



DOORS GET A SECOND LOOK

A special touch in white or silicon bronze for knobs, hinges, knockers

Good-quality door hardware is hard to find. For those who could afford to build custom homes in Sun Valley, Idaho, getting a look that was different than the next guy's became an issue, and Patsy and Mark Nickum, who were running a custom door business, stepped into the breach in the early 1990s.

"We realized there was a need for a certain type of hardware, high quality, that had a more organic feel to it than what was currently available," Patsy Nickum said.

Mark Nickum came up with the idea of using bronze and went into partnership with a foundry in nearby Hailey to produce hardware.

Their company, **Rocky Mountain Hardware**, now has an extensive line of door handles and escutcheons as well as doorbell buttons, hinges, knockers, window accessories, bath accessories, even sinks and faucets. (towel ring shown at right, \$254).

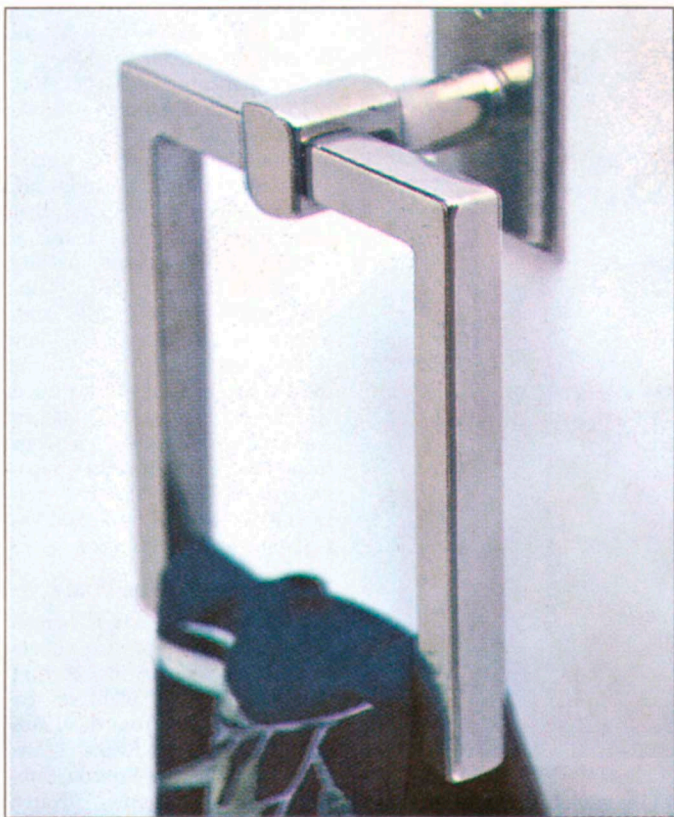
"Our hardware is made of bronze. There are no powder coatings or lacquers, so it ages naturally, like the finish you would see on a fine bronze statue," Patsy Nickum said. "It grows more beautiful with age and time."

Rocky Mountain offers a white bronze, which actually has a satiny nickel color, or a silicon bronze, which has a coppery color.

The silicon, Nickum said, is popular in the Napa Valley because of the favored rustic look, while the white bronze is sleeker.

Both bronzes can be done in three patinas: light, medium, dark; the silicon also has a special rust patina.

Much of the line can be quite expensive. The Keyed Thumb Latch Entry is \$1,046 (shown at right). But for those seeking affordable quality, the Luna knob builders series is \$180 for a set of



two knobs with lock mechanism.

Rocky Mountain Hardware merchandise, which can be customized, is available at Cornelia's in San Jose; North Bay Plywood in Napa; Santa Rosa Hardware in Santa Rosa; Belmont Hardware in Belmont, Berkeley and Walnut Creek, DJ

Mehler; Hundley E M Hardware; Bath and Beyond; and Bay Area Hardware, all in San Francisco. www.rockymountainhardware.com.

— Laura Thomas