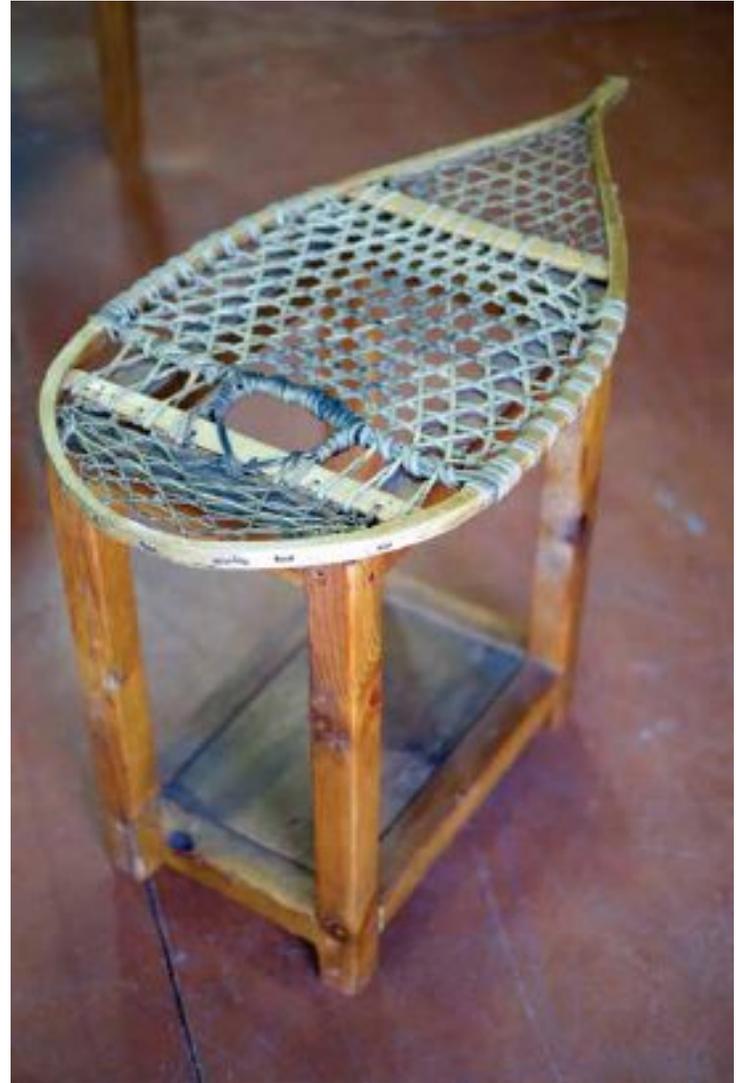


BEYOND THE BIG BOX

Rethink your home makeover with unexpected finds at the local Habitat ReStore

by PHIL LINDEMAN



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY THORNTON

FOR FIRST-TIME BROWERS at Habitat ReStore in Gypsum, director Tom McKay has one tidbit of advice: shop often.

“We have two truckloads of items coming in every day, which means we also have one or two trucks of items going out every day,” says McKay, who’s been in charge of the sprawling home and garden outlet for the past seven years. “We almost always have what someone will need,

but the people who shop the most often find the best deals.”

And McKay isn’t trying to slyly lure shopaholics — deals are just the name of the game. As the retail face of Habitat for Humanity, Habitat ReStore is a diamond-in-the-rough for contractors, interior decorators and do-it-yourselfers — just about anyone eyeing a home makeover with the finest, most sought-after materials, minus the off-putting price tag. Each





item is donated directly to the store, which turns around and offers deep discounts on everything from appliances to lumber to “the kitchen sink,” McKay says, laughing.

Found next door to Heidi’s Brooklyn Deli, the showroom at Habitat ReStore nearly feels like an upscale thrift store. There are no blazers or t-shirts or underwear — clothing is the only thing the store doesn’t accept — but pricing fits the thrift-store mold. Even McKay is constantly surprised by the ever-changing inventory: gold-plated light fixtures, high-end area rugs, double-wide trailers, snowmobiles, used cars and, most recently, a 28-foot cabin cruiser. (The only thing the store hasn’t received? An airplane, though McKay is hopeful.)

