

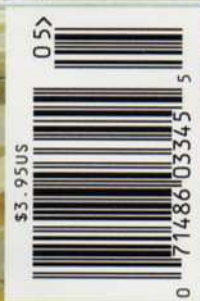
WASHINGTON WINES | CORAL'S COMEBACK

SEATTLE HOMES LIFESTYLES™

CREATE AN
escape

- In the Backyard
- In a Wine Cellar
- On a Luxury Yacht

May 2006



Plus ...
FOCUS ON THE VIEW:
A West Seattle home
shows you how

seattlehomesmag.com

HOME

home and garden features | garden planner | real estate | room for improvement



THE HOMEOWNER AND ARCHITECT AGREED TO CREATE AN OPEN, TWO-STORY CEILING IN THE DINING AREA TO BEST CAPTURE THE HOME'S STUNNING VIEW.

MICHAEL JENSEN

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL DOESN'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO MEAN LEAVING TOWN.

In this issue, we visit a **West Seattle view home** that feels like a vacation for its owner whenever she's there. Chuck and Linda Barbo take the "getaway" concept a step further with their second home—a **luxury yacht**. Busy city dwellers who only have time to escape to the backyard might consider some creative-looking and creatively used **garden sheds**. For our final—and briefest—May escape, we peeked inside the private, temperature-controlled **wine cellars** of three Seattle collectors.

COMFORT IN

This West Seattle residence makes coming home feel like a getaway

WRITTEN BY ALLISON LIND PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL JENSEN



THE CLOUDS



THE PANORAMIC VIEW AS WELL AS THE HOME'S TERRACE—DESIGNED BY LISA PFEIFFER OF PFEIFFER LANDSCAPING (PFEIFFERLANDSCAPING.COM)—INSPIRED ARCHITECT TOM LAWRENCE TO ORIENT THE FLOOR PLAN TO THE OUTDOORS. CUSTOM WINDOWS AND GLASS DOORS FROM VANCOUVER, B.C.-BASED DYNAMIC (DYNAMICWINDOWS.COM) ADD A SIMPLE, SLEEK LOOK—ONE THAT IS UNUSUAL TO SEE IN RESIDENTIAL USE. FROM THE TERRACE, THEY MIRROR THE STUNNING VIEW. EXTERIOR-MOUNTED TRANSLUCENT SUNSHADES ON AUTOMATIC SENSORS ARE ACTIVATED WHEN THE SUN'S GLARE IS TOO STRONG, KEEPING THE INTERIOR COMFORTABLE WITHOUT OBSTRUCTING THE VIEW.

Amid her many travels and the three other cities she calls home, it is Karen Lahr's West Seattle house that is her haven.

"It's a place that, when I'm away, I think about and sigh," she says. "This is really what gives me the greatest sense of feeling at home."

Nestled in a quiet hillside above Alki Beach, Lahr's 2,500-square-foot house has a sweeping view of Puget Sound. Like clockwork throughout the day, ferries glide across the deep-blue bay like a slow-moving painting. And on clear afternoons, the Olympic Mountains dazzle in the distance. Set peacefully high above it all, the home feels like a small castle amid the clouds.

The home was a project Lahr dreamed up with her husband, William, a few years ago. Unfortunately William never got to see their dream to fruition; he passed away from lung cancer only months before the home was completed. "I know how much he would have loved living here," she says, "and that gives me comfort."

The home's sense of restfulness is not simply due to its stunning view; it also comes from the sleek architecture and streamlined décor—a captivating combination created by Seattle architect Tom Lawrence and Minneapolis interior designer Carol Belz, who also designed Lahr's loft in that city.

Although relatively small, the home makes a striking statement. Its design is deceptively simple: a rectangular box with a slightly sloping roof. Windows, framed by crisp aluminum, span most of the western side and flood the interior with natural light. For the exterior, Lawrence chose low-maintenance Parklex panels, made of warm-colored African hardwood, that are anchored by exposed steel screws. "We could have concealed them, but I thought it added another layer of interest to the panels," Lawrence says.

THE HOME'S COLOR PALETTE WAS KEPT QUIET TO INVOKE A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE AND NOT DISTRACT FROM THE VIEW. GRAY FURNISHINGS KEEP THINGS SUBDUED, WHILE BURGUNDY GLOBAL VIEWS WOVEN-LEATHER CHAIRS (GLOBALVIEWS.COM) AND A GREEN SLATE FIREPLACE-SURROUND FROM OREGON TILE & MARBLE (WWW.ARACNET.COM/~TILE) ADD SUBTLE COLOR AND TEXTURE. THE ROBERT KUO SIDE TABLE, FROM BAKER KNAPP & TUBBS (BAKERFURNITURE.COM), AND THE PLAYFUL FIAM ITALIA COFFEE TABLE SOFTEN THE ROOM'S OTHERWISE STRICT LINES. A FLORAL ENCAUSTIC PAINTING BY BETSY EBY (REPRESENTED BY WINSTON WÄCHTER FINE ART) ALLUDES TO THE OUTDOORS.





