

A soaring
roofline and
three-level
glass entry
open this
home to
great views
and thrilling
contemporary
style.

Seattle Sleek

PRODUCED BY LINDA HUMPHREY PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURIE BLACK

THIS PHOTO: A glass entry tower topped with a curvaceous airfoil roof gives this radically renovated home a thoroughly modern attitude.



THIS PHOTO: Cement-fiberboard panels introduce a rectangular grid pattern in the living room. OPPOSITE: Mesh panels on the entry staircase conform to code while maintaining a transparent quality.



When commercial/residential developer Justin Bloch purchased the lot overlooking Seattle's Lake Union, he planned to raise the low-slung, nondescript 1950s house, develop the property, and resell it. "But as I spent time living in the original house, I grew to love the way the house was oriented to the property," Bloch says. "One day I realized it was just wrong to tear the house down. I needed to remodel it."

Enter architect Stuart Silk and project architect Dave Dykstra. "For budget reasons, we needed to stay within the home's original footprint," Silk says. At the same time, the team wanted to create a residence that felt new. The obvious solution, though far from easy, was to add an upper level while reorganizing the dated main level.

By adding a second level, the architects were able to introduce a signature feature, the home's gently curved airfoil roof. Although the roof is essentially flat to conform to zoning regulations, its curving metal frame and stretched aluminum skin appear to sweep up—as though the home were floating high above the lake below. Inside, the addition solved several design deficits. New transom and clerestory windows, open passages between levels, and a steel grid for a portion of the upper-level flooring introduce natural light to the main level. The new upper level allows space for two tree-house-like suites—one for Justin and the other for his daughter.

For a more unified exterior, Silk and Dykstra lined the west side of the house with a two-story window wall. The long main-level living room and the master suite above are oriented around this feature and enjoy ever-changing views of the hillside and lake. On the east side, a new glass-and-aluminum tower augments the original front door, functioning as a two-story prism of light and angles.

Finally, Silk and Dykstra brought order to the floor plan with a cross-axis design. Columns and partial walls impart shape and function to the loft-like spaces. "Columns divide, but they also integrate," Dykstra notes. For example, while the kitchen is visible from much of the living room, it is separated by serving islands and columns.

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CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE: Resting on curvy steel fins, the glass breakfast bar appears to hover gracefully above maple and concrete-top cabinets. Suspended glass shelves keep glassware at hand while enhancing the openness of the space. Surrounded by glass, the limestone soaking tub has a natural, spa-like feel. A vintage-style sleigh bed faces a wall of steel-frame windows in the master suite. A steel spiral staircase leads from the dressing room/closet to a catwalk with additional seating and storage. Punches of red energize the predominantly neutral palette and streamlined aesthetic.



LEFT: The table and benches were designed by homeowner Justin Bloch to complement the pared-down simplicity of the room's pendant fixtures. BELOW: The country-in-the-city site on Seattle's Lake Union attracted Bloch to the property.



Floor plan

