

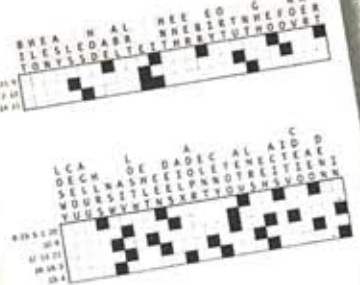
PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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CLUE 6

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CLUE 8



CLUE 2

Game Over

For Seattle's brainy elite, the ultimate test of wits turns tragic



CLUE 5

Big Shot

American Gun Club

AS Hackett Bungee

Fremont Street Experience

Wild Side Tattoo

Shawshank Redemption Tunnel

START

Eldorado Dry Lake

Argentina Mine #1306

Cemetery

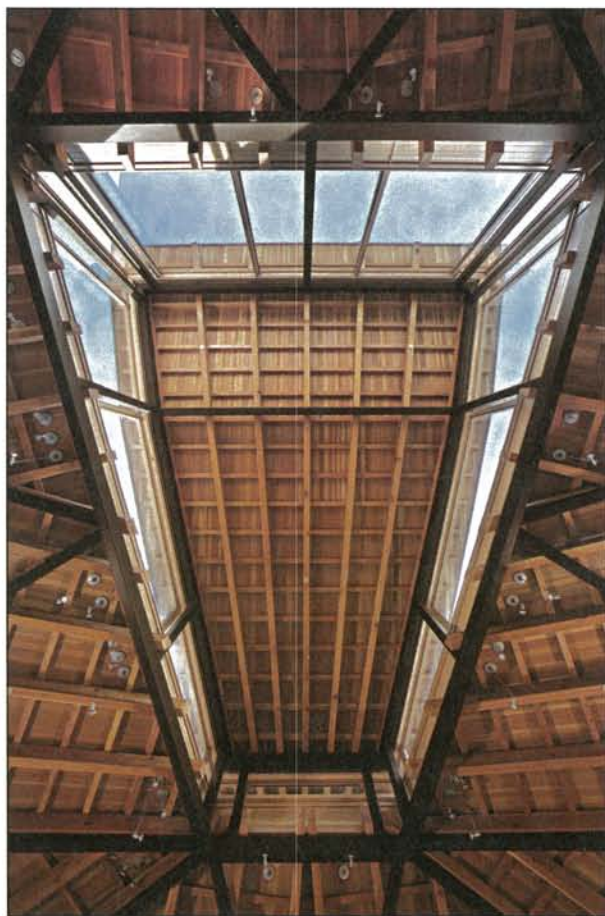
Southern Nevada Correctional Facility

Goodsprings

Jeon

Energy In Serenity

CALM IS CRAFTED
WITH WALLS OF GLASS
AND BEAMS OF STEEL



The ceiling culminates in the 8-foot-high north-facing glass of the clerestory windows. "That lets in the painter's light, if you will," says architect Nils Finne. "One interesting thing about the pavilion is there are no right angles in it. As you walk into the room it expands, like a megaphone. But the clerestory splays in the opposite direction." The windows were crafted by Quantum Windows & Doors of Everett.

SIPPING TEA and listening to silence. Lovely.

"My baby-sitter gets nervous at night here. People get used to the buzz of the city, but I like the quiet very much," says Julie Burnett, holding her cup midair, listening.

Everywhere she looks are woods and lawn and rocks and sky. Windows, windows everywhere, even overhead.

"There isn't a whole lot of drywall in this place. Nature's my artwork," Burnett says. "That's what I love about this house, all the light. During the day I don't have to turn on the lights, even in winter.

"And when it snows and you do turn on the lights, it really looks like a lodge, but yet it's not lodge-y."

What Burnett is trying to put into words is the energy of serenity that courses through all 4,225 square feet of the four-bedroom, 3½-bath home she shares with her husband and young daughter on acreage in rural Redmond.

Her architect, Nils Finne, describes the house as "a delicate structure of wood, steel and glass." The combination seems improbable, yet it is accurate. Burnett says, "When he uses steel, you see light."

Continued on page 32 >





"The structure that holds the living pavilion together is a steel frame erected by guys who do office buildings," Finne says. There are no columns or posts within the room; steel posts are around the perimeter. Motorized windows over the fireplace generate a breeze. The structural steel is painted dark green.



The home slips into the wooded hillside seated on a Montana ledgestone plinth, 2 feet high uphill and 15 feet deep on the downhill side. Dick Turner's Magic Landscaping was responsible for the grounds.

