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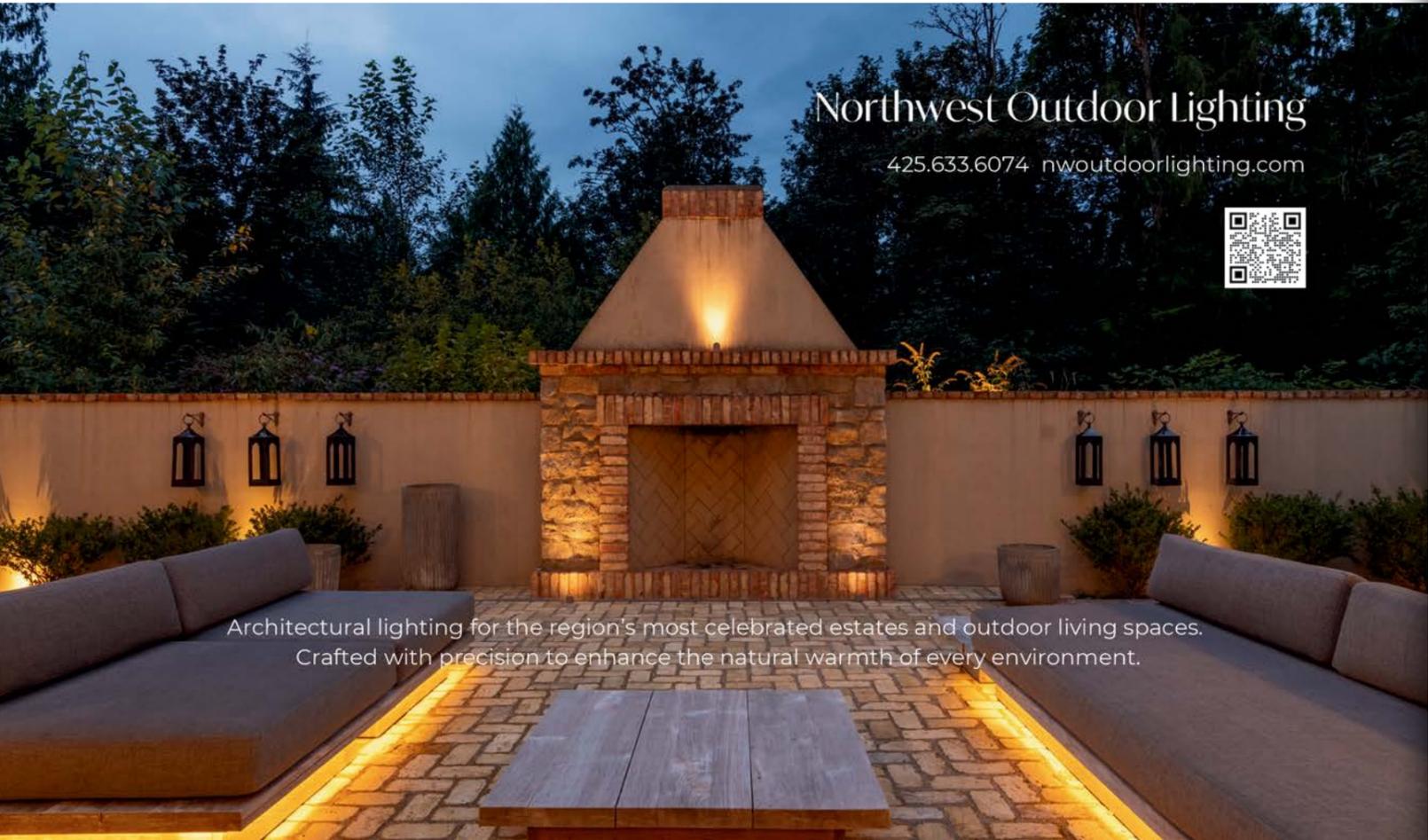
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### HELLO CAPE COD

The team of Marianne Simon Design, SHD Landscape Architecture, Ripple Design Studio, and Bender Wasenmiller Custom Builders collaborate on a backyard oasis, a project years in the making.

*Cover photo by Miranda Estes*

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# Travel + Lifestyle

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Celebrate the arrival of spring in the Pacific Northwest with sweetly colored blooms and botanicals sourced from local flower farms by floral designer Kailla Platt. Her painterly arrangements are both timeless and fleeting.

Parrot Tulips + Berberis  
Hellebores + Azalea

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Lemon Curd French Toast with fresh berries, mascarpone whipped cream, and Challah bread.

Smoky Oat Milk Maple Drinking Chocolate topped with chocolate sauce and marshmallows.

Grove Clementine Mimosa (non-alcoholic) with fresh fruit juice, citrus passion syrup and sparkling white tea.

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OUR GARDENS ARE BECKONING—it must be spring! Everywhere we look, it's a Monet painting coming to life with hyacinth, crocus, daffodils and tulips reminding us of the incredible seasons in the Pacific Northwest. A subtle clue is the adorable chickadees starting to stuff bird houses for the perfect nest, and mason bees buzzing quietly, doing their magic to ensure yet another spectacular flower show. Our Eye On Design pages offer plenty of inspiration to create a perfect garden retreat, with outdoor kitchens, fireside respites, water features, and stone walls to give you pause. We also share the latest trends for patio furniture, outdoor fabrics and colorful plants to complete the look.

Our first stop is a Mercer Island home. Smitten with designer Katie LeClerq's own Seattle residence, the family engaged her to create a unique waterside abode. After Mercer Builders LLC razed the original home perched high above the water's edge, LeClerq juxtaposed the new home's ultra-modern façade with a mix of modern and traditional interiors. Windows bring in light while capturing Mt. Rainier's magnificent might.

What began for designer Brianna Farland, Studio AM Architecture and Interiors, and builder Steve Bender as a remodel of a modern Medina home soon morphed into something greater when a neighboring home came up for sale. An ultra-modern exterior clusters around an inviting shared courtyard overlooking various outdoor spaces large and small. Using colors chosen from nature, the home pays homage to outdoor elements with an emblematic limestone fireplace and stairwell. The designer's mix of vintage and modern furnishings creates a well-curated home.

Schultz Miller joined with LeeAnn Baker Interiors to update a 30-year-old home. A new arched entrance invites guests through beveled glass doors into a foyer with a curved staircase. The updated kitchen awash in a soft green palette has plenty of workspace, while an adjacent pantry displays glassware collections. Upstairs the primary suite heralds a new vanity, shower and soaking tub with walk-in closet.

Enjoy the magnificent new outdoor space that reiterates the same East Coast vibe designer Marianne Simon first introduced to its interiors a decade ago. To create the gorgeous pool, cabana and multiple seating areas embraced by layered landscaping, Simon worked SHD Landscape Architecture, Ripple Design Studio and Bender Wasenmiller Custom Builders. East Coast flagstone materials flank the pool, while the cabana's shingled siding reiterates the main home's exterior. You'll find the family enjoying it year-round!

If building, remodeling, or refreshing interiors is a priority, check out our website for the portfolios of many of our favorite Pacific Northwest architects, designers, contractors, and local showrooms.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us, including the talented staff, writers, and photographers, who have helped distinguish Portrait Magazine for over 30 years.



Claudia M. Brown  
Publisher  
claudia@portraitmagazine.com

# EYE ON DESIGN

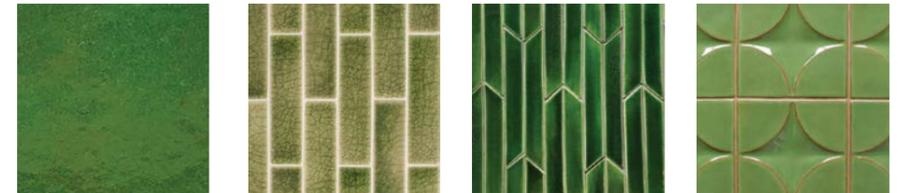
## EDITOR'S PICKS



**BEAUTIFUL SETTINGS** The iconic Wave Chaise Lounge collection by Azzurro Living includes the Club Chair, meticulously crafted with expert welding, weaving, and finishing for durability and performance. The Palma 96" Dining Table is the definition of coastal modern and designed to withstand the harshest elements. Available through J Garner Home. [jgarnerhome.com](http://jgarnerhome.com)



**INVITING PATHS** Seattle-based landscape architect Scot Eckley used Corten steel risers to frame grass steps and create landings that terrace down a wooded Mercer Island slope. Dry-stacked Cascade granite walls flank the descent and anchor the path. [scoteckley.com](http://scoteckley.com)



**AWAKENING** Cupboard & Clay's Tacoma showroom offers tiles to brighten your space. Indulge with (left to right) 1. Oasis Zellige in Grass, 2. Euphoria in Creekside Crackle, 3. Notch Mosaic in Bottle Green, 4. Quasar in Apple Green. Handmade tile can instantly transform and enliven home decor. [cupboardandclay.com](http://cupboardandclay.com)



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4

**1. CUSTOMIZABLE FIXTURES**  
The Genesis Pendant light fixture, with a gem-like translucent green glass shade and antique silver hardware can be configured with one, five, or nine pendants. [madegoods.com](http://madegoods.com)

**2. SPRING BLOOMS**  
Enjoy your favorite beverage from this handblown Dior Lily of the Valley transparent glass carafe. The design includes a sprig of green lily of the valley with white flowers and lush delicate green leaves. [dior.com](http://dior.com)

**3. BYGONE ERA**  
Willy Breitling designed a luxury watch to capture the verve of the 1960s and its classic-car Mustang counterpart, the Top Time B01 Ford Mustang timepiece. [breitling.com](http://breitling.com)

**4. TOUCH OF SOPHISTICATION**  
Shagreen Desk by Sarreid Ltd. is made from sumptuous leather and wood. This masterpiece in "Watercress Green" finish whispers tales of love in its contemporary design. [jgarnerhome.com](http://jgarnerhome.com)

**PATIENCE PAYS OFF** There's a certain leap of faith in planting something that won't come out of the ground for months, but the first flowers of spring make it all worth it. Known for their bright colors, spring bulbs are the perfect complement to landscaping projects. Most bulbs double each year and provide cheerful pops of color throughout your garden. These flowering beauties can be planted in beds, borders, containers, or naturalized in woodland or native areas. Cambium Landscape Architect and Principal, Tim Moshier, offers some suggestions for gorgeous flowering bulbs for your garden. [cambiumlandscape.com](http://cambiumlandscape.com)



Bearded Iris



Camas Lily



Dutch Crocus



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Allium-Gladiator



Fritillaria



Glory of the Snow



Snowdrops



Daffodil

www.pexels.com



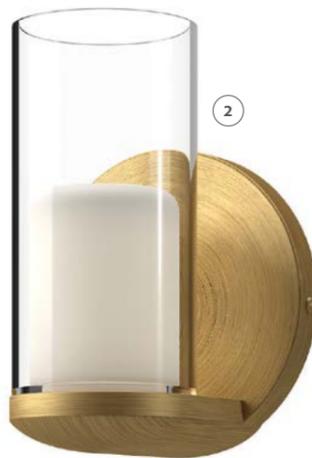
**TIME FOR REFLECTION** Water flows down tiers of spun copper bowls and disappears in a cistern under pebbles where it recirculates back to the start of the sequence. The design by Cambium even includes a waterproof uplight to provide ambiance at night. [cambiumlandscape.com](http://cambiumlandscape.com)



**NATURE INSPIRED** This custom tile design includes shore birds investigating beach offerings. The tile mosaic was created with natural stone colors including Blue Celeste, Calacatta, Carrara, French Vanilla, Roman Blue, Siberian White, and Statuary Mist tile. This handmade tile is available at Cupboard and Clay's Tacoma showroom. [cupboardandclay.com](http://cupboardandclay.com)



**1. LUXURIOUS COMFORT**  
Experience relaxation with the Made Goods Liliana Daybed, perfect for solo lounging or sharing with others. Designed with a winged headboard crafted from natural water hyacinth and aluminum. [madegoods.com](http://madegoods.com)



**2. SOFT LIGHTING**  
If warm candlelight is what you're after, look no further than the Birch Collection by Kuzco Lighting. A distinguished look of lit candles for a clean, romantic feel that plays well in various spaces. [kuzcolighting.com](http://kuzcolighting.com)

