

SECOND HOMES: CAMANO ISLAND, MT. RAINIER, WALLA WALLA

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### ON THE COVER:

Even on overcast days, light fills this Camano Island weekend home. See page 46. Photograph by Alex Hayden.



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# family retreat

A Seattle couple transforms their ski cabin into a getaway destination with comfortable room for a crowd

WRITTEN BY LISA KENNEDY PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL JENSEN

THE CABIN GENTLY OPENS ITS WINGS TO THE MEADOW. ITS COVERED PORCH ALLOWS FOR A PROTECTED ENTRY TO THE FRONT DOOR AND SERVES AS AN EXTENDED LIVING AREA DURING WARMER MONTHS. A WOOD FIREPLACE KEEPS PEOPLE OUTSIDE EVEN ON COOL NIGHTS. THE CHAISE LOUNGES ARE FROM FAR FETCHED IMPORT FURNITURE (206-682-1333).



THE CORNER WOOD FIREPLACE BY LENNOX OFFERS A WARM FOCAL POINT IN THE LIVING ROOM WHILE SURROUNDING WINDOWS MAINTAIN THE CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS. THE CHAISE IS FROM KASALA (206-623-7795). THE RICHTER FURNITURE SOFA IS FROM SEVA HOME (206-323-9920).

The old ski cabin 30 minutes from Crystal Mountain was functional but claustrophobic and held little appeal in the summer. Today, after a renovation and the addition of 1,785 square feet, the ugly duckling has become a light-filled modern retreat that embraces both meadow and forest—and the many children who visit it year-round.

The owners, a professional Seattle couple with young children, had two main criteria for their ideal second home: It had to engage fully with the outdoors and comfortably accommodate up to three families. The husband, a financial services executive and a self-described closet architect, wrestled with two or three log-cabin-style plans before turning to Cast Architecture for help. Before long, a modern aesthetic had taken over, and the project ratcheted up considerably in both square footage and design ambition. "The more they saw it evolve, the more they saw what it could be," says Cast principal Matthew Hutchins.

The end result of the happy synergy between involved clients and talented architects is a series of flowing spaces oriented toward the west to maximize wildlife sightings and natural light. Two new wings housing the living room and the bedrooms are set at gentle angles to the original structure. The various volumes, which now total just under 3,000 square feet, are integrated by a porte-cochere and a covered porch with a dead-on view of a large clearing where grazing elk roam freely. Oversize windows and doors bring the outside in, while smaller windows frame elements of the forest.

The exterior adheres to a simple vocabulary and palette. Horizontal barn-red cedar lap siding is juxtaposed with vertical,



**LEFT AND OPPOSITE:** THE CABIN'S CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS IS ENHANCED BY THE RAYNOR FULL-LIGHT GARAGE DOOR (RAYNOR.COM) THAT ROLLS UP BETWEEN THE DINING ROOM AND THE PORCH. THE DINING TABLE IS FROM FAR FETCHED, THE ALUMINUM NAVAL CHAIRS ARE FROM AREA 51 (206-568-4782) AND THE PENDANT LAMP IS FROM IKEA (IKEA.COM).



heavy-gauge corrugated metal siding in a warm gray. The exposed woods of the porch, rafters and window trim—unified by a semisolid stain—emulate the Northwest's signature element.

The interiors are both fresh and spare, the materials carefully chosen to complement rather than compete with nature. Colors are neutral, with the occasional flash of red. Floors are carbonized bamboo; the walls are mostly painted white to take on the seasonal colors of the exterior surroundings.

The owners had planned to fill the walls with art, but this house told them otherwise. "We are coming from the city and a house full of things, and it feels so peaceful here, yet not empty," says the wife. "At first, our friends asked us when we were going to put things up, but now they get it too."

What was intended as a central gallery has morphed into a play court, where kids are given free rein to race, play soccer or skate. Another favorite play place is a loft above the entry dubbed the "flop room." Reached by a ship's ladder, with a window overlooking the dining area, the room fills with kids and sleeping bags on busy weekends.

"This is a place to relax and have fun," the husband says. "We didn't

want to be fussy or have a showcase." To safeguard the carefree feeling, furnishings are mostly high-design knockoffs that look great without being precious. A high-low mix of fixtures and lighting kept the budget within reason without stinting on special touches.

In the simple kitchen, blood-red cabinets with walnut trim were designed and fabricated by Henrybuilt. The adjoining dining and living rooms spill out onto the lpe wood porch, where everyone gathers around the outdoor wood fireplace on summer evenings. In winter, families sit around the expansive dining room table or sprawl about the living room enjoying the fireplace and forest view.

The bedroom wing houses two bedrooms downstairs; a staircase of cold-rolled steel with bamboo treads leads to the private master suite. Designed as a retreat, it feels like an aerie suspended among the trees. The rest of the house and all of its activity seem miles away.

"One of my favorite childhood memories is Mount Rainier National Park," says the owner. "This place brings me back, and now we can really share it with family and friends all year. We just love it here!" ■

*Lisa Kennedy is a Mercer Island-based freelance writer and interior designer.*



**LEFT:** IN THE MASTER SUITE, OVERSIZE WINDOWS BY MARLIN (MARLINWINDOWS.COM) BRING THE OUTSIDE IN WHILE THE NARROW FIREPLACE FLUE MIMICS THE TREE TRUNKS BEHIND IT, VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARING INTO THE BACKGROUND. THE CORNER GAS FIREPLACE IS BY RAIS (RAIS.COM). THE NICOLA LEATHER PLATFORM BED IS FROM MANHATTANLOFT.COM. THE DAYBED IS BY MIES AND THE PENDANT IS FROM GEORGE KOVACS.

**RIGHT:** THE PHILIPPE STARCK TUB BY DURAVIT (DURAVIT.COM) SITS ON AN IPE WOOD PLATFORM—ALL THE BETTER FOR GAZING OUT OVER THE MEADOW. A POCKET DOOR SLIDES OPEN TO REVEAL A VIEW OF THE FIREPLACE IN THE ADJOINING BEDROOM. FLOORS ARE LIMESTONE WITH RIVER-ROCK INSETS. THE PEDESTAL SINK IS BY PORCHER; SCONCES AND PENDANT LIGHT FIXTURE ARE BY GEORGE KOVACS.

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