Coastal Residence

Situated on a coastal bluff, this Maury Island home has a classic Pacific Northwest setting. The remote island, accessible by ferry, is surrounded by natural beauty. Problem was, despite its idyllic location, the existing house wasn’t making the most of this remarkable vista. So the homeowners partnered up with architect Bob Swain to design an 850-square-foot addition that would provide glassy views to the water below and sky above while minimizing less desired views of neighboring houses beyond.


And not just any wood and metal. The homeowners wanted to create something that was sustainability-minded. For these reasons, they fabricated their own steel elements and sourced out regionally harvested wood. The goal being to reduce their environmental footprint and the cost of transportation.

Of course, in the end there’s only one wood that could fit the bill: Western Red Cedar. Its naturally beautiful tonal range is perfect for complementing such a pristine setting. As well, it’s low maintenance and harvested from sustainably managed, third-party certified forests.

ARCHITECT
Robert Edson Swan Architecture + Design (Robert Edson Swan, Inc.)

CLIENT
professional couple

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Cascade Pacific Construction

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
I.L. Gross Structural Engineers

PHOTOGRAPHY
Robert Edson Swan Architecture + Design & Andrew Ryznar

PROJECT TYPE
family home for two adults with room for guests to visit/stay on the island
Plus, because Western Red Cedar is native to the Pacific Northwest, it met the clients’ criteria, which is why they selected it to clad the new living space as well as create the stunning redroof. As Swain explains, this choice in building material worked out on so many levels.

“Western Red Cedar enhanced the project because of its visual warmth, as seen from inside and outside the home,” he says, adding, “as well, it’s local, furthering the sense of connection to the adjacent environment and cultural history where native-inspired wood detailing occurs throughout the project.”

The connection to this landscape is readily apparent in the new home, where Western Red Cedar is used indoors and out, blurring the boundary between spaces.

Robert Edson Swain

NATURAL CHOICE
The homeowners wanted to create an addition that was sustainably minded, so naturally they opted for regionally harvested Western Red Cedar.