

Marabou

Marabou centers on the notion of stewardship. This idea references not only a strategy of sustainable built design, but also embodies a careful process of preservation, including a Western ideology and aesthetic and the sharing and nurturing of a true ranching lifestyle. The most tangible manifestation of this is that the buildings tell the same stories of the original, authentic ranch structures. They do so by way of form, massing, adjacency, material, and detail.

The main lodge program is contained within a grouping of ranch-scaled structures. Rather than combining program elements into a single, more resort-like and imposing structure, the ranch compound strategy dismantles the monolith and lightly scatters the program upon the landscape. The buildings become smaller, less imposing, more authentic and more energy efficient. The strategy illustrates sensitivity to the land and results in rooms that are both warm and open to the outside.

As the path through the trees meanders away from the lodge compound, the cabins are sited along the river. Made of time-worn materials, with low and long ridge lines and sized to accommodate their varied uses, the cabins are unimposing. Yet the buildings have a quietly refined presence, one that is characteristic of fishing and camping traditions.

The entry uses familiar ranching components in an exciting re-enactment of vernacular ranch design and preserves buildings from the immediate locale. They are brought together just off the beaten path to form a "place" along the country road.



Marabou

location: Steamboat Springs, Colorado
total square feet: 22,000 sq ft
completion date: 2007

Winner: 2008 Gold Nugget Award for
Best Public/Private Recreational Use Facility

