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A Game Changer



What do you get when you combine an electronic engineer and a schoolteacher? American Barn & Wood in Paso Robles. What was once a dream project rebuilding their barn turned into a game changer for John and Kira Olshefski.

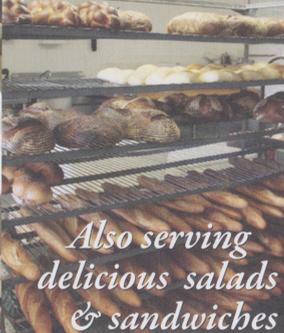
When John and Kira graduated from Cal Poly in 1986, never did they imagine that by 2012 they would start a new business as a result of a failed building project. After their barn dismantling contractor abandoned the job halfway through, they decided to sell off what they had to recover their losses. They had their *Ahah!* moment after they were inundated with phone calls for their wood. A business butterfly had emerged from its cocoon, ready to spread its wings.

John travels to the Midwest to scout barns on the verge of being destroyed with their new, trustworthy barn dismantler. They carefully dismantle the barns piece by piece and ship them back to California. Meanwhile, Kira stays and runs the storefront. Their customers buy everything from siding to beams, doors, windows and hardware. So what do you get when you combine an electronic engineer and a former schoolteacher? One happy, hardworking couple who loves what they do for a living. ☀

Images on right starting from top left clockwise: Ladder and barn doors from 19th century barns. Lamp built from a remnant piece of an 1860 hand hewn beam. Barn beams that stood the test of time await future projects. Kira and John organizing the stacks of mid 1800s barn wood.



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