

YOUR GUIDE TO THE REGION'S TOP ARCHITECTS

NORTHWEST HOME

NOV/DEC 2006

+ GARDEN

TOP ARCHITECTS 50

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10. MARK TRAVERS, MARK TRAVERS ARCHITECT, 2315 E. PIKE ST.; 206.763.8496; MARKTRAVERSARCHITECT.COM. Mark Travers Architect operates with the philosophy that “each project offers limitations and opportunities...and it is our responsibility to create the most lyrical and elegant solution possible.” Although the firm is known for well-thought-out remodels, its mainstay is commercial work, ranging from master planning on large sites to small tenant improvements. An ongoing residential project is a small cabin located on the waterfront near Shelton. “The design features a heavy timber structural system and a large open plan with plenty of glass,” says Travers.

11. MITHUN, PIER 56, 1201 ALASKAN WAY, SUITE 200; 206.623.3344; MITHUN.COM. Sustainable design-star Mithun’s eclectic portfolio ranges from senior living projects to retail, such as Seattle REI Flagship store, landscape to mixed-use. The firm’s latest residential venture is High Point Community (thehighpoint.com) in West Seattle, a former public-

housing project originally built during World War II that is being rebuilt from the ground up. (The Mithun team designed the High Point land plan, as well as many of the development’s rental homes.) Eco-friendly elements include homes that meet local Built Green 3-star standards, a 34-block natural drainage system designed to protect nearby Longfellow Creek and the preservation of nearly 150 trees from the original development. Recently, High Point earned Mithun a 2006 AIA “Show You’re Green” award, which recognizes architects who have incorporated green elements in aesthetically excellent, affordable designs.

12. HEATHER JOHNSTON, PLACE ARCHITECTS, 119 W. DENNY WAY; 206.281.8225; PLACEARCHITECTS.COM. PLACE Architects’ projects span a wide range of building types, including retail spaces, commercial/office spaces, modern housing and health-care facilities. An innovative offering is PLACE houses, prefab homes that are smart, stylish and green, priced at 20 to 30 percent lower than custom homes. “The designs

are [inspired by] a set of requests that we have heard repeatedly in our custom practice. They are durable structures that require little to no maintenance, with generous public and private spaces that connect to the outdoors and flexible open spaces that can grow and change with their inhabitants,” says PLACE founder Johnston. An ongoing project is a 10-unit live/work unit in north Seattle that the firm is designing for Knoll Development. “There are 10 three-story units, each to be sold as an individual home, surrounding a light-filled public courtyard,” says Johnston. “As we densify our city, it becomes ever more important to create opportunities for people to live in the neighborhoods where they work. As we strive for environmentally sustainable lifestyles and personal and professional balance, this close proximity of home and work makes sense.”

13. TIM RHODES, RHODES ARCHITECTURE + LIGHT, 4218 SW ALASKA ST., SUITE G; 206.933.1257; RHODESARCHITECTURE.COM. Often collaborating with wife Susan, a lighting designer, Tim Rhodes is

known for his intelligent and distinctly Northwest designs. A recently completed favorite of Rhodes is Magnolia Gardens, a four-bedroom home with views of Elliott Bay and West Seattle that utilizes the foundation of a house built in the early 1950s. “I think it sets a new standard for speculative residences,” says Rhodes. “One of my goals in the past 10 years has been to experiment with houses built for sale, with the intention of challenging other builders and architects to construct well-designed, texturally rich dwellings, despite the fact that they are speculative. Since most new houses are developed and are not custom residences, the potential to influence the character and quality of Seattle’s residential neighborhoods is great.”

