



# LAKESIDE MODERN

A KIRKLAND HOME BALANCES THE OUTSIDE WITH THE INSIDE TEXT ALI BASYC PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL COLE



Clockwise from far left:  
A brand new bulkhead  
better reflects the home's  
architectural style and  
brought back a small  
beach to the property.  
The home's original,  
conventional exterior.  
The living room is at once  
cozy, thanks to its warm  
color and varied textural  
palette, and open and airy,  
thanks to custom-designed  
pivot and slidefold doors.

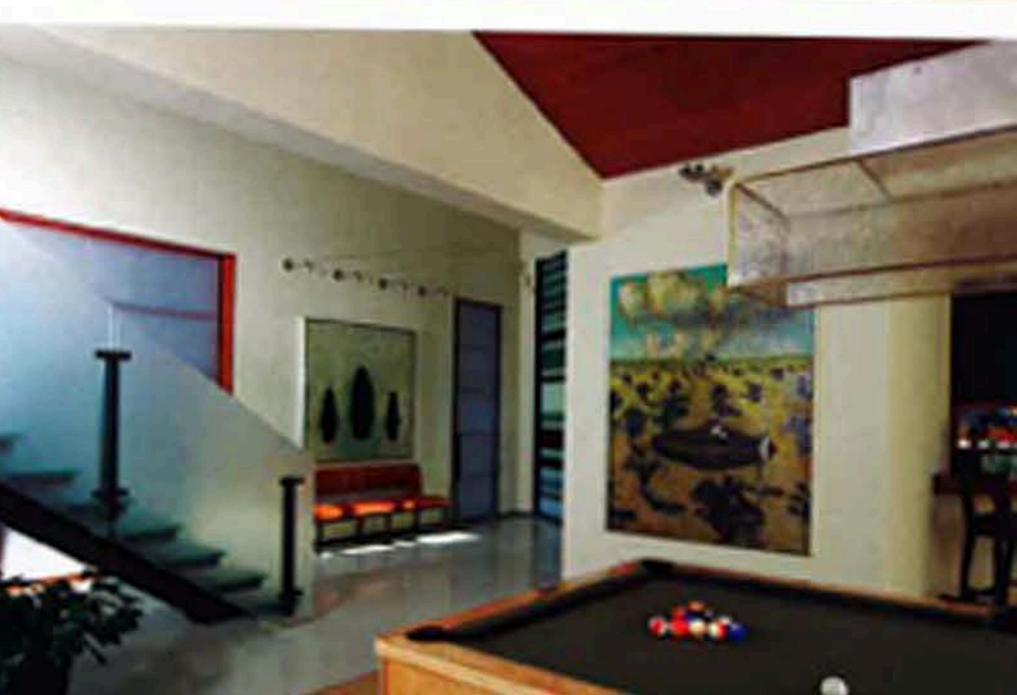


## HOW DO YOU BUILD

a modern house and keep it warm and casual? That was the question posed to architect Geoffrey Prentiss, interior designer Gregory Carmichael and landscape designer Paul Broadhurst, who were hired to complete a full-scale remodeling of a 5,253-square-foot home set on the shores of Lake Washington.

The homeowners, active newlyweds who love to play on the water, cook and entertain, sought out Prentiss, whom the husband knew from an earlier project, to create a large, but laid-back dwelling on a secluded lot in Kirkland's Holmes Point neighborhood. Above all, the house had to connect with the natural surroundings and be entirely functional; no closed-off formal dining rooms for them. The three designers came up with a master plan that intersected the landscape, décor and architecture. Their design took advantage of a material mix of steel, glass, fir and cherry, and allowed the house to flow from the inside out, so the residents feel connected to the outdoors from any point on the property.