**3. FABULOUS FOOTWEAR**  
A bold leopard print brings a flourish to an Italian-made bootie shaped from supple suede. The foam footbed with built-in arch support delivers optimal comfort. Available at Zelda's Shoe Bar in Portland. [@zeldaspdx](https://www.instagram.com/zeldaspdx)

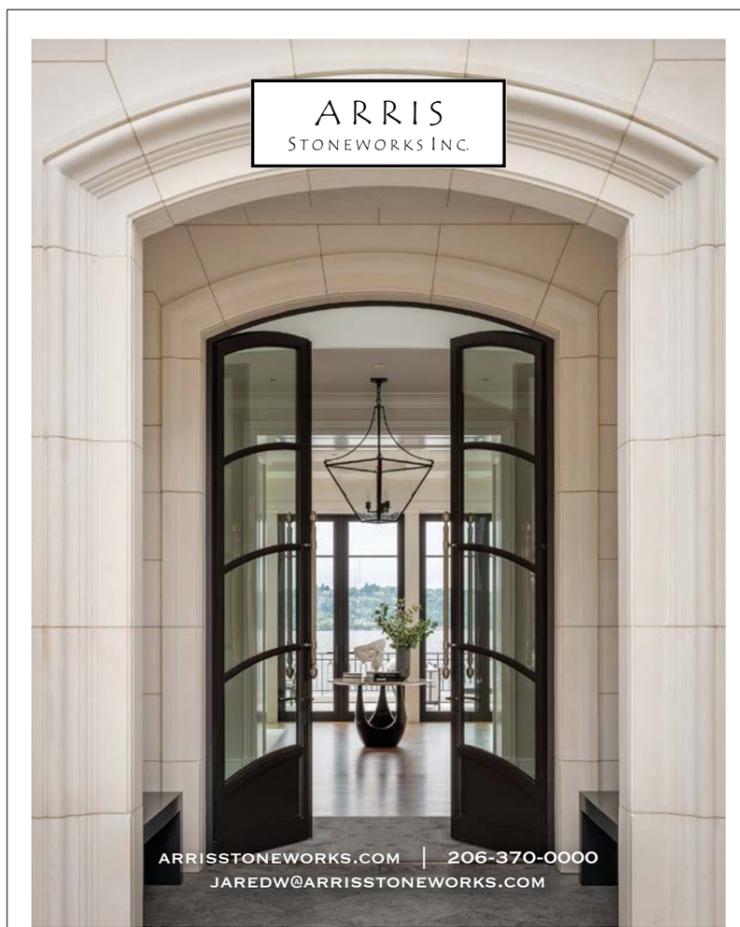
**4. NATURAL MATERIALS**  
This chair is ideal as a standalone statement piece or paired in a reading nook or lounge setting. Cane-line's Curve Lounge Chair balances aesthetics and comfort and is made from natural rattan. [outdoor.terrisdraheim.com](http://outdoor.terrisdraheim.com)



MILLER PAINT  
Crazy Horse  
0256



**MAGICAL SPOT** The Dedon Swingrest Hanging Lounger in natural finish by Daniel Pouzet is in a class all its own. With an inviting matte fiber and a basket-like bottom, it creates the ideal space for outdoor relaxation. Available through Terris Draheim Outdoor. [outdoor.terrisdraheim.com](http://outdoor.terrisdraheim.com)



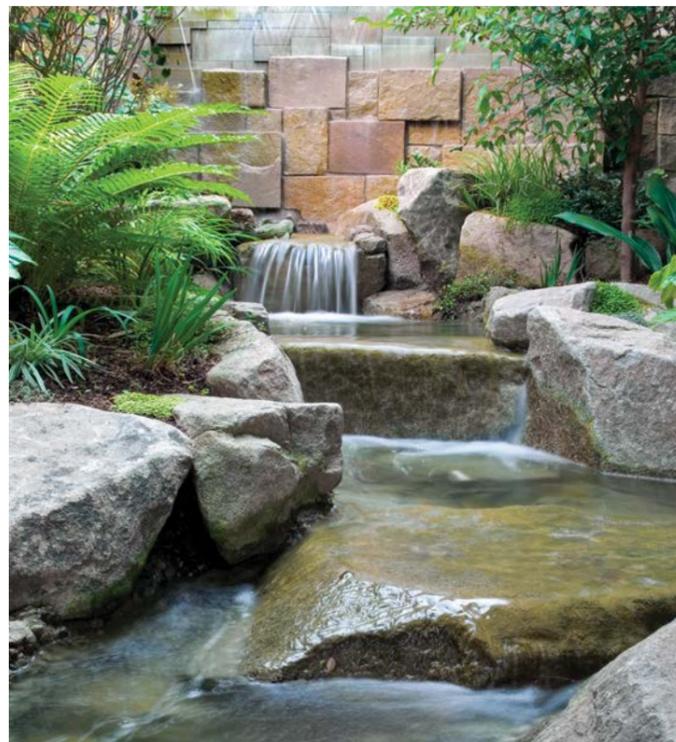
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**STYLISH DESIGN** Tile flooring with intricate layouts provide a timeless and durable surface. The design "Set 63 with Adley" combines Waterjet Mosaic in Lagos Azul, Cippolino, and Gasgone Blue Natural Stones. Available at Cupboard & Clay. [cupboardandclay.com](http://cupboardandclay.com)



**FUNCTIONAL ART** The Santorini Freestanding Copper Soaking Bathtub takes thousands of hammer strikes to perfect. Crafted and forged of high-quality recycled copper, this tub tells the story of generations of Mexican artisanship. [nativetrailshome.com](http://nativetrailshome.com)



**BOLD TRANQUILITY** This intimate design allows water to fall as smooth as a sheet of glass before sliding down Wilkeson Sandstone masonry, then finally gathers in a pool of High Cascade Granite at the base. Created by Seattle's SHD Landscape Architecture. [shd-la.com](http://shd-la.com)



**MODERN FLAMES** American Fyre Designs Fire Bowls offer a clean design and a variety of uses. Customizable with decorative and burning media options, they are easy to incorporate into any outdoor space. Available locally at Sutter Home & Hearth. [sutterhearth.com](http://sutterhearth.com)



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MILLER PAINT  
Northwest Collection  
Whiskey Barrel  
R034



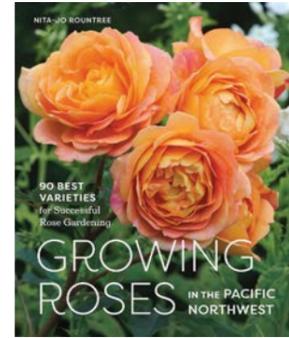
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**1. STURDY SLOPES**  
Featured here in the Cambridge Blend, the Murata is a modular retaining block with a tight, crisp surface finish, strong straight lines and dramatic color blending. Western Interlock provides the complete system. [westerninterlock.com](http://westerninterlock.com)

**2. ALFRESCO SEATING**  
A favorite of Seattle ID by Gwen designer Gwen Dumont, is the Lee Industries Maya Outdoor Chair and A Half. It swivels, comes with two throw pillows, and is shown here in a lively "Giraffe Stone" pattern. [idbygwen.com](http://idbygwen.com)

**3. ORGANIC LUXURY**  
The outdoor Dedon Mini Nestrest was inspired by the shapes, textures and colors of nature and by the complex nesting structures of the African weaverbirds. Available in two sizes. [outdoor.terrisdraheim.com](http://outdoor.terrisdraheim.com)

**IN BLOOM** This Loloi Botanical Collection collaboration with Rifle Paper Co goes all-in on large scale flowers with a vintage fabric style. The power-loomed rug is made of mixed materials for indoor and outdoor use, where all that is needed is a rinse with a hose to clean. Available through J Garner Home. [jgarnerhome.com](http://jgarnerhome.com)



**Growing Roses in the Pacific Northwest**

Many gardeners dream of filling their garden with lush, healthy roses—but this can be tricky, especially under the area's moody skies. Luckily, this book will help you build your garden sanctuary without the use of dangerous pesticides or chemicals. The guide will take you step-by-step and you'll soon have a show-stopping rose garden that can only be found in the Pacific Northwest.

WRITTEN BY NITA-JO ROUNTREE

**BENJAMIN MOORE**  
Hot Lips  
2077-30



**1. SLIM SILHOUETTE**  
This cheerful mid-calf boot in a painterly color from Portland-based Zelda's Shoe Bar features an elegant, minimalist design and pairs perfectly with any outfit. An essential investment for your footwear collection. [@zeldaspdx](https://www.zeldaspdx.com)



**2. LUXURY IN YELLOW**  
Louis Vuitton's Speedy P9 Bandoulière bag in "Jaune Mat" features zipper pocket, and vachetta rolled leather top handles, interior, trim, and shoulder strap with brass hardware. [us.louisvuitton.com](http://us.louisvuitton.com)



**3. JAUNTY SEATING**  
The Bristol Armchair from Cloth & Company is upholstered in Rifle Paper Co.'s "Garden Party" pattern. The classic design is perfect for curling up with a good book. An exclusive made-to-order piece. [riflepaperco.com](http://riflepaperco.com)



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**1. GO WITH THE FLOW**  
Designed for those who shape their surroundings with intention, the Sedona Planter Water Bowl by The Outdoor Plus blends the serenity of flowing water with the structural elegance of a planter. [theoutdoorplus.com](http://theoutdoorplus.com)

**2. PIZZA PIZZAZZ**  
Alfa Forni pizza ovens combine beauty, craftsmanship, and passion to transform your outdoor kitchen. Available in custom colors, create gourmet dishes and high-level pizzas like a pizzeria. [sutterhearth.com](http://sutterhearth.com)

**3. FLATTOP GRIDDLE**  
This unique circular cooking surface provides a social cooking experience, allowing everyone to participate. The Evo Affinity 30G is not just a grill; it's a game-changer in outdoor cooking. [evoamerica.com](http://evoamerica.com)

**4. STYLE TO SAVOR**  
Accommodate guests with style and a distinctive focal point with the Loll Good Company Bar Table. Make a statement whether you're enjoying a cup of coffee or hosting an impromptu happy hour. [outdoor.terrisdraheim.com](http://outdoor.terrisdraheim.com)



ARCHITECTURE: BAAN DESIGN | PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREW POGUE

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4



**1. COMFY UNDERFOOT**

The Beat Tamoure E design rug by Paulig is a carpet that combines textures made from two different thick yarns woven alternately. Perfect for adding color accents to rooms without being obtrusive. [paulig1750.com](http://paulig1750.com)

**2. COASTAL INSPIRATION**

Handcrafted by weavers whose skills stem from Filipino fish-net-tying traditions and made with ethical manufacturing standards, the Ay Illuminate Rattan Bulb Pendant stands out with linear reeds of meticulously woven bamboo. [at-five.com](http://at-five.com)

**3. HARD + SOFT**

Inspired by the sculptural works of Salvador Dalí and Diego Giacometti, the Thaddeus Fabric Swivel Bar & Counter Stool from RH merges the rustic sensibility of hand-forging with the eloquence of tailored upholstery. [rh.com](http://rh.com)

**4. MULTI-TASKER**

Grevstad's Tabouret Storage Bench is the perfect dressing room bench to pair with a king, queen or twin-size bed. Just inside the hinged upholstered seat, ample storage with easy access. [grevstad.com](http://grevstad.com)

