INSIDEOU

A LAKESIDE HOME COMBINES NATURAL MATERIALS WITH STRIKING DESIGN TO HONOR ITS ENVIRONMENT.

WRITTEN BY JEFF TURRENTINE PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC PIASECK

ost architects don't aim to confuse their clients and most clients don't ask to be confused. But in truth, a tiny amount of architectural dislocation—thoughtfully conceived and strategically placed-can be a wonderful, even magical, thing. Take the manner in which George Suyama, his partners Ric Peterson. and Chris Haddad, and their associate Davis Hammer deconstructed the concept of an entrance for a family's Lake Washington retreat. Many architects speak of their desire to design homes that blur the line between inside and outside. But for these architects, that meant more than just incorporating sliding-glass doors that opened to a patio. It meant, Suyama says, "not creating a sense of entry at the front door"-in other words, not formally announcing the separation of the structure from its environment with a stark symbol of division. Instead, those entering the home pass through a gate into a series of interstitial spaces that make it pleasantly "unclear as to whether you're inside or outside," he notes. Regardless of your actual status, the architect says, once you pass through that gate, "you feel like you're in the house already."

If entering the non-entrance of this home sounds almost like the beginning of a journey, well, that's the idea. Suyama and the team initially imagined the residence in perambulatory terms: as a comfortably





Opposite: For their clients' Lake Washington house, architect George Suyama and his colleagues envisioned a home where structure and surroundings are happily conflated. In a corner of the living room, a Pierra Jeannest ammosis from Farka Londous in Franking, Gemeny, sits next to Lienge sets backle. Decorative Media for stoncated the blackwared-steel freplace. Rich Brothers Constructors crafted the concrete wails, while Bmit's Concrete Orantuction was responsible for the hard-roweled, acti-extended concrete flows.

Below: Designer Kylee Shintaffer conceived the living room's lounge chairs, covered in Hodsoil McKenzie fabric, as well as the coffee table. The sofe, by Dmitriy & Co., is in Great Plains fabric from Holly Hunt; the rug is by J.D. Staron.



Along the way, there are plenty of places to stop and reflect. Designer Kylee Shintaffer worked to create what she calls "resting moments" throughout the house—spots where furnishings, materials, colors and the view combine to maximize comfort and serenity, two words that crop up frequently when she talks about the design. "We picked things that had an organic quality to them," she says, "whether

it's the wood or the plaster that we selected early on when we were working with the architects on the structure; the fabrics; or the furnishings."

Asked to encapsulate the overall design in a few words. Shintaffer volunteers the phrase "one with the earth." it's an ant description: Natural tones and soothing, hand-wrought textures throughout are meant to connote earth, water and the point where they meet. The designer's choices allow the interior and exterior to, in her words, "embrace both the cold, cloudy days that we get so often in the winter, as well as the brighter days that lay just beyond."

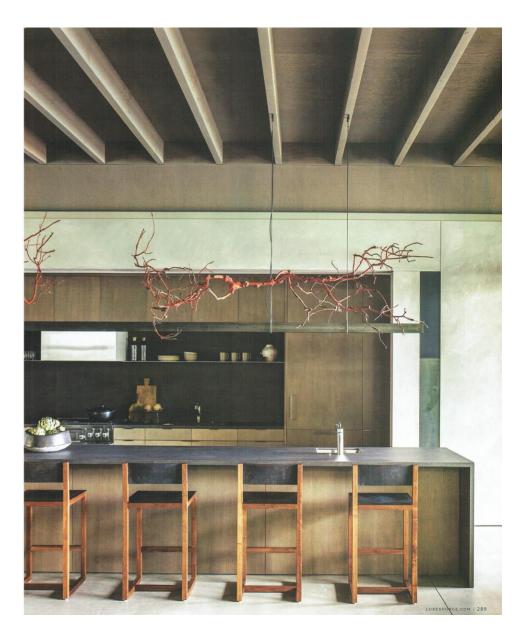
Shintaffer cites a pair of courtyards—one near the front of the house, the other at the rear—as her attempt to fulfill, with furnishings, the architects' goal of dissolving boundaries. Even though they're technically a pair of patios, she says. "we approached the selection of furniture in the same way that we would approach it indoors. It imparts