The existing early 1980s house was grand and formal, but didn't fit the couple's style. Due to a series of previous renovations, large, interior spaces were oddly proportioned and not always perfectly squared, making many renovations, such as installing new Terrazzo floors, difficult. To harmonize the old house with the new objectives, the entire living room was demolished and rebuilt; this time with right



**Top to bottom:** A glass-and-steel stairway designed by Geoffrey Prentiss creates an eye-catching branch to the second floor. The home's unmistakable, uninspiring, original 1980s interiors. Opposite page, clockwise from top: In the master bath, floating his-and-hers sinks and cherry-wood custom cabinetry and windows exemplify a repeating rectangle pattern seen throughout the house. Pivot doors create passage from an open dining area to an outdoor patio kitchen, fire area and infinity plunging pool. The newly open and user-friendly kitchen features cherry wood cabinets designed by Prentiss and custom fixtures from Seattle glass artist Tom Stempel. A contemporary-style pool table appealingly flanks the living room and foyer. One of two green roofs shows early growth of native plantings, including prairie Junegrass (*koeleria macrantha*), sedge (*carex flacca*) and Blue Flax (*linum perenne*).

angles. From there, says Prentiss, the design developed by "cutting out corners of the home and adding other parts," a process that, ultimately, reduced the house's size by a couple hundred square feet. ♦ By "recognizing areas and making those areas have their own sense of place," Prentiss managed to create new interior spaces that were roomy yet intimate. For example, throughout the dwelling, ceilings are modulated to varying heights, flooring is altered to create diverse footprints and window shapes and sizes differ according to the volume of the space in which they exist. A floating staircase of steel and glass makes a branch to the upstairs floor, a mostly open floor plan that includes an office, guest room and master bedroom and bath. ♦

"The house is primarily one big space with intimate nooks," Prentiss says.

♦ To open the house and connect it to its stunning lakeside surroundings, Prentiss designed a series of pivot doors, which turn on a vertical axis, and slidefold doors, which operate like an accordion, to make passageways to a backyard patio, outdoor kitchen and second-floor deck. He also recycled giant fir beams from the old house—conifers culled from the property—to create large-scale benches and shelves for the remodeled house. ♦ Paul Broadhurst overhauled the grounds to restore the natural landscape and to merge it with the architecture. Roof gardens and steel terraces, designed by Prentiss and installed by Broadhurst, extend from the house to create a playful connection with outdoor water features, such as a stream running along the house and an Infinity plunging pool, a custom-designed steel fireplace and plantings, about 85 percent of which are species native to the Northwest. A generic concrete bulkhead was torn down to revive a small beach and to establish a new bulkhead that meshes with Prentiss' architecture. ♦ Inside, Gregory Carmichael's approachable palette softens the home's hard, modern edges. Many interior choices were made with important family members in mind: the couple's two yellow Labs. Easy-to-clean fabrics, such as textured nubuck treated leather, were selected for the furniture Carmichael designed. ♦ "We softened



Steel arbors playfully connect with the native landscaping and create a visual extension of the home's exterior design, which is sided with Cembonit concrete and original board and batten cedar. A stream runs from the front door alongside the house to Lake Washington.

everything with a lot of stuffed pillows and fun patterns to keep things less buttoned up," Carmichael says. "This is an example of how you can live comfortably in something that is modern and sophisticated." ♦ "By careful manipulation you can take an existing house and rework it to make a harmonious place," Prentiss adds. "You don't have to destroy a whole thing. There is a casualness to this house, rather than a preciousness to it." ♦

#### TEAM:

- ARCHITECTS: GEOFREY PRENTISS, LEAD ARCHITECT; BRANDON WOODWARD, PROJECT ARCHITECT, AND MIKE PETERSON, JOB ARCHITECT, PRENTISS ARCHITECTS, 224 W DAI FR, SEATTLE; 206.283.9930; PRENTISSARCH.COM
- INTERIOR DESIGN: GREGORY CARMICHAEL, INTERIOR DESIGN, 5953 CALIFORNIA AVE., SW, SUITE 100, SEATTLE; 206.623.2002; GCD.COM
- LANDSCAPING: PAUL BROADHURST, PAUL BROADHURST & ASSOCIATES, 460 FIRST AVE., NO. 206, SEATTLE; 206.749.9516; PAULRBROADHURST.COM
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR: DAVE CROCKER, PRESIDENT, AND DICK MCDONALD, PROJECT MANAGER, ODYSSEY BUILDERS, 11006 34TH AVE., NE, SEATTLE; 206.440.9753; ODYSSEYBUILDERS.COM
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