

BEST of the WEST

Blending elements of Southern California and Northwest styles makes for a light, bright sanctuary in the heart of Seattle.

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Architecture: Christopher Brandon, Brandon Architects **Interior Design:** Suzie Lucas and David Lucas, Lucas
Home Builder: Mike Suver, Lockhart | Suver **Landscape Architecture:** David Berleth, David Berleth Landscape Architect



White oak continues from the floor up the horizontal slatted walls and onto the central stair's treads. Glass rails allow sunshine from an overhead skylight to filter into the adjacent kitchen.

Although a seamless flow between inside and out is often associated with the sunny climes of California, the Golden State doesn't have a lock on the concept. Indoor-outdoor living is also a beloved part of

Northwest design, where the weather is never as bad as legends have it, and long summer days are perfect for spending time alfresco.

For a young couple building a dwelling in Seattle's Madison Park neighborhood, finding this intersection between California and the Northwest played a driving force in the design. "We've lived in Seattle most of our lives, but we own a vacation home in SoCal and desired that sort of lifestyle in our new place," the owner remarks. "We wanted usable outdoor space that felt like an extension of the indoors, not something separate and far away."

With architect Christopher Brandon and designers Suzie and David Lucas on board to bring their vision to life, so began a process that filtered the best of California living through a Northwest lens. It started with the home's street-facing façade, which Brandon knew needed to play well with its neighbors rather than stand out. "We wanted transparency but didn't want to have this brightly lit glass box," the architect recalls. He nestled the home into the site, giving it a low profile. Cedar screens clad much of the extensive glazing, allowing the dwelling to blend with its surroundings while still inviting ample daylight.

"They wanted that light, bright California feel within the interiors and material selections as well," Suzie adds. Spinning off from their initial interest in a rammed-earth structure, the owners ultimately decided to use silver travertine slabs with a rough, pitted texture that bring an earthy ambience to the exterior walls, a feeling that continues inside at key moments. Even more fitting—the Lucases found the sand-toned slabs in Los Angeles. "The material gives

a sense of being a solid stone wall that continues from outside to inside," David explains. Achieving this rammed-earth appearance was no small feat technically. "It required creative techniques similar to those used in high-rise construction," explains general contractor Mike Suver, who worked closely with senior project manager Mark Urquhart and superintendent Steve Zielke on the construction.

This material consistency continues throughout the home, where a luminous interior palette is expressed with elements like white oak flooring, casework and accent walls as well as soft white Taj Mahal quartzite with subtle gold veining in the kitchen. "Especially in a house like this, which is so open, it's important that everything blend," Suzie says. "There's a simplicity in the materials here that makes things feel orderly."

The outdoor spaces epitomize a true marriage of California and Northwest attitudes. L-shaped, the home's internal corner opens via glass sliders to a resort-like backyard complete with seating, a fire pit, barbecue, pool and hot tub. Although the exterior footprint is small, the backyard is connected seamlessly to the kitchen, dining and living areas, making all four spaces feel larger. In the living room, another set of sliders opens to a front patio with furnishings that quote the colors, shapes and textures of the custom sectional and coffee table just inside. "The idea that this peaceful outdoor sitting area lies just a couple feet from the busy sidewalk is intriguing," landscape architect David Berleth says of the patio. Berleth lined the space with a bioretention planter containing perennials and grasses that pop against the dark green backdrop of the yew hedge screening the street.

These design decisions yielded the ultimate gathering place that also functions as a private oasis for this maturing family. "It's become the go-to house for our daughter and her friends, and it's the pool party house in the summer," the owner says. "But ultimately, it's our sanctuary in the middle of the city." ■



Artwork by Eva Isaksen overlooks the living room's sectional crafted by BC Custom Upholstery and Interior Environments-fabricated coffee table. The bespoke console by Jonathan Pauls, Inc. is topped with a Danny Kaplan Studio lamp.



Above: In the dining area just off the main entry, an oxidized maple dining table by Fern is joined by EOOS for Carl Hansen & Son chairs. A sculptural Doug Johnston light fixture illuminates the scene.

Opposite: Taj Mahal quartzite complements the kitchen's white oak cabinetry. The Pierre Frey-upholstered stools by Adam Court are from StudioTwentySeven. Handmade ceramic pendants by Heather Levine hang above.





Retractable glass walls by Fleetwood Windows & Doors connect the kitchen and living room to the backyard. There, a pool, hot tub, barbecue and fire pit play to the desire for Southern California-inspired outdoor living.



Left: In the passage that leads to the primary bedroom, window treatments made by Penthouse Drapery from a Chivasso textile gently filter the light. The concrete accent table is from Shoppe Amber Interiors.

Opposite: The landing at the top of the stairs is meant to offer a peaceful place for reflection. Frank Gehry's Wiggle Chair by Vitra provides a perch from which to enjoy the serene space.





Flanking the primary suite's fireplace are built-in sofas by BC Custom Upholstery and shelves holding an assortment of antiques, books and mementos. A Lawson-Fenning armchair faces an Andrianna Shamaris bench at the foot of the bed. The artwork is by Bratsa Bonifacho.

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