



# BARN

*Preservation & Adaptation*

THE EVOLUTION OF A VERNACULAR ICON

BY ELRIC ENDERSBY, ALEXANDER GREENWOOD,  
AND DAVID LARKIN

Universe





For another Vermont barn transported and reerected in Sun Valley, Idaho, a young architect found herself confronted with the opportunities and limitations of designing a house within the given strictures of an antique timber frame. Her comments are elucidating: "It was my intent to emphasize the building's form as the driver in the design. I'm appreciative of barns, and consider them quite bold in their simplicity of form, massive size, and complexity of joinery. I find it interesting that architects are always trying to be sensitive to massing [as] it relates to human scale. Barns can be absolutely huge and would typically be considered insensitive to that

scale, but people gravitate to these structures, and love them as homes. Obviously, there are considerations when designing [a barn house] such as making human-scaled spaces within the confines of the structure and sizing windows and doors to respond appropriately to the scale of the barn." The result of her musings is a barn which shuns special effects for straightforward materials and chaste embellishment. It is further posited that it is important to "incorporate the framing as a feature rather than a hindrance to the windows, allowing braces, posts, and tie beams to be a defining and contributing part of [window design]."



