

**Architect:** Mike Mason, Kurt Reinkens and Kristi Thompson of MWA, Inc.  
**Builder:** Jeff Cotton of Cotton Construction  
**Landscape:** L+P DesignWorks  
**Year completed:** 2007  
**Square feet:** 46,882



# Rock Solid

Story by Susan D. Rock | Photos by Vance Fox

## Mixed-use development draws from Truckee's architectural past.

**I**t takes a lot of planning to make new construction look as though it's been part of the local landscape for decades. But Truckee's mixed-use development dubbed "The Rock" cleverly recalls the community's colorful past.

"We wanted to work within the historic Truckee vernacular," says MWA principal architect Kurt Reinkens of the five-building center along the Brockway Road corridor that houses office, retail and dining space.

The MWA team came up with an additive design that uses a mix of architectural forms including hip roofs, gables and overhangs; window visors break up the larger masses and provide protection from sun and snow drip. They tied it all together with native materials like reclaimed pickle

barrels, weathered trestle wood and rusted Cor-Ten steel. Large timbers, crusher screen and an exposed elevator hark back to Truckee's industrial era.

In order to avoid a cookie-cutter commercial strip, the three smaller buildings along the frontage road (one of which serves as MWA's office) were each designed by different members of the firm and scaled to respond to the surrounding residential neighborhood. For their space, they chose a simple, classic gable shape. "Since we mainly design residences, we thought it a perfect caricature to incorporate into our office," says Reinkens. Two larger buildings are set back on the four-acre lot. Construction of a sixth building, designed and zoned to accommodate 13 apartment units, "is completely market

dependent," says Reinkens.

Named for the sizeable boulder firmly lodged on the property, The Rock also features a sunny, south-facing central courtyard that provides both outdoor dining space and a venue for events like the free summer concert series.

Investors from the Bay Area, Los Angeles and Texas financed the development. "They already owned residential property in the area, and wanted to make a long-term investment in the community," says Reinkens. From the looks of it, a rock-solid venture indeed. TQ

*Editor's note: Architect Kristi Thompson served on this year's TQ Mountain Home Awards advisory panel.*



**(facing page)** Materials like reclaimed trestle wood and rusted Cor-Ten steel provide lots of local color. **(left)** FiftyFifty Brewing Company, Thai Delicacy, Drunken Monkey Sushi, Tapas & Sake Lounge and Peluso's Apizza all set up shop at The Rock.