

YOUR GUIDE TO NORTHWEST GREEN DESIGN

NORTHWEST HOME

MAY/JUNE 2007

+ GARDEN

THINK GREEN

25

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LIGHT HOUSE

A COUPLE'S NEW ABODE BRINGS IN THE LIGHT BY ROBIN AVNI PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRICK BARTA





A platform entryway adds definition to the home's airy, welcoming interior. At the end of each day, the floating, wide-planked stairway gently glides the couple upstairs to their luxurious master suite and bath. Opposite page: A beamed canopy dramatically marks the main entrance and serves to visually connect the home's exterior with its interior.

TOUR THIS HOME

The AIA Seattle // NW Home + Garden
Open House of the Month
Sunday, May 20, Noon-3 p.m.
See page 81 for details

WHEN CONTEMPLATING THEIR HOME OPTIONS SHORTLY AFTER MARRYING, BRAD BUTTERFIELD AND JULIE WILLIAMS' IMAGININGS STALLED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN AN AFFECTION FOR THE PAST AND A DESIRE FOR A NEW FUTURE.

They knew *where* they were going to live—in Richmond Beach—they just didn't know exactly what form their dwelling would take. If they tore down the old, but much beloved existing home where Williams, as a single mom, had raised her two boys, would they erase those happy memories? On the other hand, as a new couple, didn't they deserve their own new custom-fit retreat? ■ Butterfield, a principal at Edmonds-based Taylor Gregory Butterfield Architects (TGBA) and president of HammerWorks Construction Company, worked up, and reworked, many potential remodeling designs. "I twisted the floor plans about 20 different ways," he jokes. ■ Then the entire staff of Butterfield's firm toured the old house concluding with a climb to the roof. Once there, they experienced the expansive *vista that Williams had shared with friends and family throughout the years via impromptu roof parties and Fourth of July celebrations.* ■ As they drank in the spectacular view, the team unanimously advised: begin anew.

Thus began the transformation of a 2,000-plus-square-foot humble haven into a breathtaking 4,850-square-foot, light-filled oasis. ■ When Williams, a personal trainer, purchased the 7,200 square foot corner lot in 1989 for \$150,000 it contained two houses: a small 600-square-foot 1930s beach cottage that she rented out to help pay for the larger, 1950s-style home where she lived with her sons, Nat and Jay Ely. ■ The new solo structure makes the most of its inherited square footage and natural surroundings. Airy interiors are punctuated with beamed ceilings on each of the three floors. Five skylights and two stacked sleek banks of floor-to-ceiling windows beckon light inside, while more than 1,500 square feet of decking encourages frequent sight-seeing trips outside. ■ The home's Northwest modern style is distinctly, yet delicately established from the outset. In collaboration with Sanjay Soli, of Seattle's UGI Design Builds, an exterior design was achieved that harmoniously blends horizontal, anodized aluminum panels, corrugated-metal siding and vertical, Western red-cedar and concrete siding. A contemporary covering that also manages to project a warm, natural glow.





The cedar-and-concrete fencing surrounding the property echoes the material palette of the home's exterior. Angled steel braces on the upper deck's canopy lend support and visual interest.



The open floor plan flows among the great room, dining area and kitchen, and is perfect for entertaining. The floor-to-ceiling, custom-built walnut cabinets were the handiwork of craftsman Jim Brown of HammerWorks Construction. Opposite page, top to bottom: The entryway, with its elevated floor delineated with an inset of patterned granite makes a fine first impression. Buffalo "Bill" is ready to greet all who enter. A 950-square-foot deck offers stunning sunset views and is a perfect spot for indulging in quiet reflection or lively gatherings. A generous canopy ensures that the deck and its fireplace can be enjoyed come rain or shine. Family fans of the new home include (clockwise from bottom left): Alex Butterfield, Jay Ely, Brad Butterfield and Julie Williams.

Although Butterfield says that he designed and built this house “just for them,” the couple’s respective children were not an afterthought. For one thing, Williams’ son Jay was the project superintendent on the one-year construction project that began in 2004. (During construction, Brad and Julie, who married four years ago, lived in Butterfield’s Edmonds home, which he had shared with his daughter, Alex, and his first wife, who had passed away in November 2001.) ■ The new kitchen, boasting rich Juparana Beach granite countertops and custom-designed walnut cabinetry, stands in the same spot as Williams’ previous home, where a young Nat loved to cook with his mother. (A hobby that more than paid off, as Nat is now the executive chef at the Santa Barbara restaurant The Los Olivos Café famously featured in the merlot scene from the movie *Sideways*.) ■ “When he saw the photographs of the house being torn down,” Williams recalls, “his wife said he had to fold up the photo album and put it away. But when he came into the new place and walked through the door, Nat said, ‘It feels really good because the kitchen is in the same place.’” Nat is so at home that two or three times a year he flies up to cook for their dinner parties. ■ Butterfield, who gained his interior design expertise while working for his father’s architecture firm in the late ’70s, designed the home’s main space with entertaining in mind: the kitchen, dining area and a wide-and-welcoming great room effortlessly flow into one another. The entire space is infused with a peaceful quality, enhanced by the high ceilings, western exposure and abundant light pouring in from the many floor-to-ceiling windows. ■ Completing the second floor layout is the guest suite where Butterfield’s daughter stays when she’s home from college. The suite has its own private deck entry and is hung with landscape watercolors painted by her maternal grandmother. ■ Another piece of memorable wall art is ‘Bill.’ The buffalo head discovered by the couple in a Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, shop, which is whimsically decorated every holiday season, marks the floating stairway leading to one of the home’s highlights, a 950-square-foot deck located off the top of the landing. (The spacious third-floor master suite, complete with a dressing room-style master bath, enjoys a private entrance to the deck and a shared two-sided fireplace.) Upstairs, whether deck-side or inside through a phalanx of floor-to-ceiling windows, views from Seattle to beyond the Sound are beautifully on display. ■ “The upstairs is just incredible,” muses Williams. “It gives me the same perspective I had in my old house when I first went up and sat on the roof and brought up all my friends.” ■ Old memories and new dream home well met. ♦

Robin Avni is an Eastside-based freelance writer who specializes in home design and lifestyle trends.





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AIA SEATTLE // NW HOME+GARDEN

OPEN HOUSE

Edition 3 :: Number 13

Architectural Firm ::

Taylor Gregory Butterfield Architects

Cost :: \$1.2 million (construction costs only)

Tour it :: Sunday, May 20

(see details opposite page)

Prize Doors Proving the power

of attending to detail—and of pop culture—Brad Butterfield says that the two large, walnut doors that lead into the master bedroom were inspired by the beginning of the old *Get Smart* TV show, in which a number of opening and closing doors revealed the famed Agent 86. ■ “I wanted the master bedroom entry to be special,” he explains. The sanctuary-style doors, inset with architectural glass and measuring 5 feet wide by 9 ½ feet tall, were designed by Butterfield and crafted by finish carpenter Jim Brown of HammerWorks Construction. The main door (shown above) is mounted to pivot as it opens and closes. A second door moves along a sliding track and acts more as a window, artfully opening to the home’s main staircase. ■ Says Butterfield, “We close them every night. It’s like we’re closing ourselves in for the evening.” R.A.

Upper Floor



Main Floor



Lower Floor

