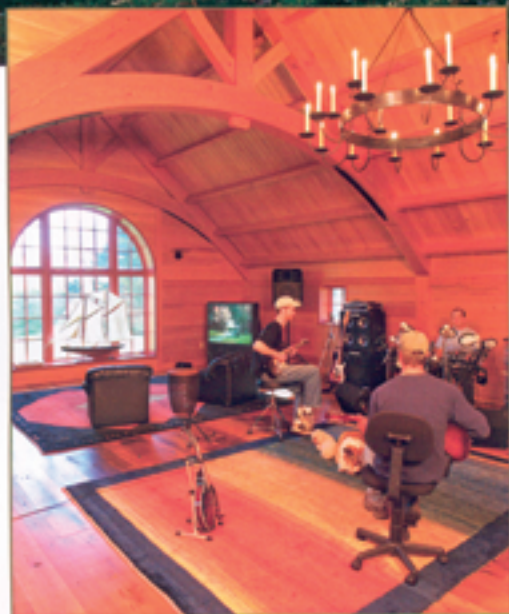


Sounds as good as it looks



For a few years, a musician and his fabric-artist wife were content to share workspace in an old barn on their property. When the time came to think about a separate building for a recording studio, they contacted Archer & Buchanan Architecture of West Chester, Pa. To stay in tune with the existing structures on the property, Peter Archer designed a modern version of a bank barn. Historical fixtures in eastern Pennsylvania, these farm buildings were built into hillsides so that farmers had easy access to both stories. Here, the lower level is used as a tractor garage; the music studio occupies the upper level.

Built by West Chester firm Donovan Construction, the exterior's cypress board-and-batten siding, mahogany garage doors, stone walls, and cedar roof will keep the elements at bay for a long time. Donovan used tongue-and-groove cypress to sheathe the interior space as well. The Douglas-fir timber frame, built by Summerbeam Woodworking in nearby Kirkwood, Pa., gives the owner plenty of open space for instruments and equipment; the room's shape and wood-covered walls enhance the studio's acoustics.

Photos by Charles Bickford