



A CENTRAL SPINE THROUGH WHICH MOVES THE ENERGY OF ITS RESIDENTS

This stunning, light-filled home on the waterfront of Mercer Island in Lake Washington was completed in 2002. The 9,000 square foot estate is situated on a three-lot parcel that was steeply sloped towards the water, requiring the innovative integration of landscape with architecture.

“We wanted a home that had enough grandeur to match the extraordinary setting, yet one that was also unpretentious, warm and inviting. There also needed to be a seamless transition from indoor to outdoors, giving our family and guests the feeling of comfortable Mediterranean ease.”

The couple that made these requests brought an international viewpoint to the project, having lived in Israel, Africa, and Europe before settling in the Northwest and building their dream house. They knew that their home would be one of constant motion, given their active social and community activities along with the buzz of three college-age children. Their vision was distilled into three words – “comfort, function, beauty.”

The home’s interior is spacious and open, allowing easy contact and communication. It is organized around the concept of a “spine.” This nerve center of the home is comprised of the large entryway that leads to the curving stairway down to living and dining areas. To the north and south of this spine are two wings, one for the master suite of bedroom and offices and the other for the children’s rooms and study areas.

Outdoors has a corresponding “water spine” which ties together various water features – ponds, waterfalls, and hot tub – via a continuous flow of water along a “water reel” connecting the activity of its residents to the changing levels of landscape. The terrain was completely reconfigured to expand the footprint and to make the building more functional by use of a series of interlocking terraces, which also multiplied western-facing views.

These terraces became “outdoor rooms,” areas that complement the interior rooms and serve specific purposes. Many of the indoor and outdoor rooms are adjoined, with only an elegant sliding glass door separating them, making them one large space during fine weather. On the lower level, kitchen, dining room, family room, and terraces become a single open space with no boundaries, perfect for entertaining.

As one walks away from the house and ambles along a pathway toward the lake, smaller terraces and landings appear as more intimate gathering spaces, not unlike encountering the smaller rooms and nooks in the house itself as one travels from the spine to its farther reaches.



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