



What's missing in Jacqueline Roberts' kitchen? Cabinets. An ophthalmologist chest (left) offers token storage, but a huge pantry lies beyond door in brick wall.

# Castle. Barn. Lodge. Hotel. Oh my!

A TIMBER-FRAME HOME, WIDE OPEN AND ROUGH-HEWN,  
MAKES A NICE BACKDROP FOR SOME DELIGHTFULLY ECLECTIC DECOR.

What's this, Transylvania? A heavy castle door — a real creaker from an authentic old castle in India — opens wide, and suddenly you're bat bait.

Oh, wait — phew! The bat's just a dangling light, and rather collectible at that. But its beady little eyes — flickering orange — seem to size you up, much like the gazes of squat stone gargoyles on the walls.

Jacqueline Roberts, what a sense of humor. Not many homes have a castle room for their front entry. But surely those spider webs — those real spider webs — on the bat light will be dusted away.

Won't they?

"The more spider webs that come in here, the more I like it," retorts Roberts, a one-time botanist/zoologist major and life-long animal patron. "Bats, rats, mice, spiders, snakes — I won't kill anything. I just love them all."

Conformity, however, gets skinned alive in this 6,000-square

foot, multi-level home chiseled into a steep bedrock slope in east Eugene. It's quaint, yes, but in whimsically good taste. The home is at once a grand mountain lodge, folk art museum, Victorian hotel, rustic craftsman barn and, of course, Gothic chamber.

Roberts makes the rules as she goes.

The mahogany kitchen has no cabinets for storage, only an antique ophthalmologist chest stuffed with tiny pullout drawers. Concrete floors — black as a Halloween cat — contrast with scarlet velvet chair cushions and other Victorian trappings in the living room.

Even Red, Roberts' favorite cat, doesn't snuggle up and behave like ordinary felines, but often prowls about high on the home's massive ceiling beams.

"It works for me," says Roberts in a half-hearted apology for the home's eclectic constitution. "I don't care what everybody else likes



The basic shell of Roberts' 6,000-square foot home copies a timber-frame barn near Lorane. The distinctive oval decks serve the main level above and guest quarters below.

or doesn't like."

Ah, but she does have her converts, starting with builder Greg Morrow. He thinks the home is so rustic, what with its exposed timber framing and rough-hewn paneling in place of sheetrock or plaster on interior walls, it allows lavish freedom in decor. It frames the pic-

ture, so to speak.

"It definitely makes a nice frame for all the different stuff she's collected from all over the world," says Morrow, whose company, Morrow & Son, finished building the classic timber-frame house last March.

"It's funny how it all fits in. But it wouldn't look the same with

sheetrock (on the walls). It would be a totally different effect."

Hats off to Roberts for that.

## Started as a barn

Morrow hadn't met a client like Roberts before. She came to him dreaming about — no, obsessing over — a rustic home with one giant room for living and sleeping quarters. Something like a barn.

It was a childhood thing: Roberts, native to New Jersey, often spent her summers on a family farm in Vermont. "Of course that's great dairy country," she says wistfully.

But her order for your basic dairy barn home proved difficult to fill for Morrow. He showed Roberts some of his previous timber-frame projects in Lane County, but she was unimpressed: Not rough enough. Too many rooms. Too much plaster. Too much like a house.

Finally, Morrow drove Roberts to an old timber-frame barn on Marlow Road near Lorane, and she

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