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WRITTEN BY SAXON HENRY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN GRANEN

WHEN A MODERN HOME INSPIRES TALK OF ANCIENT ARTIFACTS AND DINOSAURS, THERE IS SOMETHING RADICAL GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES FAR BEYOND THE USE OF GLASS, CONCRETE AND STEEL. And everyone involved in the building of this contemporary gem nestled into a lakeside setting in Seattle points back to the one element that cemented the home's progressive outcome: the homeowner, Anne Croco.

Architect Stuart Silk and design principal Michael Troyer say she was a dream client. "This is the fourth home we've designed for her and a true departure for her stylistically. She wanted a stripped-down environment and minimal surroundings," says Silk, who, along with Troyer, joined forces with the firm's project manager Michael McFadden on the residence. Croco blames her modern turn on her past, as she studied

ARCHITECTURE Stuart Silk, AIA, and Michael Troyer,
Stuart Silk Architects Limited PS

HOME BUILDER John Hoedemaker, Schuchart/Dow

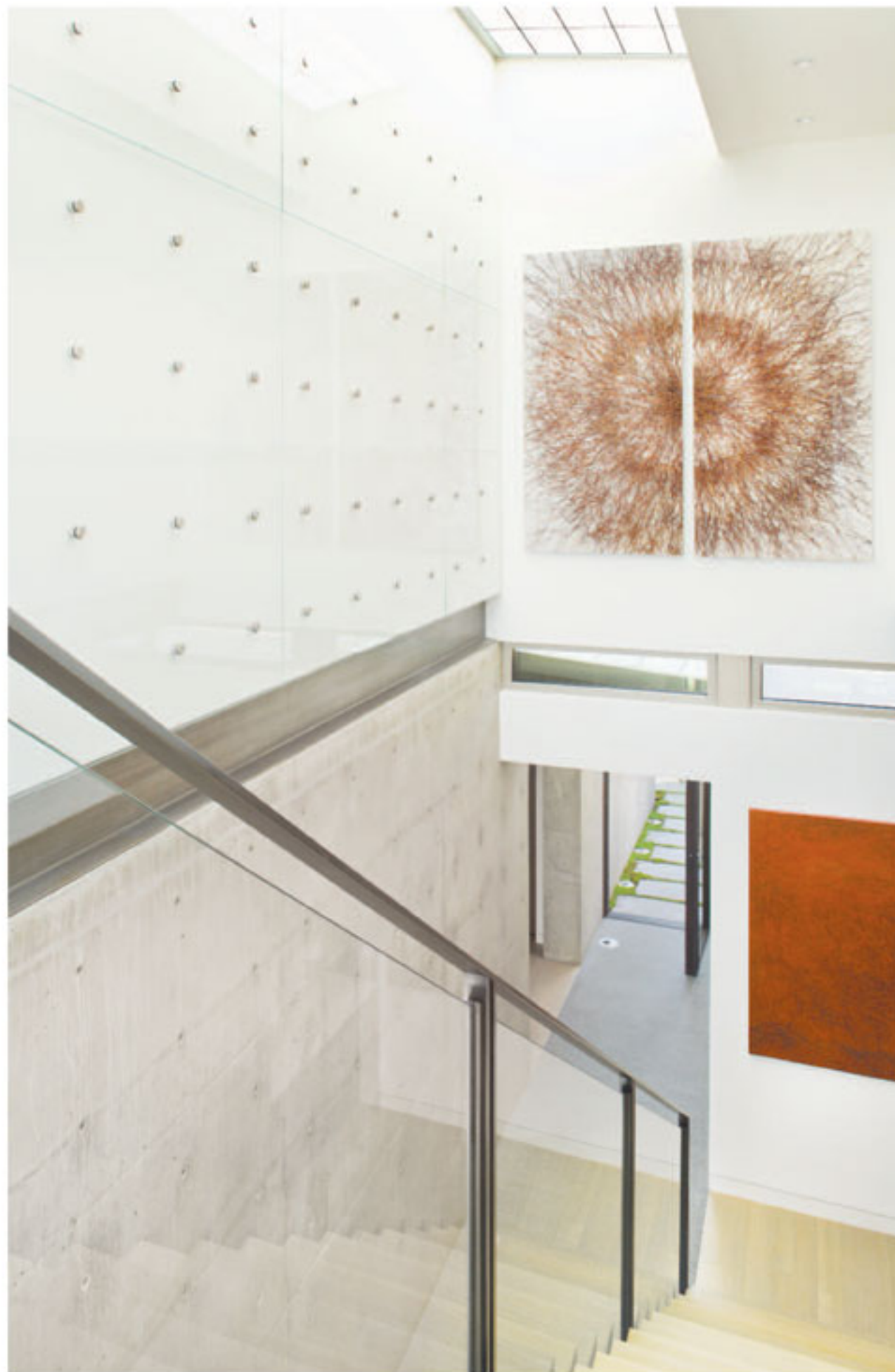
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Mike Doyle, Hortiscapc NW, Inc.

