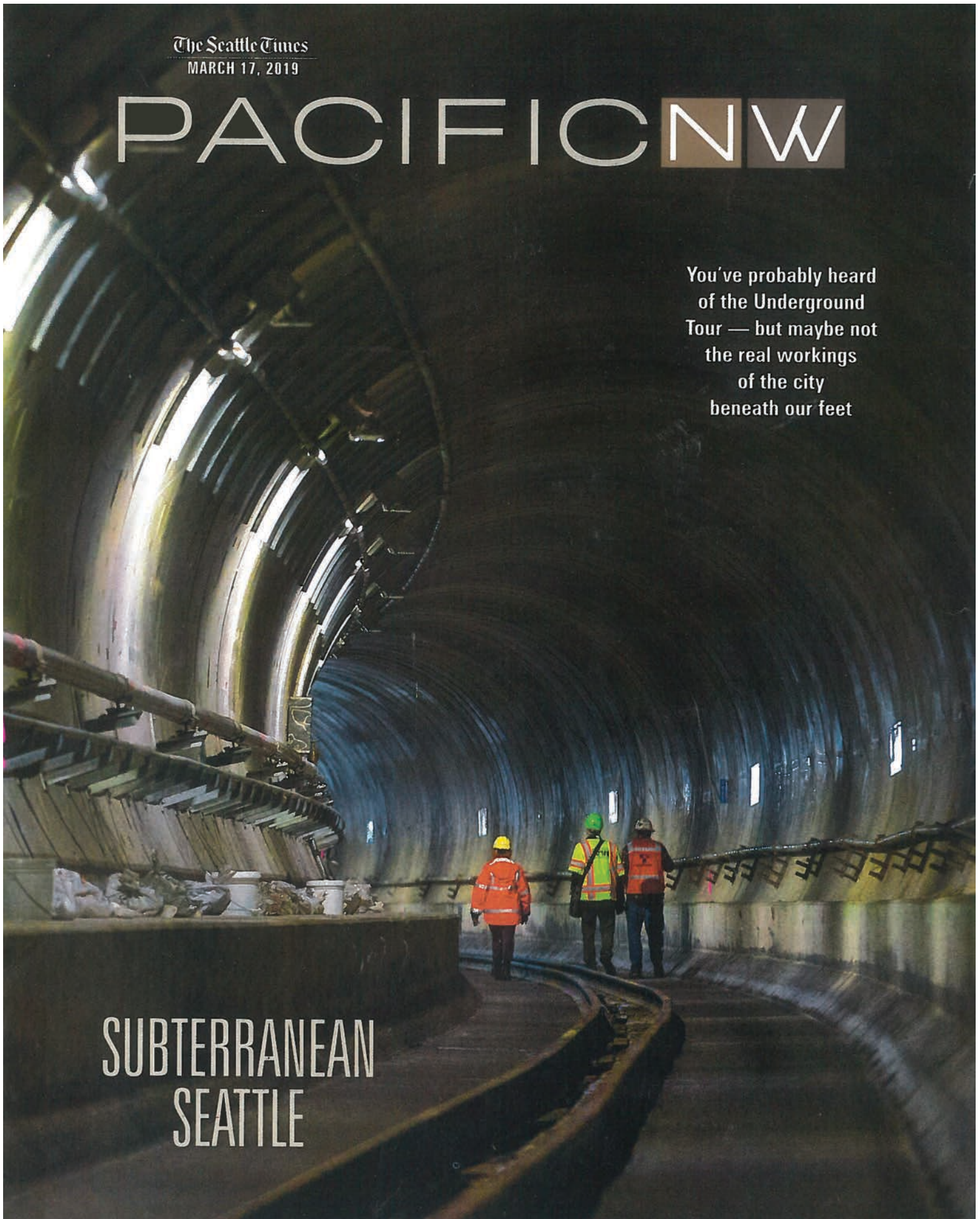


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PACIFIC NW

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A sparkling new home on Lake Sammamish represents a process of give-and-take — and a huge win for compromise

TRADING *for* SPACES

THERE IS HARMONY HERE: in alignment and scale, in colors and materials, in the happy banter of an architect and a homeowner singing each other's praises — especially after a complex project involving serious site challenges; highly informed participants; and, ultimately, creatively agreeable trade-offs.

Actually, there were *two* architects behind Eric and Kim's gleaming new home on Lake Sammamish. One is Andrew Finch, of Finch Design & Production. The other is Kim herself.

"I have done only health care and always wanted to do a

house," she says. "We had a larger home in the Entiat area on Lake Washington. Our last house was a builder house, built in 2000. So many things weren't what I wanted."

The 1940s cabin that previously lived on this idyllic slice of waterfront didn't exactly cut it, either. For one thing, says Finch, "The cabin's water came out of the lake."

The fact that any new house arose here at all should be considered the first critical, mutual victory.

"Before construction could begin, the home underwent an extensive regulatory review because of its location along the ►



The great room of Eric and Kim's home is lined with an expansive window wall facing Lake Sammamish, and all it has to offer. "One day, my mom wanted to see the house, and two eagles were flying right in front of the window," says architect Andrew Finch. "It literally took my breath away."

Finch, of Finch Design & Production, worked with SBI Construction on Eric and Kim's new home on this challenging, waterfront lot. There's "a shed roof over the garage and a butterfly roof over the main volume of the house, with the two connected by an entry hall," Finch says.



“We wanted this space to flow,” Kim says. “With the whole kitchen design, everything is absolutely on-axis. The pendant over the dining table is aligned with the center of the stove.” The black stone sculpture on the island is by Merlin Cohen.



