

RENOVATION: Improved flow and top-quality equipment are focus

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Durhams plunged into some serious field research.

"We went to Seattle and toured... coffee places up and down the west coast," Leigh-Anne said. "We saw all the new technology. We got excited."

Jared Durham took the lead on identifying the best equipment for the job. Sisters Coffee Co. is installing an in-couther, a Modbar pour-over system, the first of its kind in the region.

"It allows you to program a recipe," Jared explained. "You can come in and order any number of our single-origins and have a specific recipe."

That ensures quality and consistency.

They are also installing a state-of-the-art La Marzocco Linea PB espresso station — again programmable, and exceptionally precise.

"The espresso the customer is getting is going to be immaculate," Jesse Durham said.

Leigh-Anne noted that producing the perfect cup is important to the Durhams — not only to please the customer, but also out of respect for the growers with whom they have developed significant relationships.

"All the technology is pointing to honoring the farmers that grow the coffee," Leigh-Anne said.

One such relationship is with the all-women's Nyampinga Co-op in southern Rwanda.

"We're incorporating their coffee in our espresso blend," Jesse noted.

Sisters Coffee Co. is also enhancing their food offerings, creating seasonal menus featuring locally grown products, such as potatoes grown by Rainshadow Organics.

"We're trying to partner with our local vendors," Jesse said.

Local contractors and trades-people are doing the remodel work.

"Chuck Newport, along with project manager Charlie Patterson, woodworker Jim Newport and their entire team were the best contractor we could have ever asked for," Justin said. "They made our

dreams a reality."

Justin tapped someone with whom he's been buddies since the third grade for architecture services.

"We worked with Jeff and Jenny Guggenheim of Guggenheim Studio," he said. "They also designed our Pearl District café (in Portland) and are long-time family friends."

The family-and-community-based nature of the renovation reflects the core values of an organization that started about as tiny and local as you can get and grew into an international business that now employs some 70 people in Sisters and Portland.

No matter how big they get, however, the Durhams remain committed to being a family business deeply rooted in the community they serve.

"It's for the community,"



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters Coffee Co. — humble beginnings.

Justin said. "We're here for the people of Sisters."

The newly renovated version of Sisters Coffee Co.

expects to host a grand opening soon. Sisters Coffee Co.

is located at 273 W. Hood Ave.

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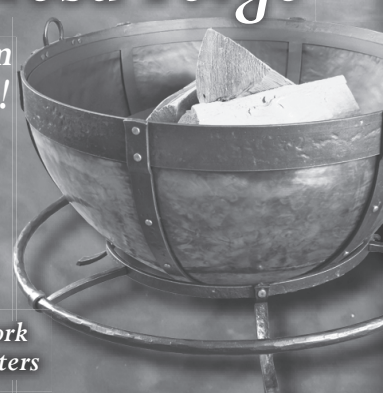
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