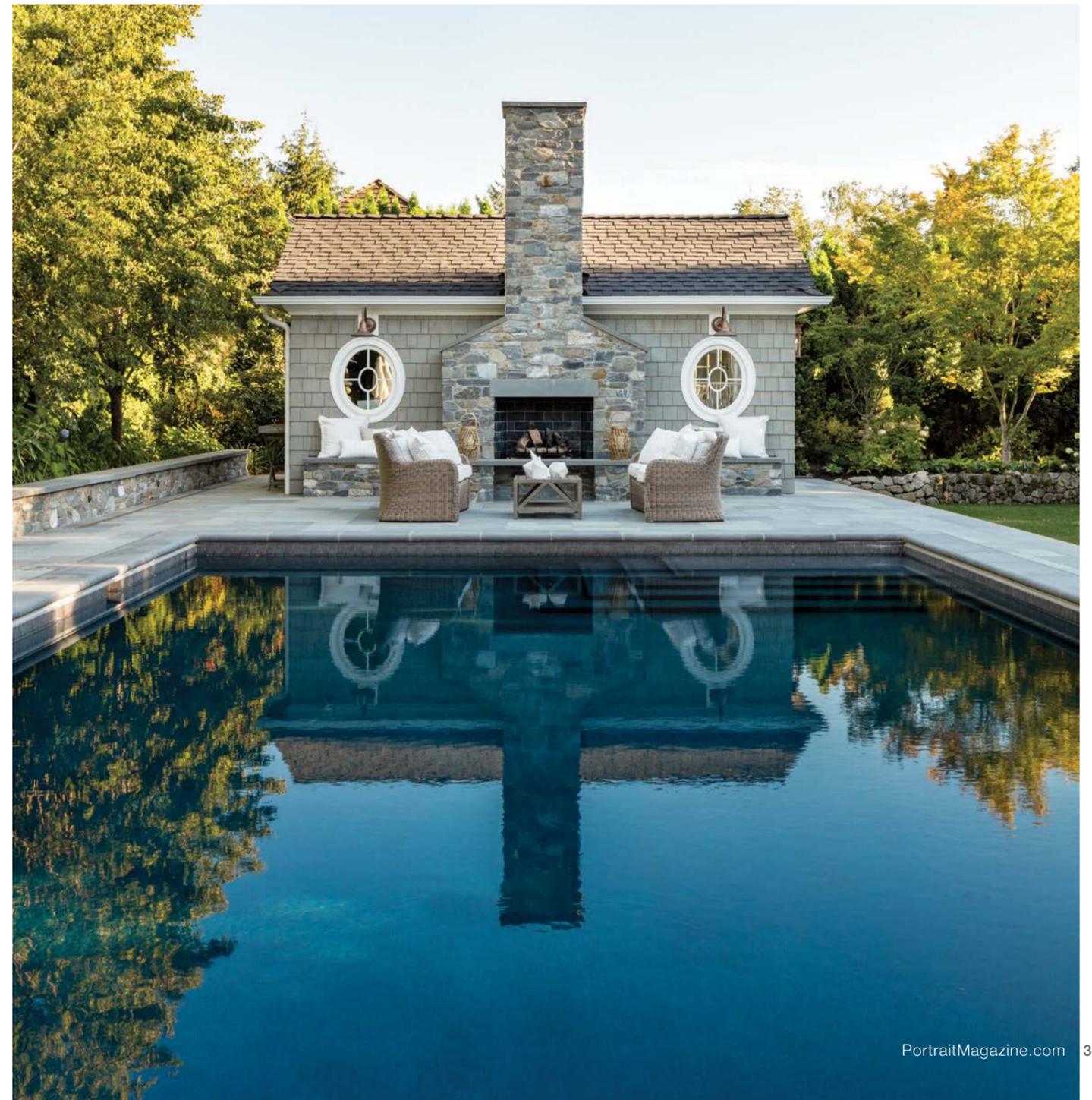


The chic outdoor space has room for lounging and conversation with a series of Kingsley Bate lounges, umbrellas, and ceramic side tables. The pool house, whose shingled siding is color-matched to the main house, has nautical-themed Marvin windows sourced from Cherry Creek Windows & Doors.

# HELLO CAPE COD

SHD Landscape Architecture adds crisp landscaping to a Medina backyard with added functionality and space by Ripple Design Studio, Marianne Simon Design and Bender Wasenmiller Custom Builders.

WRITTEN BY LAUREN JONES PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIRANDA ESTES





The cohesion throughout this backyard retreat is rooted in a thoughtful interplay of materials and layered plantings. Pennsylvania Bluestone pavers are paired with towering Arborvitae, Hydrangea 'Incrediball,' and accents of Calibrachoa and Juniperus virginiana 'Taylor' arranged in sculptural containers.

WITH AN EAST COAST VIBE, this newly revamped outdoor space matches the homeowners' home remodel. "My goal was to design an outdoor space that translated just as well with what was inside," notes the designer.

That sensibility is apparent in the expansive terraced backyard of this Medina, Washington, home, where a pool, cabana, multiple seating areas, and layered landscaping unfold as if they were there all along.

Designer Marianne Simon was first hired by the homeowners more than a decade ago to design their main residence, an approximately 8,000-square-foot home that nods to the light-colored, shingle-clad Cape Cod style and the elevated beachside aesthetic of the Hamptons. "I'm very traditionalist at heart," Simon says. "I stick to the classics."

When the family was ready to complete their backyard, a large lot they had initially envisioned for a pool and adjoining cabana, Simon

already understood their taste and priorities. She was joined by the home's architect, Jim Dearth of Ripple Design Studio, and Steve Bender of Bender Wasenmiller Custom Builders, who acted as the project manager back in 2010, to create a year-round, multiuse space.

"It was a concept we had from the very beginning," says the homeowner. The project, which also included an addition to their second-story primary closet, was a chance to "bring the whole team back together again." Plus, now that their children are older, they could all enjoy the outdoor area.

When it came to crafting the yard, it was about reimagining it to feel like a private, inward space. The yard subtly slopes and requires a careful approach with graduated steps that begin flush and descend into the landscape, encouraging circulation and exploration. Material continuity was also essential, further instilling the new build's connection to the main house. There is Pennsylvania bluestone, ocean pearl flagstone, and stone caps that reference East Coast fieldstone

walls and historic paving. "It's been used on sidewalks on the East Coast as paving for hundreds of years," says landscape architect Scott Holsapple. "It's durable and doesn't tend to stain."

Holsapple added to that Atlantic throughline with white hydrangeas, roses, wild geraniums, and Taylor juniper. "It has a blue tinge to the foliage, is not prone to disease, and doesn't grow as wide," Holsapple explains of the juniper. It also allows for privacy without sacrificing lawn space, as their nearest neighbor is just over the hedge line. When he was first hired, some of the client's trees weren't in the best shape, so a revamp was in order.

Past the pool is the 600-square-foot cabana, a structure that houses pool equipment, storage, and a compact pool bathroom. "We wanted the cabana to reflect the architecture of the main house in both material and detail, not for overall compatibility but to extend the feeling of the built environment around three sides of the pool terrace. This opens to the landscape and the afternoon sun," says

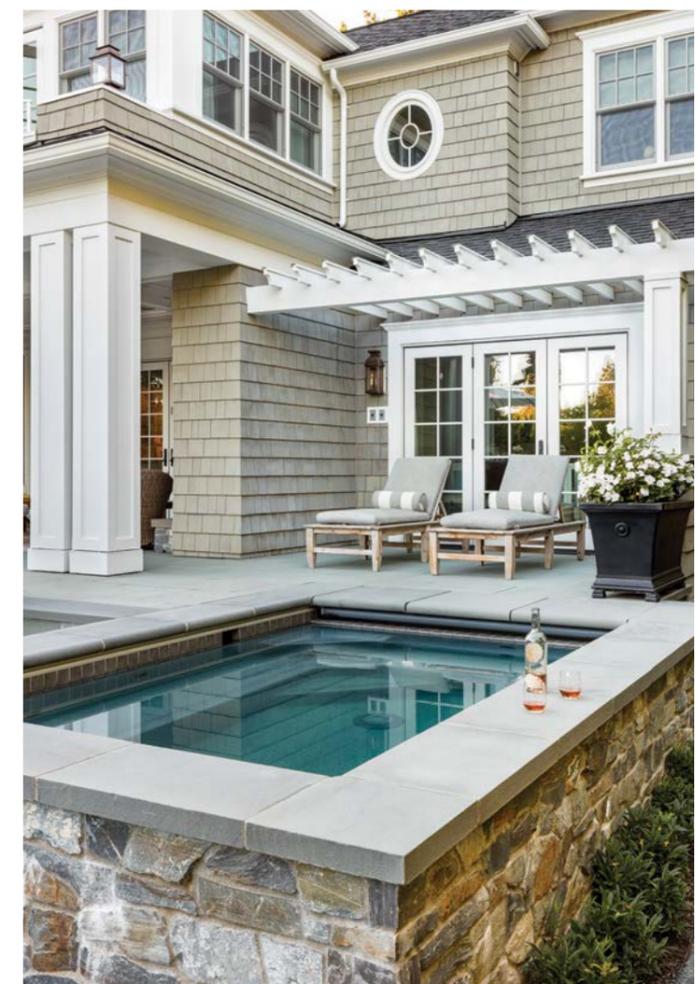
architect Jim Dearth. Inside, the designer chose light-colored wood, marble, and geometric tile for elegant simplicity, creating an area that is perfectly sized for its use and achieves the Cape Cod look to a T. "I just want it to feel like someone could walk in, say, 10 to 15 years from now feeling like it looks just as fresh," she says.

Construction began several years ago but was delayed by pandemic shutdowns and significant site challenges. The project required building an access road around the site to bring in construction equipment. Utilities had to be relocated, storm drainage reworked, and finished portions of the home carefully protected while work continued behind it. While working on the main house and backyard at the same time wasn't necessarily the ideal plan, both have come together in a way that's made all involved thrilled.

"This whole thing took over a year, maybe even longer," Bender says. Still, he emphasizes that strong collaboration made the complexity manageable. "The relationship with the team is critical from



Another seating area offers a warm, inviting retreat centered around an outdoor fireplace. A pair of Kingsley Bate sofas, accented with custom pillows and paired with a slatted coffee table, create a comfortable yet polished setting for relaxed gatherings and effortless entertaining.



Tucked behind the house, the integrated hot tub is a family favorite. Finished in durable Pennsylvania Bluestone for the seating surround and complemented by Ocean Pearl stone siding, the materials create a seamless continuity with other areas of the backyard.



The simple yet sleek pool house bathroom combines wooden cabinetry with marble countertops for timeless, durable appeal, something the designer always infuses into her work.



Two is better than one when it comes to tile. In the pool house shower, Simon chose a small-scale tile from Daltile and a gray-and-white geometric tile from Floor & Decor for the floors.

a communications standpoint.” The client agrees, noting that your renovation team becomes “part of your family,” a presence that makes inevitable delays easier to navigate.

By its completion, the family was finally ready to utilize their yard. “We had a pool party, and all got in even though it was 38 degrees outside,” he says.

Today, the backyard is in constant use, from wreath-making parties to sitting outdoors amid heaters and fireplace. Even in the chillier months, there are always people in the pool. With three children and a steady rotation of friends, the space has become a social anchor. “Our house is the house everyone congregates to,” the client adds. “That’s what you want as a parent.”

The home and its pool house are an homage to East Coast style, West Coast ease, and how a team of talented artisans and tradespeople can make even a lengthy renovation well worth it. ■

#### PROJECT SOURCES

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT  
SHD Landscape Architecture  
shd-la.com

ARCHITECT  
Ripple Design Studio  
rippledesignstudio.com

INTERIOR DESIGN  
Marianne Simon Design  
mariannesimondesign.com

CONTRACTOR  
Bender Wasenmiller Custom  
Builders  
benderwasenmiller.com

WINDOWS & DOORS  
Cherry Creek Windows & Doors  
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ARCHITECTS



# ON THE WATERFRONT

For this home on Mercer Island, Studio LeClerc and Mercer Builders combine traditional and modern details to craft a timeless family abode.



With twelve-foot-high ceilings throughout the main floor, furnishings were selected to complement the scale of the space, as well as provide ample seating for the owners, who like to entertain. A John Derian Company Inc. sofa in Holland & Sherry plaid sits with a velvet sofa from Jayson Home.

WRITTEN BY MELISSA DALTON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON LEITZ

NEW BUILDS HAVE A NOTORIOUS REPUTATION for feeling lifeless and bland, or in other words, just a little too new. Not so, in the hands of designer Katie LeClerc, who excels in the just-right mix of finishes and furnishings to create a home that feels lived-in and well-loved. When these homeowners toured LeClerc's personal Seattle home, which she had designed and built in 2015, they discovered this first hand. "They simply said, 'This is what we want,'" remembers LeClerc of that first meeting. "Basically, please design us a 'Katie home.'"