BEDROOMS 3 **BATHROOMS** 3 **SQUARE FEET** 2,677



STEP SHOW

A skylight illuminates a Stephen Galloway diptych in the stairwell. The glow also washes soft light over the glass wall panels from Distinctive Glass, as well as the poured-in-place concrete by Westlake Concrete.



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design during the 1970s when modernism was enjoying a spate of popularity. "Suddenly, so many of the contemporary products I was seeing felt good to me," she explains, attributing the austere impulse to her state of mind. "I am entering a new era of keeping things simple in my life."

Though she was ensconced in the French countryside when construction was underway, Croco was highly involved. The team placed a camera on site so that she could be part of the action. Builder John Hoedemaker marveled at Croco's savvy, as her input from so far away was spot-on. "Her level of sophistication in terms of understanding what we were doing made the process wonderful," says Hoedemaker, who worked with Chris Lange on the build. "The word 'collaboration' is often used to describe projects, but with this one it was fitting."

STRONG FOUNDATION

Stained clear cedar from Sound Siding and Firestone metal panels from Andgar Corporation intermingle with architectural concrete to form the sophisticated mix of materials on the exterior of the home.



DESIGN COLLECTIVE

The custom hearth in the living room was designed using pre-cast concrete from Dogpaw Design, while blackened steel surrounds the Montigo fireplace. The homeowner paired a Living Divani sofa from Lima with a Tord Boontje table by Fiam, Marcel Wanders' end tables for Cappellini and Flexform chairs.



LIGHT WEIGHT

The main entry door—custom steel and glass by Argent Fabrication—pivots open, its design allowing for the maximum infusion of light. The design team wanted the home to be quiet yet richly rewarding to the eye, so light quality was an important consideration throughout.

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Their efforts birthed an open, airy home with infusions of soft light and pale tones interrupted only by occasional pops of color, which Silk says were born of Croco's impishness. "She's a bit of a troublemaker!" he quips. "She brought in an Hermès purse and said, 'I want this orange in the house!'" Bright hues in the art express her wishes, as does the lacquered glow coating the top of the kitchen cabinetry, which is visible when descending the stairs and from the reflection emanating up to the ceiling.



ON LOCATION

The home is set into the landscape as if it had risen naturally from the foundations of its hillside perch. Fleetwood sliding glass doors from Solarium Skylight open the home onto its surroundings.



HEARTY CUISINE

Poltrona Frau barstools from Limn surround an island in the kitchen, outfitted with GE, Miele, Sub-Zero and Viking appliances from Albert Lee Appliance. A CaesarStone backsplash pops against cabinetry by Interior Environments and flooring from Advanced Floor Design. A Catellani & Smith chandelier imparts whimsy.

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The centerpiece on the first floor is a transparent sculptural staircase, which Silk calls the star of the home. "We wanted it to be very visual and present but we didn't want it to overwhelm so the materials were thoughtfully considered," he explains, noting the wood treads and the dark steel as examples of their studied choices. "We brought a beach feel to the interiors with the weathered textures and bleached tones," says Troyer. "But ease was also paramount, so we concentrated on a nice marriage of warm whites and soft materials."

The home's finishes and color palette got an added boost courtesy of Croco's background in design, and input from Seattle designer Michael McQuiston. And she turned to contemporary art and design retailer Limn to help her source the pieces she selected for her new space—Eric Fassett, Limn's showroom manager at the time, played a significant role in aiding her.



HOT SEAT

Ipe decking brings the exterior "room" the weathered feel that the team was looking to achieve. Custom Firestone metal panels surround the fireplace from Vermont Castings. Paola Lenti's chair is a geographically sophisticated perch for moments spent in front of the fire.

