



Steve Warming looks over a horse shelter on a ranch south of Livingston Tuesday. Warming is part of a team of Montana State University architecture students that designed and built the structure.

On-the-job training

MSU summer architecture program gives students hands-on experience

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LIVINGSTON—As they put the finishing touches on a structure they had just built, a few interns noticed something was wrong. A screw wasn't driven in completely.

One of the 11 Montana State University architecture students would have to finish the task since these students don't work with contractors, they build everything themselves.

"We are extremely anal retentive about our job," said Nick Pullano, a fifth-year architecture student. "We have an eye for aesthetics."

Pullano and the rest of his crew are part of MSU's Remote Studio, a summer program for architecture students. This summer they have built a horse shelter for a woman, but the structure isn't a typical shed. It is an open structure that has walls except the one in the center and a roof that provides shade.

The Remote Studio has been providing a hands-on opportunity for architecture students to learn about their profession since professor Iain Ryker started the program in 2006. The students design and construct everything themselves. They create structures that can be built in a relatively short period, but still provide a chance to solve complex problems related to its surroundings.

"The design is something that is unique and challenging, but they also learn about the complexities of construction," Ryker said. "It lets them understand what is possible and gives them a tangible sensitivity to materials."

When building the horse shelter, the students had to try to make the structure fit in with the surrounding environment, at a ranch near here. They also had the challenge of creating a structure that would not be hot and stuffy, like most sheds, but they say they have solved both prob-

lems and are pleased with the results.

Fourth-year student Joe Rosenthal said he thought the structure fit in with the area.

"We wanted something more than just a three-sided shed, something that really nestled into the site" he said. "It looks almost like it is floating in the valley."

They're pleased to be finished, but admit their project wasn't without setbacks.

"Probably our biggest challenge was trying to have 11 people collaborate on one project," Andrew Kaufmann, a fifth-year student, said.

Besides the challenge of working together, the students have also been living together at the Richmond School in the Paradise Valley.

"It's been a lot of hard work," Pullano said. "But being out in the country and waking up to the morning to know you're in a cool place helps you get inspired more easily."