Having spent years in Seattle, the couple had plans to return to Mercer Island, where one of them had grown up and still has family. When a rare waterside plot with incredible views of Mount Rainier became available in 2018, they jumped at the opportunity to purchase it. After finding LeClerc on Instagram and touring her house, they asked the designer to craft them a new home that could

accommodate everyday life with their three children. "From the very beginning, I had their trust, which is the most important component to designing a client's custom home," says LeClerc. "This made the design process very enjoyable and exciting."

To start, there was a small rundown house on the property, but it was at the top of a steep slope, its location far removed from the shore. The owners not only needed more square-footage, but wanted to take better advantage of the setting. "We wanted to maximize the views of the mountain and the lake, and optimize the indoor-outdoor living as much as possible," says the owner. That necessitated prepping the site to relocate the house, digging out the slope some twenty feet down and shoring up the hillside with steel infrastructure.

For this, LeClerc was joined by Thom Schultz and the team at Mercer Builders LLC, a boutique custom builder on the island. "As the client and I were interviewing builders for the job, Thom Schultz



In a corner of the kitchen, the custom-designed Calacutta marble table, cabinetry fabricated by Interior Environments, and the leather banquette was constructed by HM Duke Design.

“The materials are showing the clients’ preference for warmth and authenticity. At the same time, the playful pairing of modern and traditional lines reveal the clients’ desire to have fun and not take themselves too seriously.”

—Katie LeClercq, Studio LeClercq



The island is painted in “Rooftop Garden” by Benjamin Moore, and topped with a honed soapstone counter. At the sink, there’s a fixture from Waterworks via Chown Hardware, while the pendant lights overhead are from deVOL. Appliances include a Sub-Zero refrigerator, Miele dishwasher and a GE range.

of Mercer Builders became the obvious front runner,” says LeClercq. “His understanding and experience of working with the sloped terrain along the waterfront was extremely comforting. We felt like we were in the best of hands from the start...at some point, our team started calling him ‘the legend,’ and that pretty much says it all.”

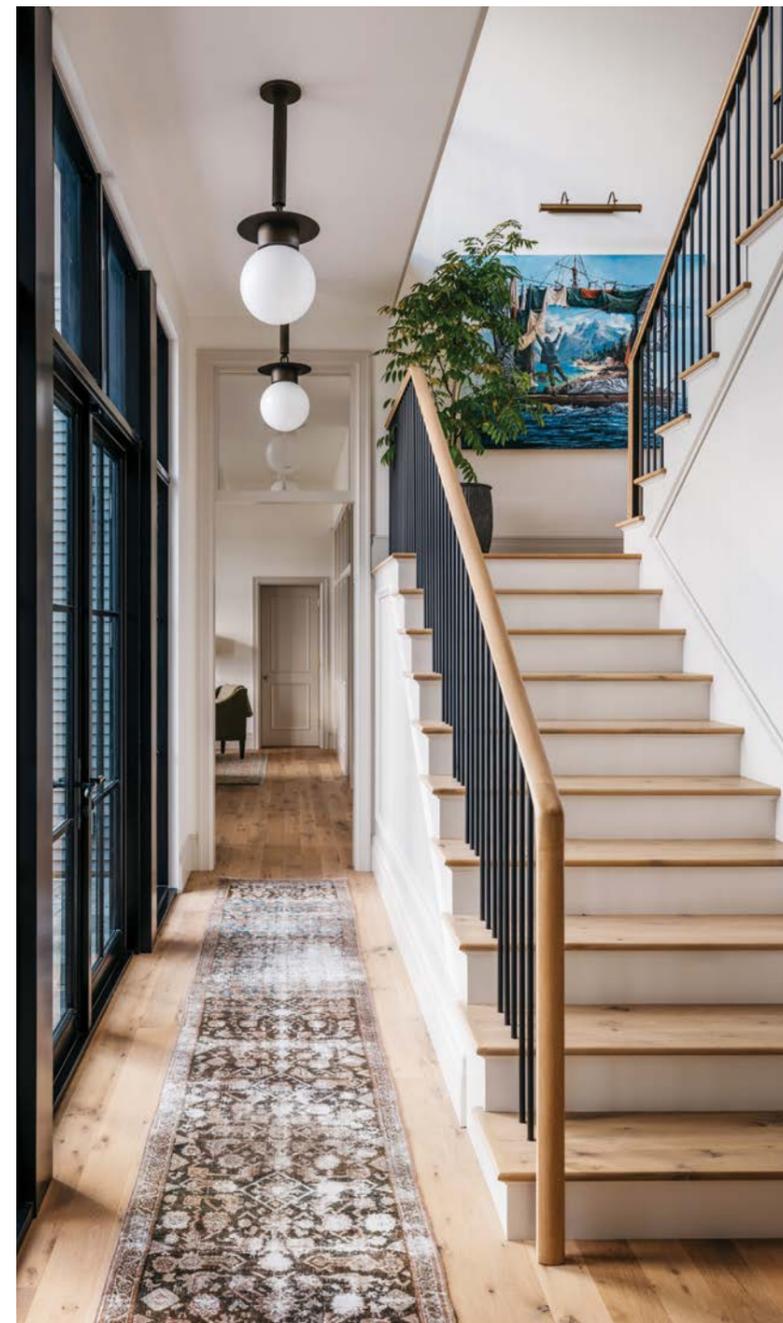
Despite having limited access to the site and working through the winter months, the contractor was able to proceed smoothly. “We had to export 300 trucks of dirt out, and install steel shoring beams, which take special drill rigs, and the space was obviously very limited,” says project manager Arwa Hijazi. “In terms of complexity and logistics, it was a very challenging project.” Still, the Mercer Builders team managed to finish construction in just eighteen months, six months shy of their original time estimate, and recoup a chunk of the budget for the client, thanks to their connections with local suppliers.



The dining table from Shoppe Amber Interiors is surrounded by vintage reproductions of Mies van der Rohe chairs from Chairish.

“We wanted to maximize the views of the mountain and the lake, and optimize the indoor-outdoor living as much as possible.”

—The Homeowner



Throughout the house, there is white oak plank flooring from Montello Design (formerly Eurocraft Hardwood Floors). At the stair landing, the painting by Ethan Murrow was sourced through Winston Wächter Fine Art.

With the home now optimally located, LeClercq had two main goals, starting with capturing the views. “We wanted to situate the home to allow for the natural surroundings to shine, including the prominent view of Mount Rainier,” says LeClercq, who worked with architect Michael Picard on the complex set of permit-ready documents. To that end, she ensured each room had a window for both natural light and scenic views.

Additionally, LeClercq took a “strategic” approach with the floorplan, arranging to have the entry at the top level, complete with a mudroom and connected garage, along with the primary suite, and three bedrooms with two connecting bathrooms. This made it so the rest of the living spaces are allotted at ground level, and the two floors connected with a light-flooded central staircase.

The exterior of the home balances the clients’ love of juxtaposing modern and traditional aesthetics, a theme that emerged throughout the project. For it, two traditional gabled forms with clipped eaves are connected by a modernized, flat-roofed section in the middle. That combination also satisfied LeClercq’s aims: “Combining the three staggered forms of the home allowed for more surface area in which to place more windows,” she says.

On the interior, the modern meets traditional aesthetic was woven through with intention and keen attention to detail, starting with a palette of “authentic materials,” says LeClercq. This included things like honed marble and soapstone slabs, which will etch and patina over time, white oak flooring, and a combination of unlacquered metal finishes. In the living room, a marble fireplace surround and antique mirror sit comfortably with oversized, black-framed windows and doors without any fussy trim work. In the kitchen, custom-designed inset cabinets meet a chic leather banquette and sculptural marble table, while the dining room reveals a table with traditional turned legs and vintage reproductions of Mies van der Rohe chairs.

“The distinct paring of the dining table and chairs is a great way to illustrate a client’s point of view,” says



ABOVE LeClercq designed the primary bedroom to feel serene and timeless, blending gentle textures with understated hues. Intended as a retreat to unwind and recharge after a hectic day, a rug from Driscoll Robbins Fine Carpets is paired with a fainting couch from Elsie Green. Views of the water are appreciated in every room. RIGHT The primary bathroom has a New Ravenna stone floor by Ann Sacks, and subway tiles from Pratt & Larson in the walk-in shower.



In the nursery, the daybed and striped quilt are both from Anthropologie Home. "A daybed provides an ideal spot for mom or dad to relax while their child drifts off to sleep," says LeClercq.



The nursery's en-suite bathroom, is set with subway tiles from Pratt & Larson and a "Bun" wallcovering by Lake August. Combining the clawfoot tub with the walk-in shower saved space in the compact footprint.



The exterior is covered in stained cedar siding, and combined with a standing seam metal roof. The Loewen windows and doors, from Windows, Doors & More, capture the stunning water views. Multiple lounge spots, on the shore and closer to the house, facilitate indoor-outdoor flow.

LeClercq. “Furniture selections begin with function and durability, but from that point, it can go in numerous directions. The materials are showing the clients’ preference for warmth and authenticity. At the same time, the playful pairing of modern and traditional lines reveal the clients’ desire to have fun and not take themselves too seriously.”

Speaking to the practicality and durability, “We wanted layers, but not so many that it would be hard to clean,” says LeClercq. Many upholstery fabrics can be washed. The hard surfaces are easy to wipe down. And storage is abundant, from the tall kitchen pantry cabinets behind the banquette, to the separate butler’s pantry, and bedroom built-ins. “Ultimately, we needed to furnish the home with pieces that could stand up to three children under five years old, and a midsize puppy,” says LeClercq. “They needed things that put the chaos away.”

It’s a “Katie home” that the owners call “timeless,” and one that feels just like them. “I don’t know that I could put a finger on it,” says the owner. “I just feel like Katie is very stylish, but in a warm and welcoming way. She creates environments that are very easy to live in.” ■

#### PROJECT SOURCES

**LEAD ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN**  
Studio LeClercq  
studioleclercq.com

**ARCHITECT**  
Okano Picard Studio  
okanopicardstudio.com

**CONTRACTOR**  
Mercer Builders LLC  
mercerbuilders.com

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**  
Britton Shepard Landscapes  
brittonshepard.squarespace.com

**FLOORING**  
Montello Design  
montellodesign.co

**WINDOWS & DOORS**  
Windows, Doors & More  
windowshowroom.com

#### What has shaped your design principles?

My instinct to nurture and dedication to creativity has shaped my path as a designer. It has led me to create homes and spaces that help people feel settled, foster comfort, and promote a sense of connection and belonging.

#### What inspired the shift from a design and build company, to a design and architecture company?

From 2010 to 2016, I owned and operated a design and build firm. However, managing build-related tasks often limited my focus on design, which is my true passion. Additionally, I realized some clients prefer having the option to choose their own builder. So, I decided to shift my focus entirely to design and architecture a decade ago. This change allowed me to dive deeper into what I love, and quickly turned out to be the right move.

#### You are known for timeless and authentic design. Tell us about this interplay.

We prioritize the use of genuine materials in their natural state, such as stone, wood, and metals, and integrate them with classic forms that reflect the architectural heritage of a region. This approach fosters continuity beyond prevailing trends and ensures that a home matures gracefully and beautifully over time.

#### Your work encompasses every aspect of a home’s interior and exterior. Where does one start when considering how form and function will impact each space?

First and foremost, we start by getting to know each unique client and their specific needs. Through that process we create a program which formally outlines all the design and architectural requirements for their custom home. This guides our design process to determine a hierarchy of rooms and their relationship to one another, detailing how our clients live and how they intend to use their future home.

#### What types of services do you provide?

We are a full-service architecture and design firm, streamlining each phase of the project, from initial design concepts, through permit acquisition and detailed construction documentation, and then the installation of furnishings. Our approach encompasses every aspect of a home’s interior and exterior, addressing form and function while thoughtfully considering how a family will interact with each space.

