



ANGRY HANK'S TAP ROOM AND MICROBREWERY

MICROBREW HOBBY EVOLVES INTO FROTHY SUCCESS

BY ALLYN HULTENG

PHOTOS BY BOB ZELLAR
The new Angry Hank's Tap Room &
Microbrewery is located at 20 N. 30th St.

TIM MOHR'S FIRST FORAY INTO THE SCIENCE OF BEER BREWING BEGAN WHEN HE WAS ATTENDING MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY - BILLINGS. A BUSINESS STUDENT BY DAY, MOHR BEGAN BREWING BEER AT HOME IN THE EVENINGS AS A HOBBY.

"I WAS FASCINATED WITH THE ART OF CRAFTING DIFFERENT TYPES OF BEER," MOHR SAID.



Above: A view of the exterior of the building before renovation
 Below: New windows and an access door link the tap room to the new outdoor patio. Corrugated metal and heavy steel beams create an industrial-chic look.

After graduating with a degree in business, Mohr spent several years working for Food Services of America in Billings. One day, he happened onto a course catalog from the University of California at Davis, which offered a degree in Fermentation Science.

"I was still very interested in the art of brewing beer, and thought why not take my knowledge to the next level," he said.

Mohr checked into the program and discovered that all of his undergraduate credits would transfer. He decided to enroll and moved to California where he spent the next year taking classes to complete the program.

"When I learned that biochemistry, chemistry and physics all played into the science of crafting beer, my grades got much better," Mohr shared with a laugh.

But, he adds, when it comes to crafting microbrews he is all business.

MICRO BEGINNINGS

Originally, Mohr had not planned to return to Montana, but that changed when he

learned a new microbrewery had opened in Red Lodge.

"I called Sam at Red Lodge Ales and they offered me a part-time position, which I accepted," he recalled. As the business grew, Mohr transitioned to full-time employment.

For the next several years,

"When I learned that biochemistry, chemistry and physics all played into the science of crafting beer, my grades got much better,"

**- Tim Mohr,
 Owner**

Mohr lived in Billings and commuted to Red Lodge every day. Though he was putting his education to work and learning a great deal about the microbrew business, the drive, coupled with increasing gas prices, was wearing on him.

"I had a lot of windshield time," Mohr said. "That's

when I started thinking about opening my own tap room here in Billings."

By late 2004, Mohr became serious about idea and formulated a game plan.

Mohr chose a small, abandoned gas station on First Avenue North as his first location. "When my wife first saw the building she cried," he recalled.

Undaunted, Mohr renovated the space, started brewing beer and opened for business on Halloween night in 2006.

"We named it Angry Hank's." The name, he said, came about one night while Mohr and his brother were trying to decide on a name.

"Hank was an old family friend who always seemed grumpy when we were kids. The night we were trying to come up with a name, I was getting more and more frustrated when my brother said, 'Hey Angry Hank - why not just relax.' That was it - the name stuck."

BREW VENUE

Angry Hank's became an instant hit as night after night

ANGRY HANK'S
 microbrewery

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microbrew aficionados filled the small-sized tap room to capacity. With no slowdown in sight, it wasn't long before Mohr began to look for a different, larger location.

"I wanted a place with historic character when I discovered this old brick building for sale on North 30th Street."

Vacant, covered with pock-marked drywall, layers of paint and spray-foam insulation, the interior needed to be completely stripped back to the original brick and wood.

"This time when my wife saw the property she simply said, 'I'm going to trust you on this one,'" Mohr recalled.

Retaining as much of the historic nature of the building as possible

was a high priority for Mohr. "I wanted an industrial chic-look that would showcase the metal, wood and brick," he said.

Mohr hired Alex Tommerup, an architect with AT Architecture, to take the lead on designing the renovation and Hulteng, Inc., as the general contractor.

Reclaiming the historical charm while still meeting the City's new energy codes proved to be a challenging endeavor. Several times throughout the renovation the plans had to be modified to accommodate the codes, "but Alex really came through for us," Mohr said.

In addition, Kevin Destwolinski, project superintendent for Hulteng, Inc., was a key contributor.