Habitat ReStore’s come-what-may supply chain drives the prices down — most items are sold for 70 to 80 percent off the original price — and it’s why McKay urges DIYers to visit often. Sure, thrift stores in every corner of the U.S. grow and shrink based on donations, but



of gold-plated lightin— fixtures — each priced around \$1,800 but sold at Habitat ReStore for a fraction of the retail value.

Along with building materials — what McKay calls the store’s bread and butter — small household items are always on the shelves. The store recently received 5,000 bedroom linens from the Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch, now sold for \$1 per set, and often boasts complete sets of silverware and kitchenware, no mixing and matching required.

But, again, frequent shoppers are privy to steals. Following another high-end remodel, Habitat ReStore received a complete kitchen cabinet set priced at \$40,000. McKay expects to sell it between \$5,000 and \$7,000.

“The do-it-yourselfer for anything related to building materials will save the most,” McKay says. “The crafty and repurpose specialists — the people who find super high-end furniture but not in the style they want — they’re a close second because they can tweak something to fit what they want. There’s really a little something for everybody.”

In true thrifty fashion, Habitat ReStore rarely turns away donations, working with local partners like craftsmen and mechanics to prep large pieces for sale. A dedicated crew of

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the Vail area is a bit different. It’s an unlikely hotbed for contemporary, high-end items: Habitat ReStore benefits wildly from second-home owners and the tourism industry, with thousands of annual donations from Vail Resorts, local lodges, restaurants, property managers and, to keep the remodel wheels churning, contractors.

Take a recent contribution from Nedbo Consturction Company, an Avon-based contractor. After completing a multi-million dollar remodel in Vail, the company worked with the homeowners to donate a slew



volunteers is in charge of day-to-day operations at the store, and McKay keeps a few folks on call to handle donation pick-ups throughout the week.

Despite jaw-dropping deals and unconventional finds, Habitat ReStore's mission is simple: raise money to build homes for local, in-need families. Every purchase — and every donation — brings the nonprofit a step closer to, well, a world-class community.

"The more money we make, the more houses we're able to build for the hard-working families that wouldn't be able to afford it otherwise," McKay says. "That's mission No. 1 — quite frankly, we are all about raising money to build those homes. Everyone wins." **WVH**

SHOP THE HABITAT RESTORE

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. –
Monday through Friday

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. –
Saturday

Closed on Sundays

For more info on the current inventory, donations and volunteer opportunities, see the Habitat ReStore page at www.habitatvailvalley.org or call the store at 970-328-1119. You can also visit the store's Facebook page for daily updates and deals.



SKI-IN

Vail

2120 Vermont Road | \$2,895,000 | MOUNTAIN CONTEMPORARY single-family 4 bedroom/4+ bath home backing to National Forest! Thoughtful design with large windows, great views and beautiful rock patio for outdoor living! Main-Floor Master Suite and Gourmet kitchen!



UNDER CONTRACT

Vail Village

Mountain Haus #679 | \$1,895,000 | PRIME LOCATION! 3 bedroom/3 bath Penthouse at Vail Mountain Haus right next to Vail's famed Covered Bridge in Vail Village! Skiing, shopping and dining right outside your door! Pool, hot tub, with great management and rentals!



SOLD

West Vail

2935 Basingdale | \$1,250,000 | BEAUTIFUL 5-bedroom/4 bath/2-car garage home in Vail. Like-new condition. Quality finishes include slab granite, hardwood floors, and in-floor radiant heat! Walk to the Town bus. Offered fully furnished!



Singletree

1020 Winslow Road | Price Reduced to \$724,000! | VALUE ABOUNDS in this immaculate 4 bedroom Singletree home perched up high on sunny hillside with delightful living spaces including a large secondary family/rec room and extra deep 2 car garage. Southern exposure provides warmth and comfort in addition to valley and mountain vistas. A spacious kitchen features new stainless appliances, breakfast nook, and private patio. The home is in perfect condition and easy to view.



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Call me to view these and all other Vail Valley listings



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