< Northwest Living

Continued from page 30

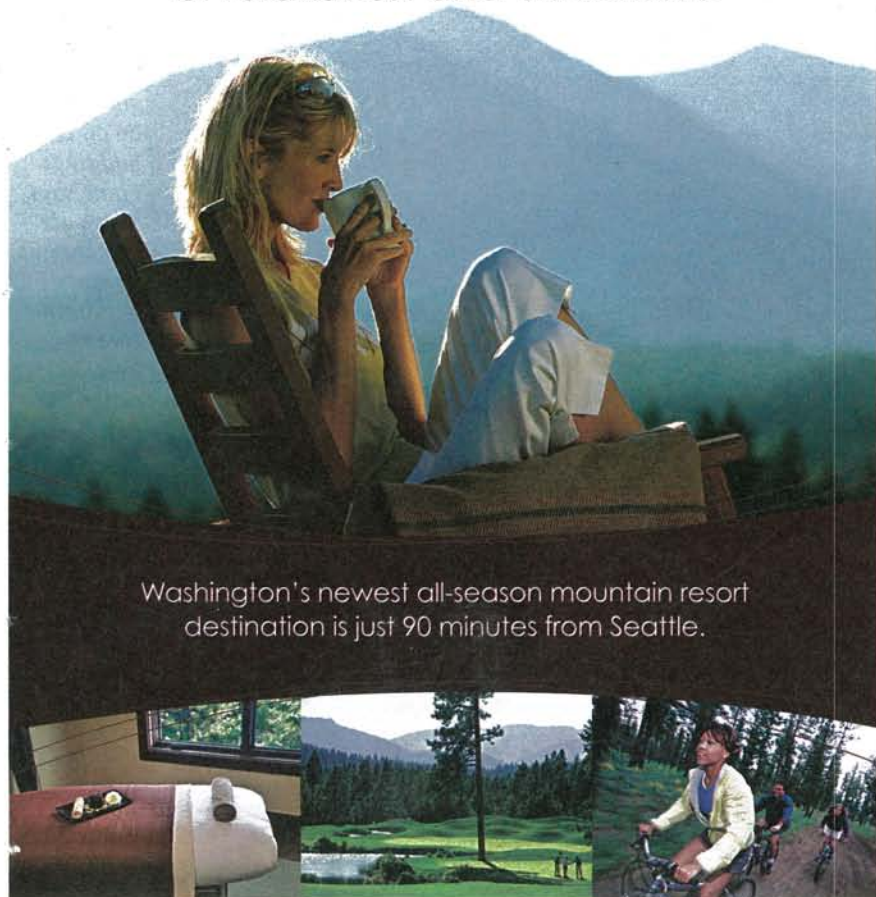
There is no attempt to outshine the natural landscape all around. The home pays homage, slips into the hillside seated on a Montana ledgestone plinth, 2 feet high uphill and 15 feet deep on the downhill side. Inside the glass entry space you have two choices: Go left to the "living pavilion," which beckons with a 30-foot-tall Montana ledgestone fireplace on the far end of what seems like an acre of quarter-sawn red oak flooring. Go right to the long bedroom wing, featuring an apartment-like master suite.

The grand finale of the massive, complicated living pavilion ceiling, which Finne calls a "wood quilt," is the treetops and royal blue sky. The very tips of firs and cedars appear through large, north-facing clerestory windows 20 feet up. The conclusion of most sight lines throughout the home is the landscape. The great-room walls are glass at every opportunity, including above and below the overhead kitchen cabinets. Living wallpaper of deer and bird and fern.

"We didn't want to have pillars in the center of the room. The steel actually is holding everything up," Burnett says, explaining

Continued on page 34 >

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The kitchen anchors one corner in the 1,100-square-foot living pavilion. Finne designed all the cherry cabinetry in the home, crafted by Pete's Cabinets in Everett. The island and counter are Burlington stone in elterwater, a soft jade. The tiled portion of the backsplash is stone mosaic from Ann Sacks called Matchstick.



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Around the perimeter of the living pavilion, steel posts are formed as two angled columns that meet and then splay apart.

< Northwest Living

Continued from page 32

the steel-braced fir skeleton in the 1,100-square-foot room that is kitchen, living and dining rooms, and office.

The Burnetts are those rare clients who hire the architect to do what he does best and then trust him to do it. "That's one of his beautiful gifts, he listens," Burnett says. "I think the very first plan he showed us we picked."

