



IN THE LIVING AND DINING ROOMS (BELOW), ELEGANT BUT RESTRAINED FURNISHINGS INCLUDE BAKER SOFAS, A COFFEE TABLE FROM CRATE AND BARREL AND A DINING TABLE FROM MEYER WELLS.

OPPOSITE: THE TRANSFORMED FAÇADE SEAMLESSLY CONNECTS INSIDE AND OUT. EXTERIOR SIDING PENETRATES THE INTERIOR; MATERIALS SUCH AS WILKINSON SANDSTONE, CONCRETE AND WATER CREATE A SHARED VOCABULARY.



INSPIRED DESIGN

Seattle Design 100+ honorees Stuart Silk Architects and Nancy Burfiend collaborate on this Leschi remodel, mixing luxurious textures with a subdued color palette for a fresh new look

WRITTEN BY LISA KENNEDY PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX HAYDEN



Tuesday evening is family night at the Neiders residence on Lake Washington, and several generations of assorted relatives easily flow in and out of the house and down to the water's edge. Once cut off from the outdoors by a paucity of doors and windows that didn't open, the family's Leschi home, which has been revamped from top to bottom in an extensive multiphase remodel, now opens wide to the lake.

Working with architect Stuart Silk and interior designer Nancy Burfiend, Tina and Karl Neiders—an emergency physician and the owner of a real estate investment firm, respectively—have gradually transformed the midcentury-modern house since they purchased it a decade ago. “We needed more space for our young family,” Tina explains. “And we wanted to re-establish a connection to the outdoors,” Karl adds.

Both loved the lines and feel of the house, which was built by a concrete contractor in 1955, and they wanted to retain its best assets—most notably, a circular concrete entry with a ramp, inspired by the Guggenheim Museum, that leads to the lower level. On a trip to Latvia in 2001, Tina and Karl stayed in a brand-new Riga hotel, where the lobby's circular staircase and mezzanine further convinced them to keep the circular entry in their own home.

The home's entryway proved to be the biggest challenge during the main phase of the remodel, which involved gutting the main floor, raising the ceiling and adding a second story. Today, after a close collaboration between architect, interior designer and craftspeople, the entry is the dramatic centerpiece of the house, a two-story circular space topped by an exterior steel drum that projects up from the roofline. Tall vertical windows and an oculus bring in shafts of light, and a graceful steel staircase curves its way upward around a revamped sandstone channel pool and above the original ramp. “It had every opportunity to be over the top,” Silk says of the entryway. “What we did was celebrate it, but the staircase now gives the entry purpose.”



OPPOSITE: IN THE ENTRYWAY, THE HOT- AND COLD-ROLLED STEEL AND WHITE-OAK STAIRCASE ACHIEVES A FEELING OF LIGHTNESS. THE WET BAR BEYOND CAN BE FULLY CLOSED OFF BY CEILING-HIGH FOLDING WALNUT DOORS.

ABOVE, TOP: CUSTOM WALNUT CABINETS WITH SIMPLE STAINLESS-STEEL TAB PULLS CREATE A CLEAN-LINED KITCHEN THAT DIVIDES NEATLY INTO TWO FUNCTIONAL AREAS; A GRANITE-TOPPED ISLAND SEPARATES COOKING FROM SERVING AND EATING.

ABOVE: A WATERCOLOR IN THE DINING AREA IS BY JANET LAUREL.



"WE DESIGNED THE HOUSE TO HAVE A BEAUTIFUL, SEAMLESS FLOW AND TO BE FOCUSED ON THE OUTDOORS."

—NANCY BURFIEND, INTERIOR DESIGNER

BELOW LEFT AND OPPOSITE: THE MASTER-BEDROOM CEILING FOLLOWS THE ROOFLINE, AND PROGRAMMABLE ELECTRONIC BLACKOUT SHADES CONTROL THE INFLUX OF LIGHT. THE BARCELONA CHAIRS ARE FROM AREA 51.
BELOW RIGHT: IN THE MASTER BATH, THE FREESTANDING ZUMA TUB TAKES MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF LAKE AND MOUNTAIN VIEWS, WHILE BOTTOM-UP SHADES PROVIDE PRIVACY AS NEEDED. FITTINGS ARE BY DORNBRACHT.



The entry also sets the tone for the rest of the house, with its bold architectural features and clean-lined, uncluttered spaces. A neutral interior design palette chosen by Burfiend is dominated by white textiles and dark wood, with the owners' art collection bringing in a few shots of color. "We designed the house to have a beautiful, seamless flow and to be focused on the outdoors," Burfiend says. "The interiors needed to be recessed but still rich-feeling and luxurious."

In the kitchen, family room and rear entry hall, a continuous wall of built-in walnut cabinets contains the mess of daily living. The streamlined kitchen is neatly divided by a huge granite island, which separates cooking functions from eating and clean-up duties. The adjoining dining and living rooms take full measure of the view, opening to an expansive deck that runs the width of the house and connects to a bluestone terrace, gardens and dock below.

Upstairs, the master suite surprises with a three-quarter wall that obscures the view from the doorway. The walnut and steel panel provides privacy from the street side of the house, serving as a backdrop for the bed and heightening the impact of the view. The sheer elegance of the master bath elicits sighs from first-time visitors. Its heated floor and shower walls are covered in heavily veined black Saint Laurent marble, and a freestanding Zuma tub allows for gazing at the water, mountains and a double-sided gas fireplace that also serves the bedroom.

Along the far wall, twin vanities separated by a dressing table are topped by three tall custom mirrors lightly framed in steel. Floor-to-ceiling double glass doors open to a gigantic family-sized shower complete with towel warmers.

Despite the expansive spaces and luxurious finishes, this house is more home than showcase. "This is just a big, happy place," says Tina, as kids run around playing dress-up and tumbling on the lawn, and adults gather around the kitchen island. "Stuart and Nancy had a lot of vision to make this all come together," says her husband, already envisioning their next collaboration: a circular concrete room on the lower level just waiting to be transformed into the perfect wine cellar. ■

Lisa Kennedy is a Seattle-based writer and interior designer.

Design Details

ARCHITECT
 Stuart Silk, design principal,
 David King, project manager,
 Stuart Silk Architects,
 2400 N. 45th St., Ste. 200,
 (206) 728-9500,
 stuartsilksilk.com

INTERIOR DESIGNER
 Nancy Burfiend, NB Design Group,
 1932 First Ave., (206) 441-7754,
 nbdesigngroup.net

**For resource information,
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