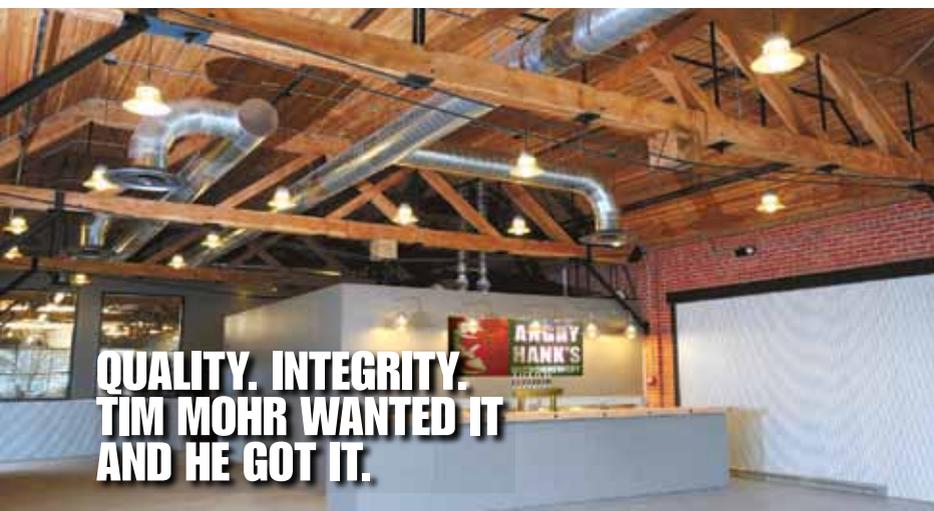
"Hulteng, Inc. did a fantastic job, and Kevin was on top of everything. He kept the project on track, on time and on budget," Mohr said.

In the end, Mohr was extremely pleased with the project.

"We achieved the look and feel that we had envisioned. My wife is absolutely thrilled, and the response from customers has been fantastic."



Before: The interior space was covered with pock marked drywall, layers of paint and spray-foam insulation.
After: The Taproom was stripped back to reveal heavy wooden trusses, original brick and wood. New metal accents were added throughout.



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AND HE GOT IT.**

**Angry Hank's Tap Room and Microbrewery
General Contractor: Hulteng, Inc**

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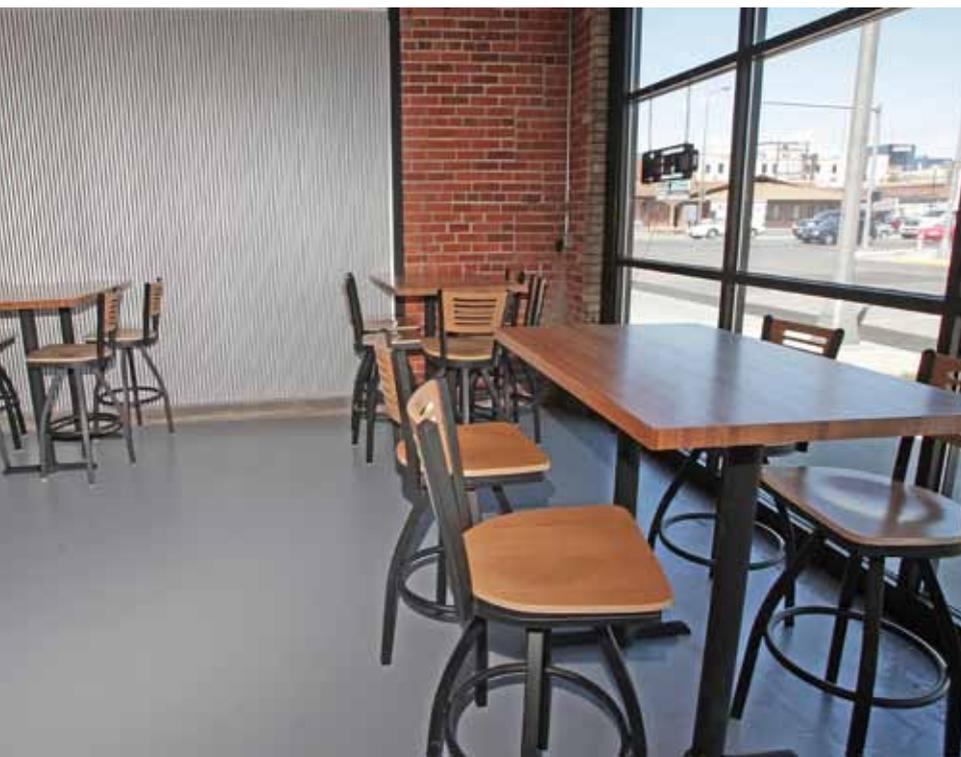


**Angry Hank's Tap Room and
Microbrewery**
20 North 30th St.

Hours:
Monday – Saturday
4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Angry Hank's features five regular
microbrews and three seasonal beers
that rotate every few weeks.

Natural light floods Angry Hank's interior
through the newly installed wall of windows.



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