With Finne, that can include furniture design. For this home, completed in 2006, he designed the bentwood mahogany dining table with ebony accents; cherry-shingled master bed; blued-steel laser-cut

Continued on page 36 >

Getting to know you

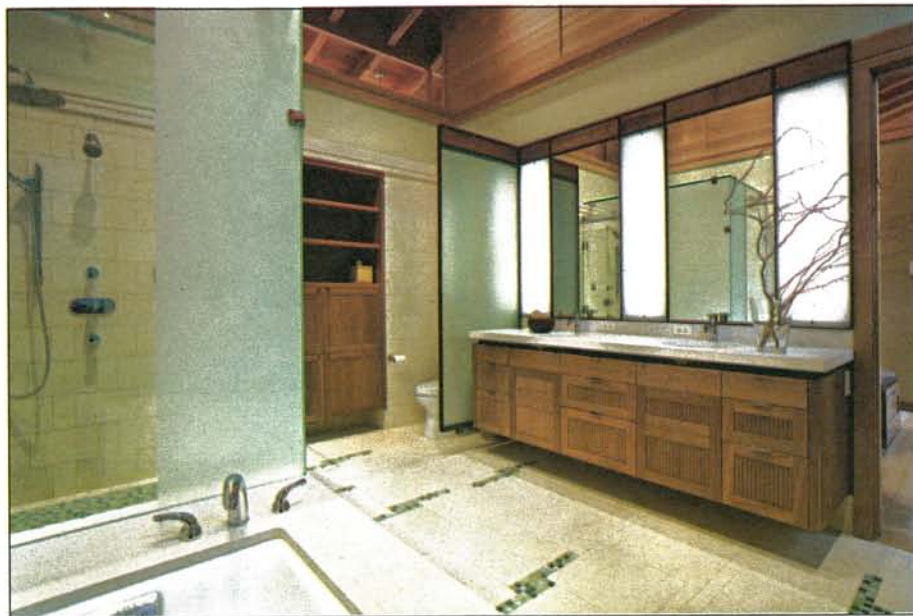
THE CLIENT-ARCHITECT pairing is all important for turning vision into reality. It's a relationship that begins as business, but quickly becomes very personal.

"When you spend two or three days with someone every week you get to know them pretty well," says architect Nils Finne. "It's a very intense relationship, especially when you get into detail and furniture and things.

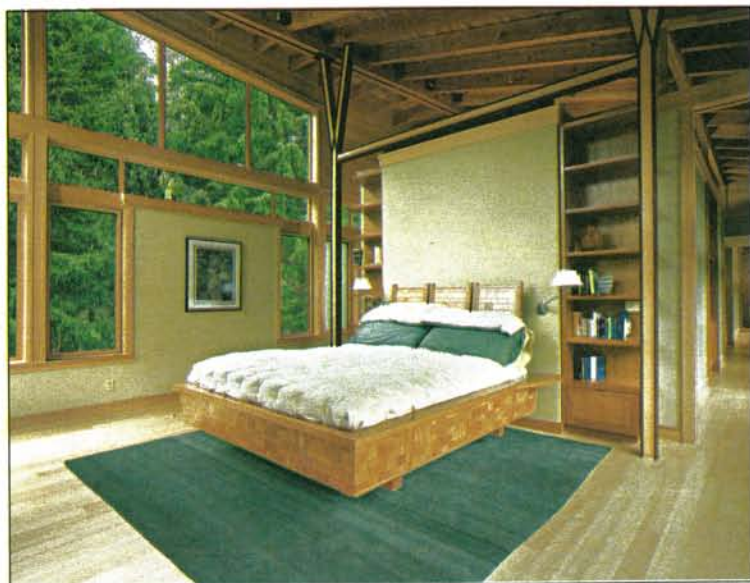
"When I meet with new clients, we put it all on the table. When a group has strong opinions, and most people do, you can't expect everyone to agree. But we try to do it in an atmosphere where everyone respects each other.

"I firmly believe that every house becomes a mirror of the person who's asked me to design the house. I am the one putting form to that. But what makes it so interesting? In the end, I say, 'That house is all about Charles and Julie.'"

See more of Finne's work at www.finne.com.



The counters, floor and tub deck in the master bathroom are St. Croix limestone. Sandblasted glass panels separate mirrors, all edged in steel. The glass is lit from behind; no sconces are needed. The vanity floats 10 inches off the floor, adding lightness. Next to the tub is a steam shower with a glass ceiling.



Finne designed the master bed, using 2-inch cherry tiles that give it a rippling textural feel. The bed has built-in shelves. "Half of the upstairs is our master bedroom," owner Julie Burnett says. "We call it our treehouse."

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< Northwest Living

Continued from page 34

stair railings; steel-and-glass light fixtures; cherry book cases, cabinetry and consoles; and the mahogany front door. He even helped Burnett choose the furniture.

"I like clean space, and I like peace of mind," Burnett says. The built-in pieces serve both needs.

It took 2½ years to build this house, SBI Construction turning plan into reality, fitting steel to wood, all the joints just so. But Burnett says it was worth it.

"It took longer to build, but there's so much love in this house." 

Rebecca Teagarden is assistant editor of Pacific Northwest magazine. Benjamin Benschneider is a magazine staff photographer.

"The living pavilion was conceptualized just like it sounds; it's where everything happens," says Finne. "It's called 'use every square inch of space you have.' " Burnett says "That's the beauty of Nils' spaces; they're functional, super functional." Glass is used extensively. The ceiling is uplighted to give the structure a glow.



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