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Outside, landscape designer Mike Doyle took the home's quietude and gave it greater depth. "We decided to respond to the site in a geological sense—considering the time when the last ice floe came through," he explains. "Our aim was to create an ancient glacial meadow." Ginkgo and metasequoia were chosen because they have survived since the time dinosaurs roamed. The latter was thought to be extant only in fossilized form until a British expedition to China uncovered a live specimen during the 1940s.

"Stuart and I worked with metasequoia on a project in China and felt it would be perfect to bring the spirit of our plans to fruition with Anne's home," Doyle says. "She understood that we were striving to create a garden that spoke of man's link to the past, eternal evolution and our need to find those ancient echoes." **L**



SLEEP WEAR

A hand-painted Timorous Beasties wallcovering gives the master bedroom tone-on-tone sophistication, an ideal backdrop for Poltrona Frau's bed dressed in Matteo linens from Red Ticking. Surprise elements are an antique English ladies' chair and a floor lamp by De La Espada's Autoban. Lynn Criswell's painting pops with color.



1 ENTRY DOOR
Argent Fabrication
Seattle, WA
206.438.0068

2 ARTWORK
Lynn Criswell
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

3 FIREPLACE
Montigo USA
Ferndale, WA
360.366.3507

4 FLOOR LAMP
Santa & Cole
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

5 WHITE OAK FLOORING
Advanced Floor
Design, Inc.
Kenmore, WA
425.481.5195

ARCHITECTURE Stuart Silk Architects Limited PS
HOME BUILDER Schuchart/Dow
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Hortiscape NW, Inc.

APPLIANCES
GE, Miele,
Sub-Zero, Viking
Albert Lee Appliance
Tukwila, WA
206.433.1110

ARCHITECTURE
Stuart Silk Architects
Limited PS
Seattle, WA
206.728.9500

BARSTOOLS
Peltrona Frau
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

BEDDING
Matteo
Red Ticking
Seattle, WA
206.322.9890

BEDROOM AREA RUG
Grand Splendid
Seattle, WA
866.788.4289

BEDROOM FLOOR LAMP
Autoban
De La Espada
New York, NY
212.625.1039

BLACK AND WHITE END TABLES
Cappellini
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

CABINETS
Custom
Interior Environments
Seattle, WA
206.432.8800

CONCRETE
WestLake Concrete
Seattle, WA
206.438.0065

CUSTOM STAIRCASE
U.S. Starcraft
Seattle, WA
206.762.0607

One Step Ahead
Bothell, WA
425.487.1869

DINING CHAIRS, BLACK
Moool
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

DINING CHAIRS, CREAM
Cassina
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

DINING ROOM ARTWORK
Tony Scherman
Winston Wächter
Fine Art
Seattle, WA
206.652.5855

DINING TABLE
Arco
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

DRAPERIES
Sam
Yassalino
Seattle, WA
206.762.6722

FLOOR SCULPTURES
Gervasoni
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

GLASS RAILING & WALL
Distinctive Glass, Inc.
Lynnwood, WA
425.775.1161

HOME BUILDER
Schuchart/Dow
Seattle, WA
206.433.3003

KITCHEN CHANDELIER
Catellani & Smith
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

KITCHEN COUNTERTOPS
CaesarStone
Paramatrix Stone, Inc.
Federal Way, WA
253.941.5420

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
Hortiscape NW, Inc.
Everett, WA
425.348.5300

LIVING ROOM AREA RUG
Limited Edition
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE MANTEL
Custom
Dogpaw Design
Seattle, WA
206.706.0019

OUTDOOR FIREPLACE SURROUND
Custom
Andgar Corporation
Ferndale, WA
360.366.9900

OUTDOOR FURNITURE
Paola Lenti
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

PLANTERS
Serralunga
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

ROOF
Siplast Terapco
Commercial
Industrial Roofing
Mukilteo, WA
425.423.8900

SIDING
Sound Siding
Kent, WA
253.639.8728

SLIDING GLASS DOORS & WINDOWS
Fleetwood Windows & Doors
Solarium Skylight, Inc.
Kenmore, WA
425.402.9000

SOFA
Living Divani
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466

STAIRCASE ARTWORK
Stephen Galloway
Limn
San Francisco, CA
415.543.5466