#### How do you tell your client’s story and define their personal style in their home?

My design approach can vary depending on the client, as some prefer to have a more hands-on approach while others prefer to sit back and review details when asked. My first step is to develop a comprehensive understanding of each client, their individual needs, and their daily routines. Equally crucial is the assessment of the current environment and neighborhood. Once I feel I have a strong sense for both, I begin by introducing different forms, materials, and styles that work for both the client and their lifestyles while harmonizing with the unique environment around it.

#### What inspires you as a designer?

I draw inspiration from the beauty all around us, whether it’s found in nature or within unique historical buildings, city streets, or suburban landscapes.



*Katie LeClercq (formerly Hackworth), principal  
Studio LeClercq | www.studioleclercq.com*

#### In your opinion, what is the most fundamental element of design?

Balance is essential. Effective designers understand both how to achieve it and when to exercise restraint. Balance requires an even distribution of visual weight, whether through the arrangement of exterior forms and materials or the placement of interior furnishings and decor.

#### Where do you go to unwind from such a busy schedule?

Almost every night, I prepare dinner and truly value the process. It’s a chance to be imaginative without strict rules, creating meals that my family enjoys together.

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## CUSTOM HOME DESIGNS

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE | INTERIOR DESIGN | PROJECT MANAGEMENT



**CLE ELUM MOUNTAIN VIEW**  
The homeowners had a property with a stunning view, and wanted a refined contemporary home with elegant rustic features. This led to liberal use of reclaimed timbers, granite, and steel materials. The home features an open floor plan kitchen, a covered patio angled toward the view, and two primary suites on different levels.

Photos by Clarity Northwest



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# PEACE OF MIND

A quiet retreat is designed for a busy family to unwind, crafted by the expert team of Farland Interiors, Studio AM Architecture & Interiors, and Bender Wasenmiller Custom Builders.

WRITTEN BY MELISSA DALTON    PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN SCOTT

The architecture and construction team saved a plethora of mature trees in the remodel of this Medina residence. It has Loewen windows throughout, sourced from Windows, Doors & More.



The living room fireplace has a two-sided DaVinci insert, and custom hand-split limestone from Arris Stoneworks Inc. The curved Miniforms Ozz Arc Lamp and Berman Rossetti Nobilis sofas make the room.

ASK INTERIOR DESIGNER Brianna Farland to describe her clients for this project and she can do it in one word: “Dynamic,” says Farland, who is owner of the Bozeman, Montana-based Farland Interiors, and has known the family, including the parents and their four children, for eight years and across several projects. “They are incredibly active with work, school, and travel, and they are truly never at a standstill,” says Farland.

Such is why when it came time to overhaul the family’s outdated and too-small home in Medina, the clients asked their team—including Farland Interiors, Studio AM Architecture & Interiors, and Bender Wasenmiller Custom Builders—to deliver them a much-needed retreat. Their new home would be “fine-tuned to how they function,” says Farland. “The primary objective was to ensure the new space is specifically tuned to their daily functions while providing a calm, hidden oasis for the family to return to.”

As it happens, that calm oasis kicked off with a surprising development. “One day I got a call from the owner and he told me that they bought the house next door,” says architect Mike Troyer, of Studio AM Architecture & Interiors. The team combined the two sites to a spacious 1.39 acres, which would hold, not only the 7750-square-foot main house, but a guest house, with a pool courtyard nestled in between and linking the two buildings.

Troyer embraced a terraced design to accommodate the challenge of a fifty-foot grade across the entire site. Yet from the street, the house still presents as low profile, with “natural, muted materials” for the exterior, says Troyer, including split limestone, stained cedar siding, and metal panels.

“They didn’t want the house to be ostentatious in any way,” says Troyer. “They wanted it to be set into the property and to keep a natural look to it all.”

Inside, the plan is tailored to the ebbs and flows of the family’s daily life, in a neutral and natural palette elevated by expertly crafted details, the latter for which contractor Bender Wasenmiller Custom Builders is known. “We have a portfolio of contractors that we have worked with and understand how to implement the details that we draw. We have worked with them before and enjoyed our projects with them,” says Troyer. “Contemporary houses can be very hard to put together, just because the tolerances are so tight, and they always do an excellent job.”

Take the ceiling treatment in the living room, covered in a neat grid of custom rift-cut white oak panels. In order to execute the design, the team spent several days mapping out the wood squares and their margins, so as not to run into problems midway through the installation. “That ceiling carries out to the exterior and the panels need to line up perfectly with everything around them. Even it was off by an eighth-of-an-inch, you’d notice it,” says contractor Steve Bender, noting how that attention to detail matters throughout a home like this, as well as the easy rapport between all of the design and construction team members. “The strength of the entire architecture team is the communication, collaboration, and the quality of information that we can get from them.”

The primary material palette was kept limited so as to maintain the overall sense of calm, including things like the aforementioned rift-cut white oak, also used on cabinetry throughout, custom cut limestone in

Rift-cut white oak cabinetry in the kitchen from Northwest Custom Interiors establishes a calming palette, with Mont Blanc quartzite counters, and Dornbracht plumbing fixtures.



In the welcoming wine room, all the rift-cut white oak storage is by Northwest Custom Interiors, with Tanner's Craft leather and bronze hardware, and an antiqued mirror backsplash.



The dining room hosts a custom table across from Howardena Pindell artwork. The blown glass chandelier by Holly Hunt and Alison Berger Glassworks replicates the look of blooms on a branch.

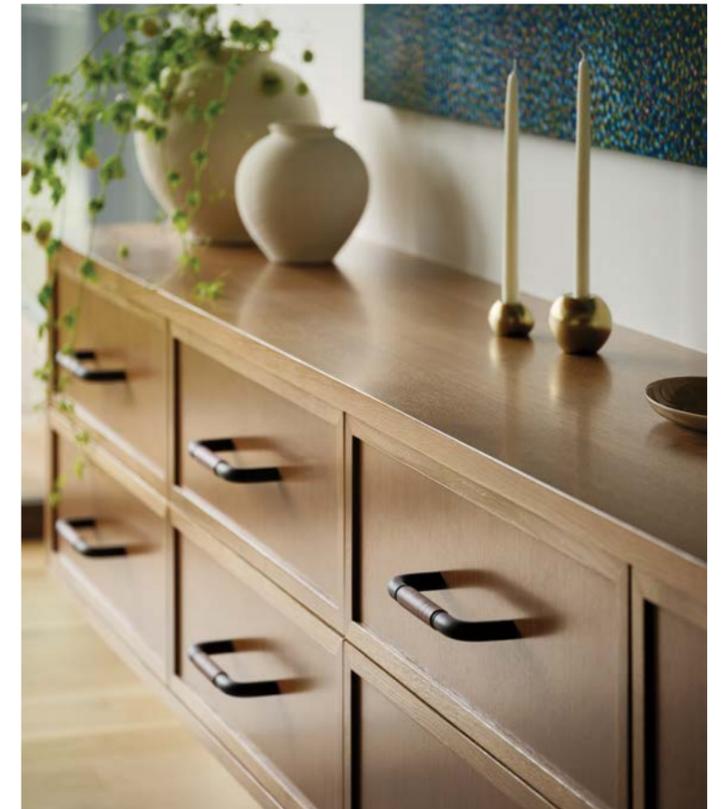
a hand-split finish on fireplaces and accent walls, and walls covered in neutral paint tones. In such a tableau, natural light acts as another prominent feature, from Troyer's careful placement of windows. Clerestories at the ceiling filter light from up high, as does the expansive skylight over a central staircase, which washes the stone wall with sunlight at even the lowest level. "It's a powerful design the way the architect can shed natural light down into a space that normally would never get it," says Bender.

For Farland, the goal was to foster "connection from end to end in the home," says the interior designer. "Often times, you don't need a lot of extra fluff when the material selections and design details

are thoughtfully implemented." To start, the color palette was largely drawn from nature, with "unexpected pops of color in the art," she says. As for other material choices, their luxe appearance belies hidden functionality, such as in the upholstery and fabric selections. No one is worried about the kids coming home from soccer practice and jumping on the couch in the living room. "Everything is very durable, but it looks so refined," says Farland. "I think that is what makes good design."

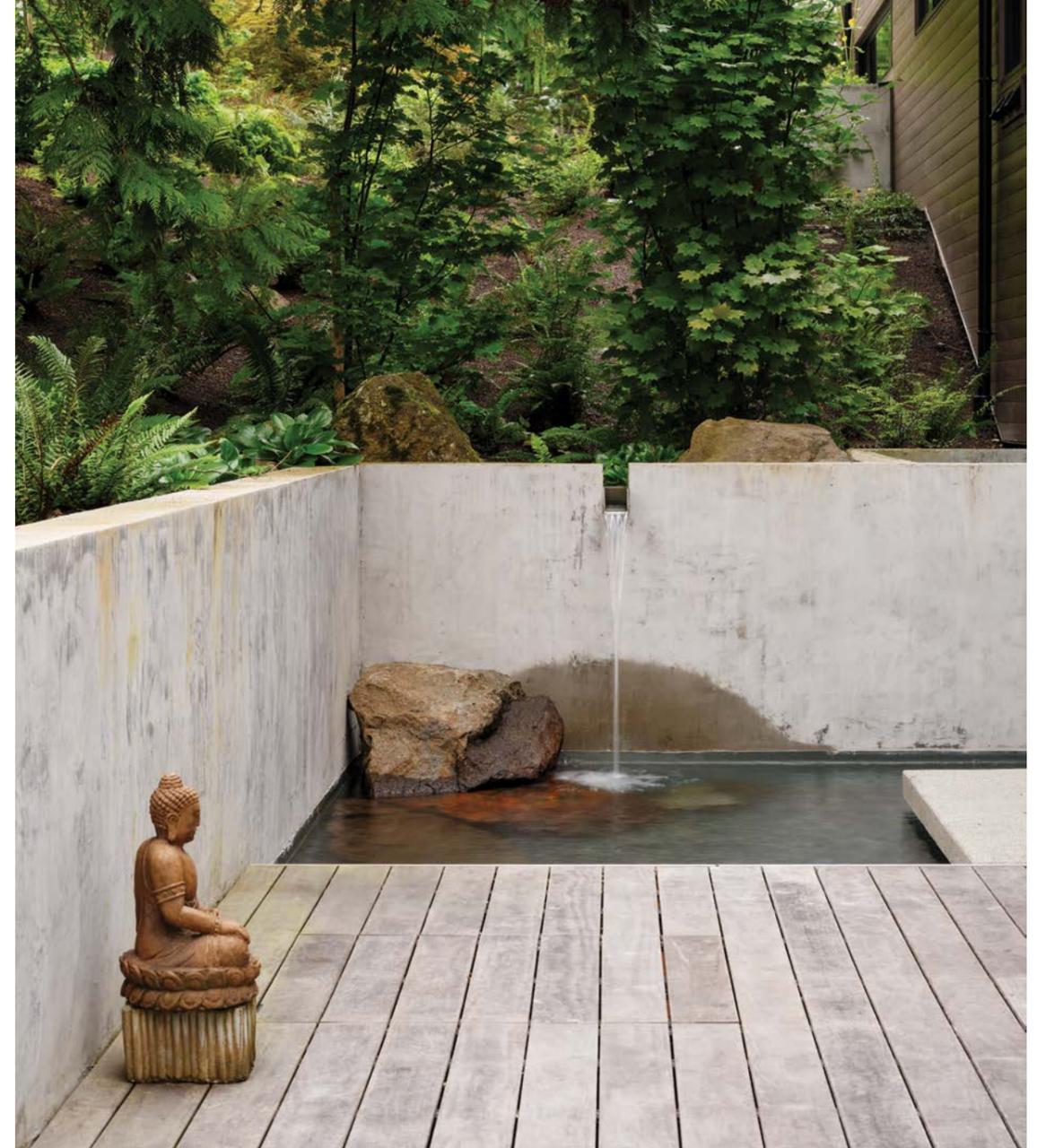
The designer then created "pockets of intimacy" throughout, from the dining room table tucked under an art glass chandelier, to the cozy couches arrayed in front of the outdoor fireplace. In the most

For a quiet moment beneath the stairs, an arcing light fixture is paired with a chair from Arhaus. Natural light from the skylight washes down the limestone from Arris Stoneworks Inc.