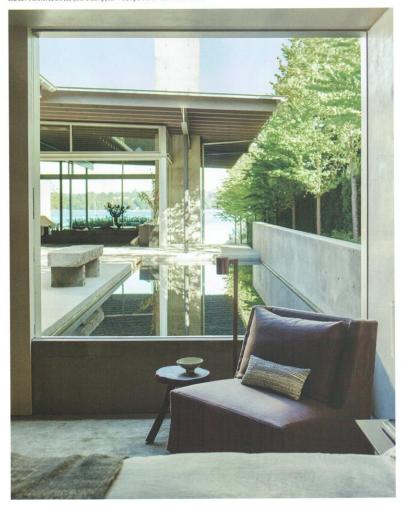
Right: For an informal clining area that opens to the outside. Shintaffer opted for a round SDM table and simple woven chairs from Janus et Cle to provide an ease of circulation, she says. General contractor Ciris Huggins and his team created the custom cedar ceilings.

Opposite: BDDW counter chairs pull up to the kitchen island, winch is of cold-rolled steel, topped with a composite stone countertop from Grandy Merale & Tile. Superior Stucco Services did the home's paster work. The riflecut windhecak cold to the control of the cold Custom Interiors. Albert Lee Laypinet merale spollances: the KWC faucets are from Best Plumbing.





"Keeping the interiors quiet was an important way to help keep the focus on the blurred lines between indoors and out," says Shintaffer. One such moment occurs in a corner of the master bedroom that overlooks a courty





more complexity. We were really able to give each one a sense of being a 'room'—it's just that these rooms happen to be outdoors."

Carrying out the architects' vision of a house that literally descends to the waterline meant rethinking the Idea of a foundation, according to general contractor Chris Huggins. The Job required "over 30 slab elevations and countless alignments," he says. But "in a building like this, the structure is the finish. We had to allow the design and the details to dictate the construction sequences and assembly methods."

Landscape architect Anne James—who worked on the project with recently retired landscape architect Rich Haag, before completing the work under her own shingle—knew her task would be challenging when she first spied the lot, a thin strip of land with houses immediately abutting it to the north and south. Nevertheless, she created beautiful living

privacy fences out of yews, blueberry hedges and katsura trees. She also restored the shoreline to "a more natural, fish-friendly condition" by replacing the lawn leading down to it and the stone-and-concrete bulkhead with a gently sloping sand beach. To improve salmon habitat, she says: "We installed spawning gravel along the water's edge, and we also placed an open grating on the dock, which lets light filter down into the water below."

All paths in and around the house lead to the shore; all decisions were made with water in mind. Once those facts are understood, any initial confusion about what's indoors or what's outdoors is quickly, caimly resolved. When Shintaffer describes what's special about this project, she might well be speaking for everyone who had anything to do with the home—including its residents or their visitiors. "You're interacting with water throughout," she says. "You just feel this connectedness to the lake at every turn. You really know where you are." IL

Great Plans fabric dresses the custom bed's heedboard, which aligns with an exterior wall, sharpening the connection between the interiors and the architecture, Beneath the bed, dressed in Kohro linens, and the Tucker Robbins bench, is a J.D. Staron carpet. On the wall is activoric by Pfancis Schamberger. The bedsice lighting is by Lialgre.



Shintaffer designed a pair of teak sofas, covered in Perennials fabric, as well as the stone coffee stable, which she says reflects the organic nature of the house? For the outdoor entertaining area. The cus stools are from Tucker Robonis, the behindes are from the sound of promises. Men being promises CBM. Design installed the landscape.