tahoe-style has brought a special twist to the European rock-and-turret castle- a style called "lastles" by a client of architect Jeffrey Lundahl. That client came to Lundahl's office recently and asked him to design a spectacular lastle on a East Tahoe ridge-top.

"We spent a long time exploring what the lastle concept meant to the owners intellectually and visually," says Lundahl. "And because we came to share a concept that is very sound, the building process has flowed very well." In the style of the Whittell and Erhman mansions, this new estate features a number of different structures with landscaping tying them into a whole.

"The owners have also contributed historical treasures to complete the picture," says Lundahl, "including old carved





Architect Jeffrey Lundahl designed a gallery as the spine (opposite, upper left) connecting the major rooms at the recent lakefront estate home. To prevent the large home from becoming redundant, the adjoining rooms reflect different moods. (Counter-clockwise from far left) An English pub and billiard room, an elegant dining room, a cheerful bedroom, and an art deco theater.

Previous pages - Lundahl worked with the site of this lakefront estate home to give every room a different view of Lake Tahoe. Q&D Construction, Inc., minimized disturbances during construction, which required 3,400 pieces of structural steel.



fireplaces and statuary." The stunning results include a staircase and overhead dome replicated from the Titanic, copper clad doors and windows, 100-year-old hardwood and terra cotta floors, carved ceiling beams, a marble floor replicated after the New York City Library, wood paneling with marble inlays, frescoes of local flora and fauna and a marble bathtub. In the spirit of Whittell Castle, there is a 110-foot tunnel from the main house to a glass-enclosed conservatory that houses an indoor pool, spa, workout room and entertainment center.

While Lundahl's structures echo old-world elegance, his designs take full advantage of the latest technology. Both the recently completed lastle and another Lundahl project- a North Tahoe lake-front- feature snow-melt driveways, state-of-the-art





To build something that would last 150 years at this East Shore estate home, (upper left) Lundahl specified a slate roof, copper flashing, fluer de lis cresting and roof finials, vertical grain Western red cedar and stone. The zinc oriel windows and exterior cartouches are treasures the owners brought to the project (which is under construction).

Newly manufactured and distressed beams (above) are reminiscent of the European craftsmanship found in historic Tahoe's old lodges like Whittell Castle and Vikingsholm. Lundahl blends antiques with state-of-the-art materials and applications to create a durable monument to a romantic past.

Lundahl maintained a refined lodge design in the ancillary buildings, like this Home Office Building (middle left). The grand stone fireplace is supported by red cedar log trusses. The interior character of the Home Office Building (upper right) is an Adirondack style featuring stairway panels hand-painted with animals and flora.

electronic monitoring and control of television, music, lighting, climate and surveillance systems. The lakefront property goes one step further with its own weather station and a tram to carry people from the entry or garage to the main house.

"Jeff knows how to use both the old-and-wonderful and the new-and-wonderful," according to Norman Dianda, president of Q&D Construction, Inc., the contractor for both of Lundahl's recent estate projects. In recent years, Q&D has built about \$60 million in luxury and commercial projects designed by Lundahl and his 16-person staff. In addition to custom homes, Lundahl designs resorts, recreation centers, golf clubhouses, educational, office, institutional and church projects.

While he has designed for many mountain, beach and desert settings, designing for Tahoe is always more personal for Lundahl. "I have lived and worked here for 24 years," he says. "Lake Tahoe is in my blood. I feel an obligation to design buildings that enhance the physical environment. Redevelopment at the lake is finally beginning to have an impact on improving the quality of the environment. We all need to stay focused on premium projects and the clarity of the lake water."

Design is both Lundahl's profession and his hobby. He and his wife Suzanne have researched different forms of architecture around the world. "What I enjoy most about architecture is the personal relationships that develop," says Lundahl. "I enjoy seeing the goals of my clients satisfied."

"I design residences which maximize opportunities for view, natural light, open space and privacy while retaining the sites' natural character. By employing these principles for design rather than using a constant stylistic approach, each project takes on a character and style of its own." □