

The

# ROCKSPIRIAN

July 2019

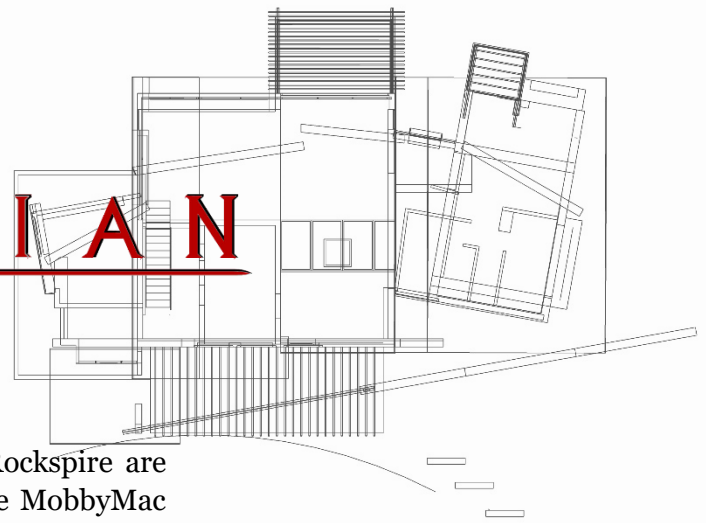
Volume 4, Number 37

**ONGOING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS** at Rockspire are moving along nicely. More visitors and events at the MobbyMac Carriage House necessitated a larger community kitchen, so we are doubling the size of the existing kitchen. And we're adding a bedroom suite at the MobbyMac because the one guest house at Rockspire – Betty's Birdhouse Cabin – is often occupied. The exterior work required for this expansion is almost finished and the interior will be completed in a few months.

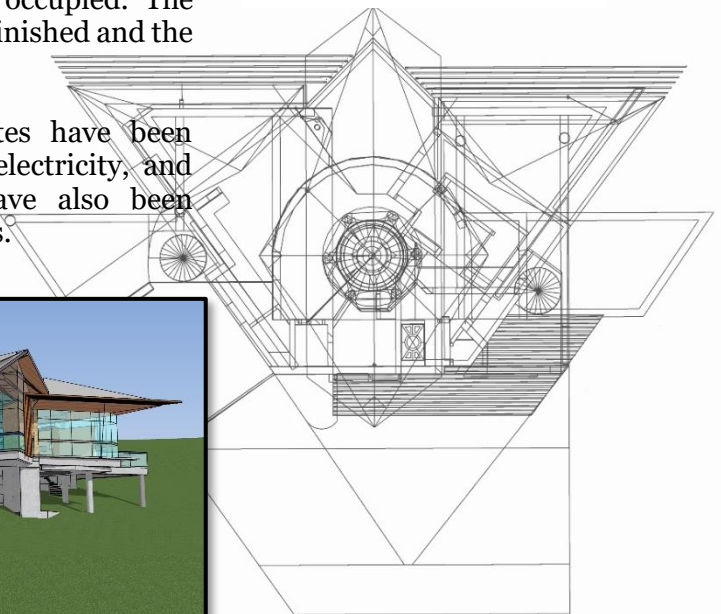
Also, underground utilities to the new homesites have been completed with the 1/2 mile extension of water, electricity, and communications. Empty conduits and pipes have also been extended to allow for future growth and innovations.



*Proposed Johnson and Myers Residences*  
Drawing by M. Johnson & G. Myers- 7.22.19



*Conceptual Master Plan  
Johnson Residence*  
Drawing by M. Johnson - 7.22.19



*Conceptual Master Plan  
Myers Residence*  
Drawing by G. Myers - 7.22.19

**THE FIRST TWO HOME DESIGNS** are proceeding and some of the proposed, unique features of the residences include:

- Passive Solar designs including proper sun orientation, shading elements, tight building envelope, and closed cell insulation systems.
- Non-combustible and strong storm-resistant structural systems and exterior finishes
- Unique, custom designed heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems
- Hybrid low voltage, automated, programable electrical systems
- Computerized home automation and monitoring systems
- Independent water collection and filtration systems
- Hillside locations with majestic views of Joan's Angel Trail, the Kings River Valley and the Nature Conservancy's Kings River Preserve



July 2019

**“THE MOST INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THE WORLD** lie between the categories and off the grid.” *Alan Wolfe - Boston College*

I struggle to “explain” Rockspire and Rockspirian concepts in terms that others can say, “aha, so you are doing x, y and z.” The analyst in me thinks about how to categorize Rockspire into neat bullet points on a slide, such as:

- 1) **The problem:** *The world is flat; We are round.*
- 2) **Why existing paradigms fail to address the problem:** *We are venturing into a new type of lifestyle and habitat.*
- 3) **Our approach and why it’s innovative:** *We are open to experimentation, much like a living laboratory.*
- 4) **Our results:** *So far, few, other than to spark imagination; How would we define results anyway?*
- 5) **Implications for the future:** *If we did nothing else at Rockspire, are we satisfied? Who keeps it going?*

“Once I start down this path, the categories just don’t apply. But that’s what makes it more interesting. Better not to let Rockspire succumb to being categorized. It should remain the unexplainable enigma it is. What defines it in the future is being shaped now, by each person who experiences it.” *Deborah Myers – Rockspire*



*Modifications to the MobbyMac Carriage House*  
Photo by G. Myers - 6.8.19



*Parabolic Solar Cooker*

**ONCE THE CURRENT CARRIAGE HOUSE EXPANSION IS COMPLETE**, we plan to wrap up the construction projects at the MobbyMac Carriage House by adding a drive-under canopy at the main entrance, a bocce ball / horseshoe court, and an outdoor solar patio and kitchen. The solar patio will feature a photovoltaic panel array to power the Carriage House and solar cooking devices in the outdoor kitchen such as the solar cooker pictured above.