



Vashon  
Washington, USA



THE VITALITY  
OF SPACE

# 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.



## RAVE-WORTHY ROOFLINE

The cedar-clad "waves" in the primary living space provide dynamic forms that allow sunlight to penetrate deep into the new space as well as views to the western sky.

"The design responds with appropriate exotic forms framing each vista," says Swain. "Repetitive 'waves' of monitors and clerestories achieve light-filled spaces. The vitality of each space abounds with refined native-inspired wood detailing and articulated metal elements.

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.



## ABOUT THIS PROJECT

### ARCHITECT

Robert Edson Swain Architecture  
+ Design (Robert Edson Swain, Inc.)

### CLIENT

professional couple

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Cascade Pacific Construction

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

I.L. Gross Structural Engineers

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Robert Edson Swain 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 roofline. 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." ●

**MATERIAL**  
& SPECS

GRADE  
KD Select Knotty

SIZE  
siding: 1 x 6 channel rustic  
ceiling: 1 x 6 T&G

FASTENING  
stainless steel siding nails

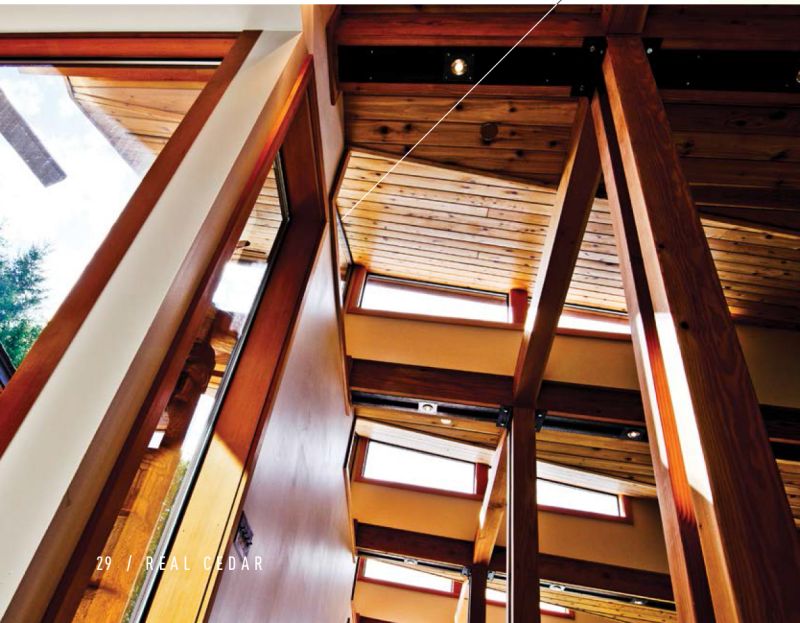
APPLIED FINISH  
clear stain



WOOD-FRAMED VIEWS  
The Western Red Cedar addition on this Maury Island home was designed to frame the picturesque water views.

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.



MAIN LEVEL PLAN