In the primary bedroom, an elegant bench at the end of a bedframe with custom headboard. A bar surprises behind a custom EcoDomo leather panel. Joseph Jeup chairs and artwork by Meyers Berg Studios brighten the living room. The dining room's floating buffet is by Northwest Custom Interiors, with Tanner's Craft hardware.

For the courtyard outside the gym, furniture was kept minimal. Boulder pieces from Montana Hardscapes were integrated, becoming part of the landscape and also serving as furniture.



The landscape architecture firm Alchemie created a number of outdoor spots to retreat to around the property. Interweaving cedar decks include several water features, providing calm areas to enjoy the extensive outside space.

important room, the kitchen, where “everyone is at all times,” she programmed every drawer to support easy workflow, whether the clients are engaging in breakfast and lunch prep on school mornings, or readying to entertain via a catered dinner.

Farland also peppered in surprises here and there, like a concealed bar in an office, so as to keep things from getting too serious. “I find that there’s nothing better than making your way through a sophisticated design and discovering these joyful, whimsical moments,” says Farland. “They can be very small, like the little secret push panel concealing a whiskey hideaway.”

As for the yard, in addition to the pool, there’s a sports court and open lawn, as well as a covered outdoor lounge with fireplace. Thanks to landscape architecture firm Alchemie, various decks artfully interplay with water features and seamlessly connect with the terraces of the house. This means the sense of calm extends from indoors to out, as family members can fan out around the property, whether sipping coffee and watching the sunrise from the living room’s windows, or reclining on the deck and listening to the sound of water cascade into a fountain. These moments are what the entire house is about, observes Farland: “Just having a moment of pause whenever you need it.” ■



*Brianna Farland, owner and principal designer  
Farland Interiors | [www.farlandinteriors.com](http://www.farlandinteriors.com)*

©Camy Toth

The pool courtyard links the guest house with the main residence. The pool and hot tub, sourced through PoolPro, Inc., is a welcoming gathering area for the family.



The outdoor lounge has quartz counters and stainless steel cabinets from Danver Outdoor Kitchens, for easy cooking and dining outside.



The covered lounge features additional seating and a fireplace with hand-split limestone, a material that is a continuous thread throughout the property.

**Are there common themes that distinguish your work?**

While every project is tailored to the client, my work is often defined by a sense of balance—spaces that feel layered yet restrained, comfortable yet intentional. I gravitate toward timeless materials, thoughtful proportions, and designs that feel grounded rather than overly trend-driven.

**You provide full-service design services. How does this translate to your projects?**

Full-service design allows us to guide a project from concept through completion. It means every detail, from architectural coordination to furnishings and finishes, is considered holistically, ensuring a cohesive result and a smoother, more enjoyable experience for the client.

**How do you go about creating spaces that reflect functionality, beauty, and client uniqueness?**

It starts with understanding how a client lives day to day. Functionality lays the foundation, beauty gives the space emotional resonance, and uniqueness comes from personal stories, habits, and preferences. When all three align, the space feels authentic rather than styled.

**It is important that you have a personal connection with your clients. What is special about this?**

Design is deeply personal, and trust is essential. Building a genuine connection allows clients to feel comfortable sharing how they really live and what matters to them. That openness leads to spaces that feel meaningful, not just visually appealing.

**Why is it important to create designs that change and evolve?**

Homes should be able to grow with the people who inhabit them. I design with longevity in mind; choosing adaptable layouts, timeless foundations, and pieces that can evolve over time rather than needing constant reinvention.

**What is fulfilling about the interplay of interiors that project ease, warmth, and a sense of belonging?**

There's something incredibly rewarding about creating spaces that feel welcoming and lived-in rather than formal or precious. When a home offers warmth and ease, it becomes a place of comfort and connection, which is ultimately what quality design should support.

**You have a reputation for working collaboratively with project teams and homeowners. Tell us about this.**

Collaboration fosters clarity and trust. When architects, builders, artisans, and homeowners are aligned, the process becomes more fluid and creative. That teamwork results in better decision-making and a finished space that reflects a shared vision.

**What are your takeaways from designing homes, especially as you work in markets throughout the country?**

Design is deeply influenced by place, but the desire for comfort and beauty is universal. Working in different markets has reinforced the importance of respecting local context while remaining responsive to each client's lifestyle and values.

**Best materials to splurge on?**

Natural stone and decorative lighting act as statement pieces, elevating a home much like art or jewelry.

**What is your favorite design rule?**

I tend to believe there are no fixed rules in design—there's always a way to make something work, even when it defies convention.

**PROJECT SOURCES**

<p><b>INTERIOR DESIGN</b> Farland Interiors <a href="http://farlandinteriors.com">farlandinteriors.com</a></p>	<p><b>ARCHITECT</b> Studio AM Architecture &amp; Interiors <a href="http://studioamarchitects.com">studioamarchitects.com</a></p>	<p><b>CONTRACTOR</b> Bender Wasenmiller Custom Builders <a href="http://benderwasenmiller.com">benderwasenmiller.com</a></p>	<p><b>LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT</b> Alchemie <a href="http://alchemiesites.com">alchemiesites.com</a></p>	<p><b>STONE</b> Arris Stoneworks Inc. <a href="http://arrisstoneworks.com">arrisstoneworks.com</a></p>	<p><b>WINDOWS</b> Windows, Doors &amp; More <a href="http://windowshowroom.com">windowshowroom.com</a></p>
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# FEELS LIKE HOME

The magnificent pool makeover includes Refine Landscape Architecture's towering chimney design, paired with dual log storage areas set against the company's all new landscaping.





Revitalizing a dated 1940s Cape Cod, Green Gables Design and Restoration teams with Maison, Inc. to transform it into the perfectly stunning abode.

WRITTEN BY DONNA PIZZI

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID PAPAIZAN

WHAT BEGAN WITH Green Gables Design and Restoration working on a simple shared fence along a property line for a family of four, says owner Narada Fairbank, soon morphed into a total restoration of a 1940s Cape Cod house the couple purchased in the same neighborhood six months later.

There, too, the work seemed straight forward at first. Namely, reconfiguring the upstairs level, kitchen and family room. “What started as a cosmetic cleanup,” recalls the homeowner, “grew into a much bigger project when a pipe burst in the kitchen island.”

A developer might have razed the period home entirely to start over, but the owners felt differently. “The homeowners drove the extent of the remodel by being willing to take on a monumental renovation from the lowest level to the very top and completely renovating all of it,” says Fairbank. “Everything was modernized, all systems replaced, heating HVAC, mechanical, electrical and plumbing.”

Once the scope grew so large, the couple asked Green Gables for advice regarding the interior design. “I had met Joelle Nesen previously at a holiday gathering at their Maison, Inc. shop, but it wasn’t until we realized the scope of the renovation was so much more serious that we’d need expert assistance to get it done as quickly as possible. That’s when Green Gables recommended Joelle.”

The owners had never undertaken a full-fledged remodel before. “We had no remodel experience, just a mud or bathroom makeover, nothing of this size,” says the woman. “We were afraid without professional help the costs would go quickly out of control.”

After their first meeting with Maison, Inc., the homeowner recalls experiencing a huge sigh of relief. “I suddenly had this team completely dialed in with Joelle for the big picture, Emma focused on interior architecture and Margaret looking at floorplans that included furnishings, as well as architectural cabinet details.”

“The homeowner knew what she wanted and had a good vision for the house. Our job was to not only honor the architecture, yet also make it more fluid, and crisper for today’s lifestyle.”

— Joelle C. Nesen, Maison, Inc.



ABOVE Now with a newly revealed view to the West, the living room houses a custom sofa with Scalamandre fabric and two custom leather chairs. Victoria Hagan sheers frame the window and a lush carpet encourages bare feet and cozy family times. LEFT Set back from the road, a grassy area allows breathing space. Handsome black Marvin windows and doors throughout from Portland Millwork pop against the exterior and architectural composite roofing.

The newly designed family-centric kitchen is filled with appliances sourced from Eastbank Contractor Appliances, Waterworks plumbing fixtures, cabinetry from Eddie Murphy, and crisp Calacatta counters and backsplash.



Soothing wood-based furnishings are crowned by an Urban Electric chandelier. The Johnathan Charles table is surrounded by wicker chairs and French doors dressed with drapery open onto an expanded deck.

“When we learned Green Gables was on the job,” says Nesen, “we were delighted because we love working with them.” Nesen also found the homeowner easy to connect with. “She knew what she wanted and had a good vision for the house. Our job was to not only honor the architecture, yet also make it more fluid, and crisper for today’s lifestyle.” With that in mind, they knew that they needed to keep the home’s original intimacy by making comfortable spaces without opening it up too much.

In fact, even before Maison came onboard, Green Gables had already started to demo the damage that originated in the kitchen island, as well as having torn out all the cabinets, hardwoods, and damage that occurred on the floor below, including removing an awkward back staircase. “They took the house down to the studs,” says the homeowner. “The brick and chimney mortar were intact, but the interior walls also had to be taken down.” Happily, Maison was not only immediately ready to begin creating the necessary design, but the homeowner soon discovered how well the two companies



The family room is enrobed with the homeowner's favorite shade of green, "GC655" from Fine Paints of Europe. A peaceful 1911 Harold Flos painting glows against the wall color. The custom sectional and ottomans were sourced through Maison, Inc.

worked together. "They have such a nice rapport," she says, "and everything was done for a common good."

Green Gables acted as the family's architect, general contractor, and builder by calling on their extensive in-house team. "Typically, our relationship starts as early as possible in the process," explains Fairbank. "Most of our projects are large scale as builders, and we'll employ architects to work with homeowners in collaboration with their interior design team." When working with Maison on this project, Green Gables generated the floor plans, engineering and permitting of the façade changes. Maison handled all the interiors and space planning, then collaborated wherever the two teams' work intersected.

By working this way, the two teams avoided redundancy in the design process. "It helps the homeowner," says Fairbank. "As a service

provider, I feel it's a very important aspect of customer service, and," he adds with a chuckle, "prevents too many cooks in the kitchen!"

Another consideration for the team was accommodating the considerable height of the individual family members. "We kept the footprint," explains the homeowner. "But we're a very tall family – the boys are between 6'2" and 6'4" tall – so we started with minor changes inside to create height in our ceilings where we could, and to open up windows to widen our views, which makes the home feel more comfortable and beautiful, while still honoring the architecture of the house."

Maison made sure they also accommodated the boys' comfort by not making furnishings too precious. "The family room was entirely reimagined," says Nesen, "from the fireplace to the bar and every detail in between." A comfy, custom sectional makes room for the

whole family. Working hand-in-hand with Green Gables, they also created a series of not mere drawings, but actual crown molding mockups. "That way everyone," explains Nesen, "especially the client knows exactly what they're getting."

The top of the family's list before the damage occurred in the kitchen was to upgrade its view. "The Western elevation had a gorgeous sunset view," says the owner, "but with so much upper cabinetry

and only one small window, you couldn't see it." They also wanted to be able to eat casually in the kitchen, but a tiny little island without seating made it impossible. Maison gave their opinions on a new cabinetry layout and other design functions, including an island that promotes conversation, rather than four people sitting side-by-side.

The new, larger picture window is flanked by a pair of double hung windows with retractable screens. The addition of a Dutch door



The bar area features two stately custom leather Moore and Giles chairs. Along the wall are excellent accessories and handsome Armac Martin regency metal two-tone metal and glass cupboards for cocktail glass storage. Metallic hardware and plumbing fixtures complete the look.



The woman's boudoir features a classic dressing space with ample cabinetry for storage. The handy ottoman in a Pollack fabric provides seating, while 5-inch oak flooring creates a timeless look.

“The homeowners drove the extent of the remodel by being willing to take on a monumental renovation from the lowest level to the very top and completely renovating all of it.”

—Narada Fairbank,  
Green Gables Design and Restoration

enables the family's Labrador retriever to be safely kept outdoors on an extended deck replete with heat lamps for shoulder season. “We can also pass things through the Dutch door to the outdoor dining table,” says the homeowner. “It's a great way to bridge indoor and outdoor spaces that include an outdoor sectional which makes it a wonderful casual hangout zone.”