“The table was specifically purchased for this space,” says Kim, who did the interior design for the home. She designed the table in the living area in the distance, and the fireplace’s horizontal mantel (with a Gerard Tsutakawa piece atop it).



The home glows at dusk. “Andrew wanted the overhang big, with the sun and rain on the windows,” Kim says. “He wanted the corner windows not butting but close to each other. And the doors are lined up, with robust hinges.” The landscape architect behind the tapered stairs, the natural replacement for an old “rotten wood retaining wall” and much more is Bill Williamson of Williamson Landscape Architecture; Carol dePelecyn of dePelecyn Studio was the lighting designer for the home.

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shores of Lake Sammamish, and the site having two areas designated as steep slope,” says Finch. “[The] soil was so bad that workers stood on sheets of plywood while forming the foundations.”

You notice the slope as you stutter-step down the driveway shared by Eric and Kim and their fellow empty-nesters next door. Then, rebalanced at the bottom, you notice nothing but this home: It’s textured and smooth, metallic and glassily reflective, nestled and bold, with a shed roof over the one-story garage; a majestic butterfly roof alit on the two-story living area; and an entry hall

The drawers in the master bathroom, with partially translucent glass doors to the shower and to the toilet, are “deep, to get the Sonicare in,” says Finch.



connecting, and separating, them.

The fact that Eric and Kim’s home is this harmoniously stunning should be considered the ultimate win: It’s a thoughtful composition of input, insight and experience. Plus a whole lot of give-and-take.

“We had a very clear idea of how we live — how we want to live,” says Eric.

“There were days that were collaborative, and some we wanted to kill each other,” Kim says of Finch, happily bantering. “Part of the dialogue was that Andrew got used to getting hand-drawn sketches from me — no CAD. Hour by hour, there definitely were some things we disagreed on, but I did value so much Andrew’s design expertise. And in some cases, I knew I was right. We each had ►

Opening next to shiny zinc-aluminum siding, the 5-by-9-foot entry pivot door from Modern Steel Doors in Tucson weighs 900 pounds, says Kim. “It’s an extremely heavy door; it needs a steel frame for size and movement,” she says.

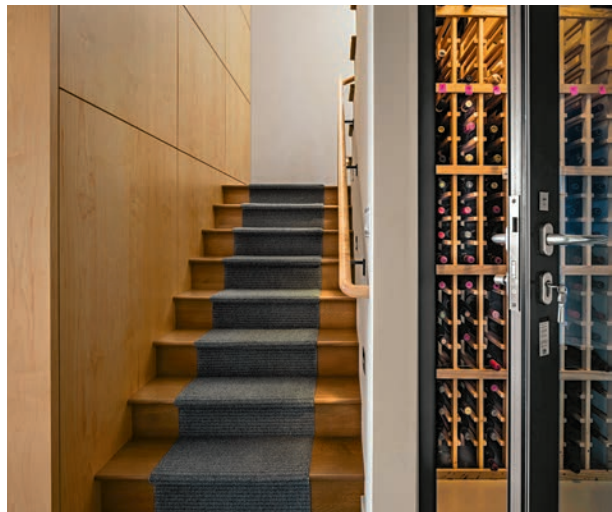
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certain battles we won and ones we lost. The end result is very satisfactory.”

Today’s tour of gentle give-and-take begins, as tours should, in that welcoming entry hall, reached via an impressive 900-pound, one-piece, 5-by-9-foot pivot door.

“This was a disagreement,” says Kim. “Back in the beginning, I didn’t know I wanted a pivot door, or whether the structure could support it. ... It’s an extremely heavy door; it needs a steel frame for size and movement.” It is amazing. “You were right about the pivot door,” she says to Finch — adding that she found this particular, more-affordable custom version through a vendor in Tucson.

- Of the siding, Finch says, “Kim wanted a no-maintenance exterior. It gives the house more depth.” Adds Kim: “That was a win for me.”
- Downstairs, past a custom stairway that integrates a virtual wall of cabinetry through both levels, “You compromised a little on the bedroom size,” Finch says. Adds Kim: “On this level, to get two bedrooms and two bathrooms, everything is a little undersized. The upstairs is big. It’s a trade-off.”
- In the master bathroom, glass doors open to the toilet and to the shower. “Andrew won this one,” Kim says. “I wanted translucent all the way to the top, but the light comes in so much better through the clear. It makes the room feel so much bigger. Great call.”
- In the kitchen, part of the light-filled, lofty-ceilinged, glass-walled great room, Kim says, “I wanted a secondary table, to stand up.” A precisely centered island fits the bill perfectly. “With this island, it’s much more pleasant to face each other,” Finch says. “She was right.”
- Off the great room, Eric’s office looks through glass pocket doors to more than 20 windows framing the lake. “One of my goals was to get Eric’s office on the water,” says Kim. “We couldn’t do it, but this isn’t too bad.”
- And, also on the periphery of the great room, Kim’s desk claims a sweet



alcove, highly visible and highly functional. “There’s no sense hiding the fact you spend a lot of time on the computer,” she says. “Eric gets a whole room. I wanted a niche. I got the biggest closet; it was part

BELOW: “A custom stair integrates cabinetry from the lower level through the main floor,” says Finch. The wine cellar at right “originally was a broom closet until I redesigned it,” says Kim. “What valuable real estate it is. We insulated it and changed the door and switched up to exterior windows; they’re much quieter.”

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