

June 02, 2009

Dear Mr. Kylloe,

I am sure that you receive a lot of fan mail after writing so many fabulous books on the rustic style renaissance. After reading your books, I felt compelled to write to you and let you know how much the books inspired me and, in fact, influenced me to chart a whole new direction in my life.

I was raised in an outdoorsy family. My father was a lawyer and my mother was an avid environmental activist. We had a lot of fun, but sometimes my aesthetic sensibilities were a bit challenged by their taste (or lack thereof). Both my siblings and my parents would tease me, because, in their minds, design, architecture and décor did not matter.

During my teens, this apparent clash caused a number of ongoing conflicts within our family.

Fast forward through university, I studied (among other subjects) temple architecture, environmental philosophy, the philosophy of aesthetics, and some Native American religion. In short, my degrees in Classics, Religious Studies, and Cultural Studies were fascinating and enriching, but did not offer an obvious career path.

I realized that I felt most passionate about the psychological affects of design and how it can shift a person's consciousness.

On one fateful evening, my sister-in-law brought my brother and I for a dinner (in their log house). He is much older than I, and we had never once connected. For the first time, we had a wonderful conversation about his adventures in the wilderness, wildlife management, the environment and the importance of a cultural shift in which nature is loved.

At the time I was reading 'Rustic Style'. I shared it with my brother...and (long story made short) ...we went into business together. He has strong connections with the First Nations and I like to talk to designers. It is very odd, but it works.

I have been meaning to write you a letter to let you know how much your books have impacted my life, but I always put it off. I am so glad that I finally found the time to write and say 'Thank you!'

Truly, your work is an inspiration.

Best regards,  
*Kelley*