Overall, Maison's interiors helped maximize the view, one of the home's strong points. “The floor plan that had felt formal previously, now includes a conversation area, a place to enjoy one another's company while looking at the view. With the home down to the studs with new windows and doors everywhere, it has good flow,” says Nesen. “It's not a mansion, but it has comfortable spaces that respect the architecture.”

To soften the many angles found in the primary bedroom's ceiling, Maison suggested wrapping it elegantly with a luminous wallcovering in the same palette as the furnishings. The results, including the custom vanity, are divinely soothing, promoting a restful night's sleep.

“We maximized every inch in the homeowner's boudoir,” says Nesen. “Every piece of her furniture has storage, every panel opens, including a hidden door.”

An important part of the project was the transformation of the pool environment. “All that the previous homeowners had around the pool was a trellis structure, above ground hot tub and seating area,” recalls Fairbank. “We worked with residential landscape architect, Courtney Skybak's company, Refine Landscape Architecture, who designed the stunning, new fireplace structure as well as the landscape design to create a magnificent, full property overhaul.”

At 1100 ft. elevation, the original pool house, which was not heated, had seen considerable weather damage. Green Gables redesigned it to protect the equipment and new fixtures systems, while accommodating a small bathroom with shower, towel storage, wet bar and small refrigerator. The private mechanical room is at the back.



A pair of sconces join with natural light for better vanity mirror viewing. The custom stool upholstered in Kerry Joyce Fabric completes the soft and inviting design.

RIGHT A ruffled chandelier draws the eye toward textured Thibault wallcovering that softens multiple ceiling angles. A graceful bed frame ties to ridged table lamps and stately Mr. & Mrs. Howard bedside tables.





Green Gables' new multi-purpose pool house includes a built-in Hestan grill from Eastbank Contractor Appliances. Doors open to protect a versatile wet bar, storage and refrigerator. A dining area and chaise lounges by Amalfi offer a welcoming entertaining space.

“Looking back,” says the homeowner, “we love being here and are so grateful for these spaces filled with kids, family and fun. It was so important to have a team we totally trusted, who wanted us to be happy.”

“When you’re tearing apart a home,” she continues, “things might not always go perfectly, yet both firms stood by their work and always made it right for us. That was invaluable. We had a lot of laughter throughout the project. I admit I tend to overthink things a bit, but they had great humor about it, especially Maison. Truly, such great, talented people.” ■

#### PROJECT SOURCES

INTERIOR DESIGN  
Maison, Inc.  
maisoninc.com

CONTRACTOR  
Green Gables Design and Restoration  
ggables.com

APPLIANCES  
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# UPDATED SPLENDOR



Schultz Miller and LeeAnn Baker Interiors gave this Medina home key updates. An arched entrance with beveled glass doors welcomes guests. In the foyer, a soft runner bedecks the stairway, while existing creamy marble, with marble insets, lines the floor.

In Medina, LeeAnn Baker Interiors and Schultz Miller turn a worn and dated home into a haven of functional elegance and class.

WRITTEN BY MELISSA DALTON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIRANDA ESTES

SOME PEOPLE REMODEL as soon as they buy a house, while others prefer to wait. Count the owner of this Medina home in the latter group. “The house was 30 years old and I had lived here for 25 of those years,” she says. “The kitchen was getting old by that point.” Having discovered a love for cooking in her early retirement—books by Ina Garten and Smitten Kitchen are frequently propped on the counter—a new kitchen that was designed to the cook’s preferences was next up. “One of my main goals was to make this kitchen work better for me functionally,” she says. “I also wanted to enhance the design in such a way that it was beautiful and elegant.” She reached out to her favorite contractor, Schultz Miller, who recommended they work with interior designer LeeAnn Baker Interiors for the project.

Baker and colleague Dana Barritt were struck by the home’s location. “It’s this amazing waterfront property with all this great light,” says Baker. “But inside, everything was light except for the kitchen.” They started by retooling the layout. The old island, which was an L-shape with a tiered counter, a stove and a sink, didn’t have enough prep space: “I always felt jammed into the corner of the L,” says the owner. Baker made the island all one level, and kept only a sink there, to double the amount of available prep space, and make room for seating.

A second sink is tucked beneath the windows, flanked by the columns of the refrigerator and wall ovens, the latter which have doors with side hinges, so as to be accessible in a pass-through. A six-burner cooktop is



In the kitchen, the island is painted in “Holiday Wreath 447” from Benjamin Moore, with the Urban Electric Co lights above it painted to match. The Statuario Quartzite counters and backsplash are from Architectural Surfaces.



The butler's pantry features the same paint, counters, and tile as the kitchen, with a runner to soften underfoot.



The cabinets feature small diamond grille in polished nickel from Katonah Architectural Hardware, while the walls have Country Equipe "Mist Green Gloss" tile from United Tile.

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I also wanted to enhance the design in such a way that it was beautiful and elegant.

—The Homeowner

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ensconced in its own niche, surrounded by decorative cabinetry and a stone backsplash, to make for a pretty focal point when entering.

On the first walk-through, Baker immediately noticed how the open plan included crown molding in the adjoining living and dining rooms, yet skipped the kitchen. "That just made it feel different from the other rooms, but they were all open to each other, and we really wanted a cohesive look," says Baker. She removed a soffit and continued the crown to knit all the rooms together, then stacked the cabinetry beneath it.

All of the perimeter cabinetry is painted a custom white color to match the trim throughout the house, and keep the room feeling light and bright, while the island grounds the space in a sage green

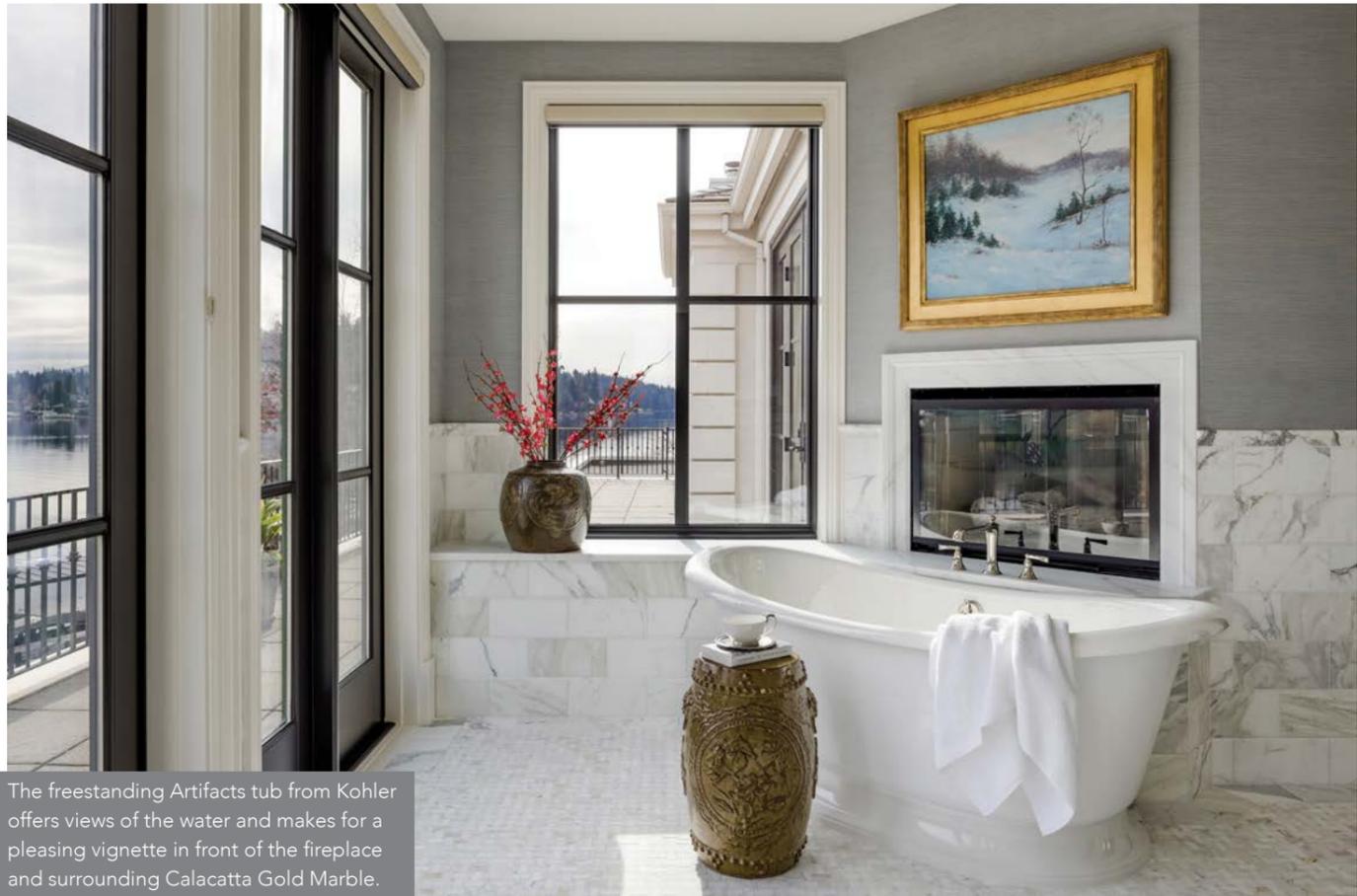
color. That green was then extended to cover an adjacent butler's pantry, making for a delightful discovery when you walk through its door. "It's a little jewel box," says the owner.

Baker packed the butler's pantry with storage. "The owner loves to collect glassware and dishes, and has numerous sets," says Baker. "So, it was important to incorporate areas for all of her collections." The opposite wall has more cabinetry and a convenient staging counter, complete with a microwave, beverage refrigerator, and dishwasher, as well as a desk. That way, the owner can use the space for planning menus, or in the case of a larger event, for catering staff. "The butler's pantry is really smart, the way it looks and functions," says superintendent Chris Olson, with Schultz Miller.

In the primary bedroom, the owner's bedframe was refreshed with linens from Legacy Linens, Trammell Gagne, and Pindler. The walls have a custom color and are paired with an antique dresser.



In the primary bathroom, custom cabinetry is covered in Benjamin Moore's "Timber Wolf" hue, dressed with Waterstreet Brass hardware, and topped with Calacatta Gold Aspen counters.



The freestanding Artifacts tub from Kohler offers views of the water and makes for a pleasing vignette in front of the fireplace and surrounding Calacatta Gold Marble.

The primary bath is fully-equipped with all the luxuries one could ask for; including a window seat, walk-out deck and a scenic view. The revamped space is perfect for welcoming a new day or a relaxing bath to wind down at the end of a long week.



The primary suite also received a refresh, with a new vanity along one wall in the bathroom, composed of custom cabinets painted a soft gray, and joined with a new shower, Calacatta marble counters, and coordinating tile. Across the room, a too-large tub covered in shiny stone was replaced with an elegant soaking tub tucked beneath the fireplace. “There was so much stone surrounding the tub previously that it could create a really slick surface,” says Baker. “Changing that to the marble basket weave tile creates more traction on the floor.” The nearby walk-in closet is also a refuge, with a window seat, and cabinetry customized to the owner’s belongings, from the jewelry trays to the illuminated hanging rods. “I can tell the difference between black and navy pants,” notes the owner.

Now the home is equal parts function and elegance, just as the owner wanted, thanks to the excellence of the whole team. “Schultz Miller had wonderful craftsmen who could engineer solutions when we ran into challenging things, and also just do beautiful work and were great communicators,” says the owner. “And LeeAnn and her team really brought a lot to the table in terms of their talent and expertise. That to me is really the essence of what a designer should do for you: understand your needs and then apply their talents in ways that you wouldn’t think of yourself, but you really appreciate and enjoy every day.” ■

#### PROJECT SOURCES

INTERIOR DESIGN  
LeeAnn Baker Interiors  
leeannbaker.com

CONTRACTOR  
Schultz Miller  
schultzmill.com



The dressing room features custom cabinetry by Warmington & North that include tray inserts for jewelry, a Rainier Quartz counter and Stark Carpets floor covering. The cozy window seat was reupholstered in Pindler fabric by La Fabrique.

