

From Paper Napkin to a New Barn in Upperville



The tack room was designed for flow and built for connection between the spaces, the athletes, and the land.



Leah Palmer gets approval from Sprinkles, a young Irish jumper.



CO'R Equestrian's new home stands tall in Upperville a harmonious blend of tradition and modern design by Horse Country Design.

Leah Palmer has put her life-long love of horses to work as a designer, planner and project manager with her Horse Country Design business based in Marshall. A Virginia native, Palmer grew up foxhunting and showjumping before becoming an international catch rider. She has since gone on to study design and work on some impressive projects, so it's been what she calls "the perfect fit."

Her latest project is located in Upperville, an impressive new show jumper barn for CO'R Equestrian, the home and training ground of international show jumper Conor O'Regan. Set against the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, this project is not just a beautiful structure, it's the result of vision, passion, and meticulous planning.

"When Conor and his wife Julia set out to build a

new base in Upperville, they started with a beautiful valley of property half covered in trees," Leah said, adding that there was no infrastructure – no water, sewer, electric, or even a road.

"This was the kind of project you dream about as a designer," Palmer said. "Starting with a completely blank canvas and working with clients who had a clear vision and a real passion for their horses."

It all began with a sketch on a paper napkin inspired by a polo barn Palmer had designed years earlier with the same builder, Aisling Building and Restoration. It has evolved into a stunning 28-stall barn stretching over 180 feet long, with its pinnacle more than 50 feet in the air. It is now a practical and breathtaking barn.



Form meets function beneath soaring scissor trusses. Blonde wood, excellent lighting, and thoughtful details create a barn that's as practical as it is poetic.

Details: www.horsecountrydesign.com and also corequestrianva.com.