14. STUART SILK, STUART SILK ARCHITECTS, 2400 N. 45TH ST., SUITE 200; 206.728.9500; STUARTSILK.COM. Stuart Silk, a graduate of the Yale School of Architecture, founded Stuart Silk Architects in 1981 with only two full-time employees. Today, the firm has a staff of 17 and has received national recognition for its pol-

HOUSES WITH HISTORY

Seattle isn’t very old, compared to other U.S. cities (it was first settled in the 1850s, while New York City, Boston and many other East Coast cities were settled in the 1600s), but we do have our share of houses with history. Luckily for the homeowners, history buffs and everyone else who appreciates vintage buildings, there are several top local architects who specialize in historic restorations and renovations to help preserve them.

According to Kevin Kane of **SHKS Architects** (1050 N 38th St.; 206.675.9151; shksarchitects.com), which designed the renovation of the West Seattle and Green Lake Libraries and two of Seattle’s original Carnegie libraries, most of Seattle’s oldest houses were built from around 1905 to 1930. “Seattle has a substantial stock of good [historical] houses,” he says. “It’s a big opportunity to keep the city’s architectural legacy alive and to give our neighborhoods a certain character.” He adds, “Many of these houses have had work done over the decades. Unfortunately, it wasn’t always the best work.”

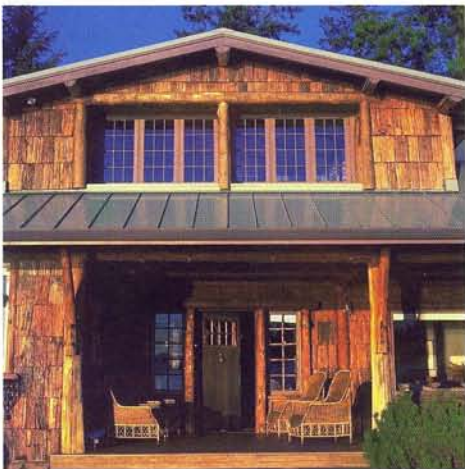
Kane says that most of his clients seeking historically sensitive restorations or renovations have “reasonably well taken care of houses, but want to modernize them. For example, they might want to

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ished residential designs. A recent favorite project of Silk's is a 3,100-square-foot residence on Lake Washington that is reminiscent of three children's building blocks, with the living room, dining room and kitchen in one block, the guest bedrooms in the second block and the master bedroom suite in the third block on the upper floor. "We are particularly excited about this project because the client encouraged us to explore ideas that are conceptual in nature," says Silk.

15. BLAINE WEBER, WEBER + THOMPSON, 425 PONTIUS AVE. N, SUITE 200; 206.344.5700; WEBERTHOMPSON.COM. When Blaine Weber and Scott Thompson founded Weber + Thompson in 1987, their specialty was urban infill, mixed-use projects. Since then, the staff has flourished from a single digit to 90, and the firm's focus has expanded to include interior design, planning, landscape architecture and environmental graphics. "A signature project is the Fifteen Twenty-One condominiums, a 38-story, 440-foot-tall residential tower that is under construction right above Pike Place Market," says Weber. "It is striking, bold, sleek and very sculpted."



Above, left to right: An Arts and Crafts-style retreat built in 1905. Over the years, the home was updated in ways that were not in keeping with the original design, including the addition of aluminum windows. Hoshide Williams' historically sensitive renovation included replacing shingle siding with fir and cedar bark and adding log posts and ceiling beams to the kitchen. Left: Before and after shots of a Capitol Hill home, restored and renovated by SHKS Architects. "Significant architectural features were saved and restored, but we added a number of new fixtures and finishes [as well]," says Kane.



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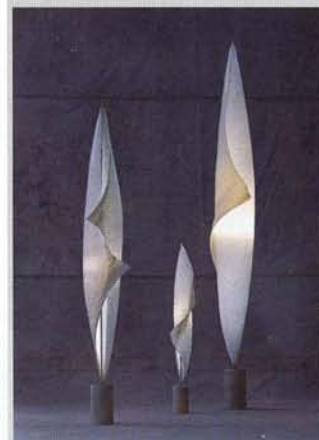


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