**Your firm is known for a focus on “Northwest elegance.” What does that mean to you?**

It is about quiet confidence; spaces that feel layered, warm, and enduring, with a sense that nothing is accidental and nothing is trying too hard. It is our interpretation of refined living in the Pacific Northwest, rooted in natural materials, thoughtful craftsmanship, and restrained palettes that honor light, landscape, and architecture. The result is interiors that feel timeless rather than trendy, elevated yet welcoming, and designed to age beautifully over time.

**What did you take from your time and studies in New York and how did it influence your design style?**

New York instilled a deep respect for discipline and restraint. Space is limited, so every choice must be intentional. I learned the importance of proportion, editing, and architectural detail, which are all things that inform my work today even though it is softened a bit by the lifestyle and natural beauty here.

**What steps do you take to make your designs reflect the needs of your clientele?**

We begin by listening. Learning how our clients live, entertain, and envision their homes evolving over time. Those insights guide every decision, from special planning to material selection. Our goal is not to impose a signature style, but to translate each client’s lifestyle into a place that feels deeply personal, purposeful, and aligned with their values.

**Having worked on projects throughout the West, are there particular differences in what clients are looking for?**

While our projects span a wide geography, clients share a desire for houses that feel authentic to their setting rather than tied to a prescribed style. Whether coastal, urban, or remote, clients increasingly value design that responds to place, climate, and lifestyle. They are drawn to spaces that feel grounded, personal, and thoughtfully composed rather than overtly stylized.

**What are a few indulgences you like to integrate?**

We are often drawn to understated indulgences like custom millwork, layered lighting, and materials with texture like plaster and grasscloth wallcoverings. These elements elevate everyday moments and provide depth. We also love it when clients are willing to incorporate curated art.

**How do you manage different architectural challenges?**

With each project, we begin by honoring the architecture itself. Each building style carries its own language, proportions, and rules. Rather than imposing a signature look, we respond thoughtfully by refining, editing, and enhancing what’s already there. Our role is to create interiors that feel cohesive, enduring, and quietly elevated, regardless of whether the home is traditional or contemporary.

**What are some major takeaways from designing homes?**

Designing homes carries a deep sense of responsibility. These are the spaces where daily rituals unfold, and life’s most meaningful moments are held. When design is thoughtful and intentional, it supports life rather than distracting from it. A well-designed area allows comfort, calm, connection, and beauty to coexist naturally over time.



©Lisi Wolf Photography

**LeeAnn Baker, principal**

**LeeAnn Baker Interiors | [www.leeannbaker.com](http://www.leeannbaker.com)**

**Favorite era of design?**

I appreciate the Georgian & Federal order of symmetry, calm hierarchy, craftsmanship, and details.

**What is your favorite area in your own home and why?**

It’s the kitchen, where my family gathers regularly to unwind and stay connected. It’s where the most interesting conversations deepen, and so much of our life happens.

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## Parrot Tulips + Berberis

SPRING IS PEAK SEASON for Apricot Parrot Tulips. A showy favorite with feathered, multi-colored petals add depth and a grand dose of texture to any arrangement. Shown here, salmon-hued and welcoming yellow ranunculus pair with a nice evergreen field of sarcococca and reaching spray of blooming berberis (barberry).

*What You'll Need (stem counts)*

- 6 Sarcococca humilis
- 9 Parrot Tulips, apricot
- 9 Narcissus Flower Drift
- 7 Ranunculus, yellow
- 7 Ranunculus, salmon
- 8 Butterfly Ranunculus 'Litai'
- 5 Berberis 'Aurea Nana'



arrangement by KAILLA PLATT,  
kaillaplattflowers.com  
photography by AUBRIE LeGAULT



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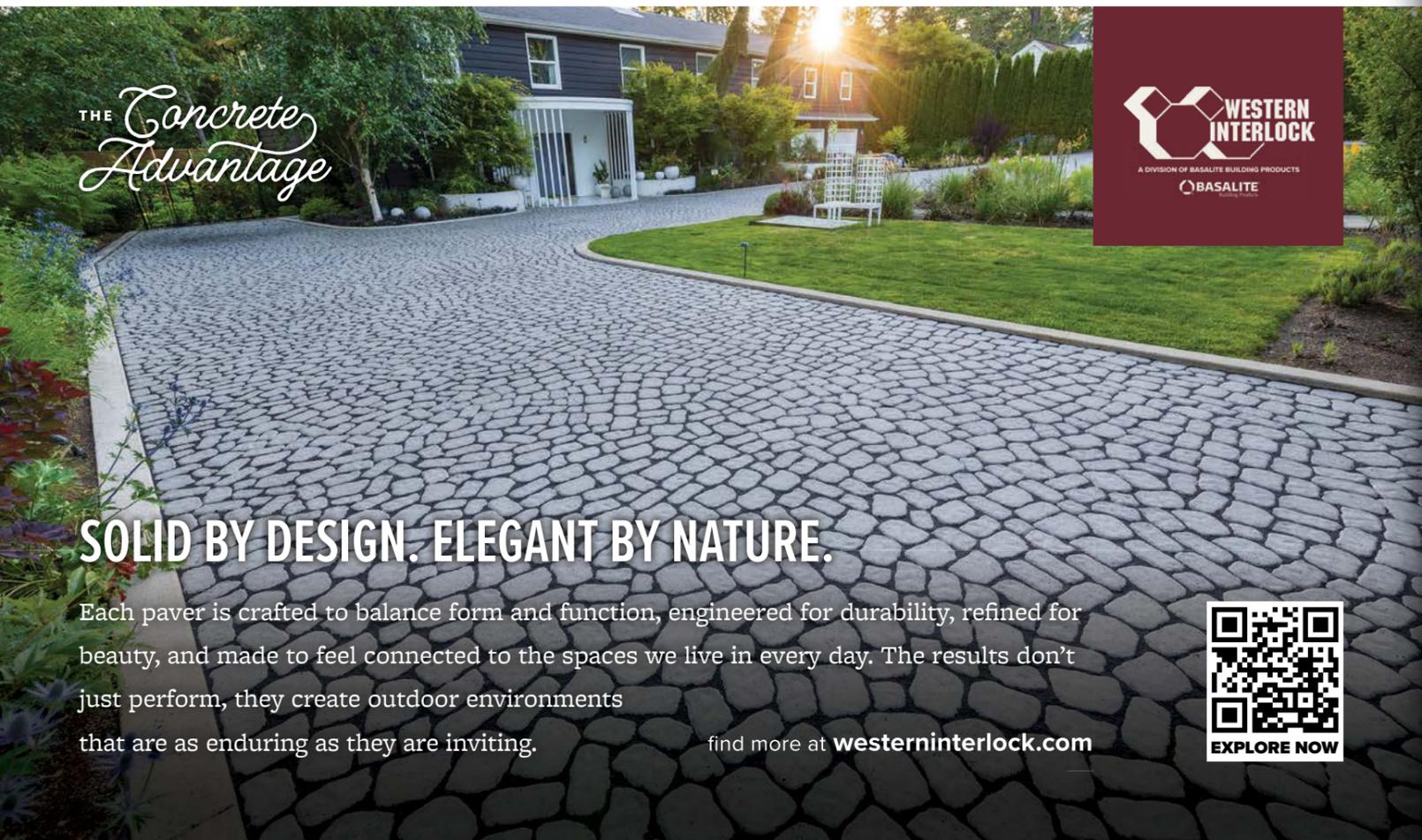
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# Hellebores + Azalea

A GLORIOUS DISPLAY OF pink spring perfection, flowering crabapple branches and saucer-shaped flowers of early blooming hellebores pair with frilly Butterfly ranunculus to welcome the sunny days ahead. The Birch Bowl made by Portland artist Jessica Pluhar, at Of Hand Studios offers the ideal display for this hand-picked from the garden arrangement.

*What You'll Need (stem counts)*

- 5 Helleborus orientalis, green shades
- 4 Azalea quinquefolium, branches in bud
- 5 Picotee Ranunculus, white/purple
- 3 Pink Crabapple, branches in bloom
- 3 Butterfly Ranunculus 'Ariadne'



arrangement by KAILLA PLATT,  
[kaillaplattflowers.com](http://kaillaplattflowers.com)

photography by AMY WENNERLIND

# Lemon Curd French Toast

with Berries + Mascarpone Whipped Cream courtesy of Zupan's Markets



serves 4-6

French Toast

- 1 loaf Challah bread
- 6 eggs
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1½ teaspoons cinnamon
- 2½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2½ teaspoons sugar
- 10 ounces lemon curd

Berries + Toppings

- 16 ounces strawberries
- 6 ounces blueberries
- 6 ounces raspberries
- 6 ounces blackberries
- 2½ teaspoons caster sugar
- 4 ounces sliced almonds
- 1 ounce powdered sugar
- maple syrup

Whipped Cream

- 8 ounces mascarpone cheese, softened but still chilled
- 8 ounces whipping cream

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350°. Remove mascarpone cheese and butter from fridge and allow to soften.

Gently rinse all berries, and slice strawberries into quarters. Mix berries in bowl with 2½ teaspoons caster sugar and set aside.

In mixing bowl, whisk eggs until combined. Add milk, cinnamon, sugar, vanilla, and salt. Continue to whisk until combined. Pour custard mixture into a shallow baking dish.

Cut Challah bread into 2-inch wide pieces. Cut a slit into each 2-inch slice, forming a pocket. Stuff each piece with 2 tablespoons lemon curd.

Place the stuffed bread into the French toast custard for 2 minutes on each side to soak up the custard.

Melt a tablespoon of butter in a non-stick pan or cast iron pan over medium heat. Place the soaked bread into the pan. You will need to cook in batches of 1-2 pieces at a time, depending on pan size.

Cook approximately 3-5 minutes on each side. Once each side is browned, place on sheet pan covered in parchment.

Place the sheet pan into the oven and bake for 8-10 minutes until the French toast is slightly puffy and there are tiny bubbles on the edges.

While this is baking, create mascarpone whipped cream.

Whipped Cream Preparation

Add the whipping cream to a large mixer bowl and whip on high speed until soft peaks form.

Add the mascarpone cheese and whip until stiff peaks form. It will happen fairly quickly.

Plating

Remove from oven and place pieces on individual plates or platter and top with berries, mascarpone whipped cream, and sliced almonds. Dust with powdered sugar and drizzle with syrup.

# Smoky Oat Milk Maple Drinking Chocolate

recipe by NORR  
courtesy of Zupan's Markets



single serving

Ingredients

- ¾ cup Oatly oat milk (or nondairy alternative of choice)
- 4 tablespoons dark chocolate Fran's hot cocoa mix
- 2 tablespoons Runamok bourbon barrel-aged maple syrup
- ½ ounce (or more, to taste) For Bitter For Worse – Smoky no. 56
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla bean paste
- Garnish: whipped cream, chocolate bar chunks, marshmallow (toasted), chocolate sauce

batch: serves 6

Ingredients

- 4½ cups Oatly oat milk (or nondairy alternative of choice)
- 1½ cups dark chocolate Fran's hot cocoa mix
- ¾ cup Runamok bourbon barrel-aged maple syrup
- 3 ounces (or more, to taste) For Bitter For Worse – Smoky no. 56
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla bean paste
- Garnish: whipped cream, chocolate bar chunks, marshmallow (toasted), chocolate sauce

Preparation (single and batch servings)

In a medium saucepan, on medium low heat, warm oat milk.  
Add chocolate and whisk to combine, keep heat low so the mixture doesn't boil.  
Add remaining ingredients.  
Before serving, taste and make any potential adjustments to meet your preference.  
Enjoy immediately after garnishing.

# Grove Clementine Mimosa (Non-Alcoholic)

recipe by NORR  
courtesy of Zupan's Markets

single serving

Ingredients

- 2 ounces Seedlip – Grove 42
- 2 ounces fresh clementine juice
- ½ ounce Portland Spirits citrus passion syrup
- 1-2 ounces Tost sparkling white tea
- 1-2 ounces Fever Tree tonic water

Preparation

Add the first 3 ingredients to a mixing glass with ice.  
Strain into champagne flute.  
Top with Tost sparkling white tea and tonic water.  
Garnish with a clementine orange slice or wedge.





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