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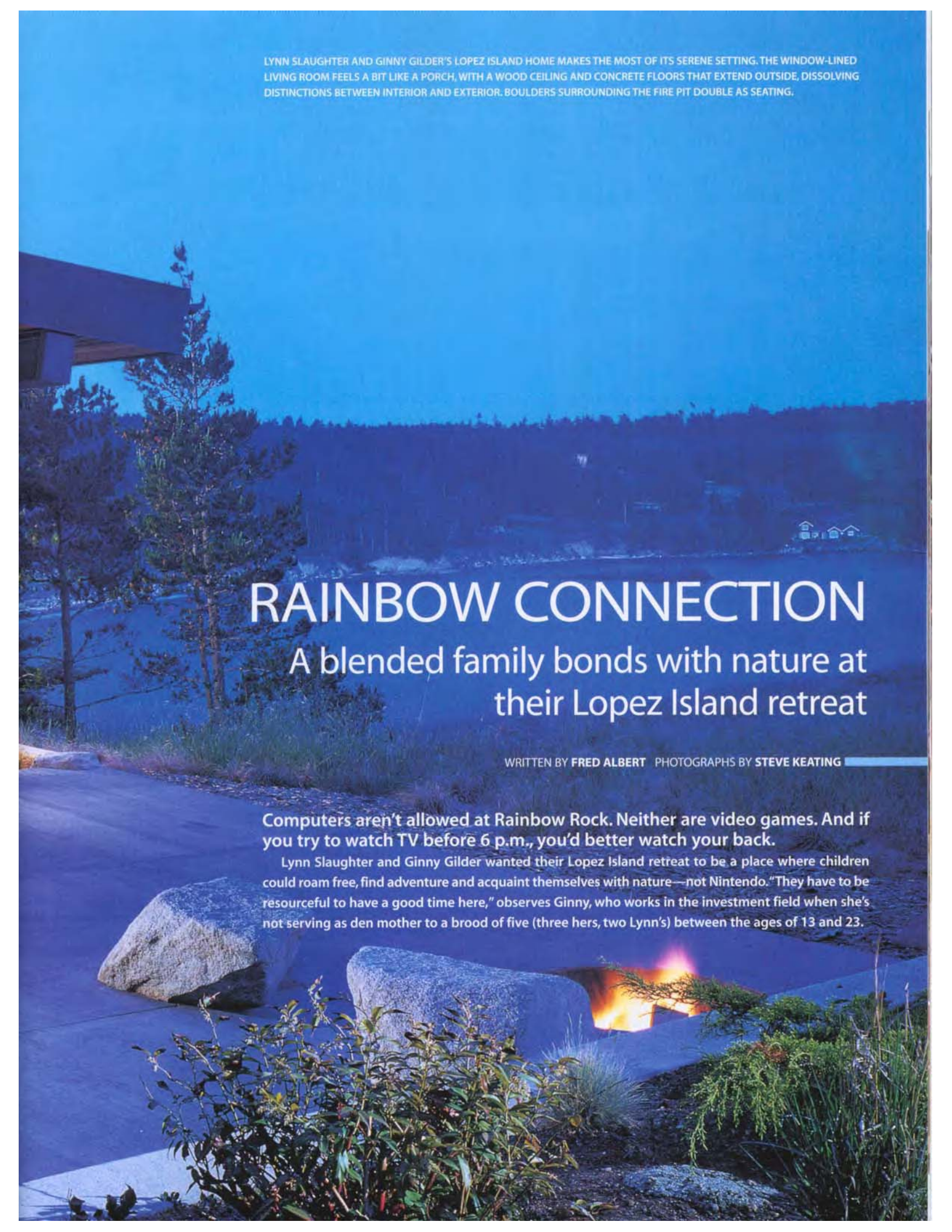
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LYNN SLAUGHTER AND GINNY GILDER'S LOPEZ ISLAND HOME MAKES THE MOST OF ITS SERENE SETTING. THE WINDOW-LINED LIVING ROOM FEELS A BIT LIKE A PORCH, WITH A WOOD CEILING AND CONCRETE FLOORS THAT EXTEND OUTSIDE, DISSOLVING DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR. BOULDERS SURROUNDING THE FIRE PIT DOUBLE AS SEATING.

RAINBOW CONNECTION

A blended family bonds with nature at their Lopez Island retreat

WRITTEN BY FRED ALBERT PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE KEATING

Computers aren't allowed at Rainbow Rock. Neither are video games. And if you try to watch TV before 6 p.m., you'd better watch your back.

Lynn Slaughter and Ginny Gilder wanted their Lopez Island retreat to be a place where children could roam free, find adventure and acquaint themselves with nature—not Nintendo. "They have to be resourceful to have a good time here," observes Ginny, who works in the investment field when she's not serving as den mother to a brood of five (three hers, two Lynn's) between the ages of 13 and 23.

After acquiring their eight-acre parcel four years ago, the Seattle residents asked architect Tom Lenchek of Balance Associates to design a home that was contemporary but would blend in with its surroundings. They also wanted a place that could function for just the two of them but could also accommodate a middle-school soccer team, if necessary.

Lenchek and project architect Scott LaBenz divided the structure into two wings: a main house that includes a living room, dining room, kitchen and master suite; and a bedroom wing that features two guest rooms and a communal dorm room for the kids. "We've told them they can stay in the guest room if there's no other guest here, but they never have," reports Lynn, a public defense investigator. "They just like being together."

A glass bridge connects the main house to the bedroom wing; a sliding door closes off the latter when the kids aren't around, saving on heat and making the main house feel even more intimate.

At just over 2,700 square feet, Rainbow Rock (the tongue-in-cheek name alludes to the ethnic mix of the children and the symbol of gay pride) is hardly palatial. To make it look even less imposing, the architects broke up the exterior with a mix of granite and cedar siding, borrowing colors from the surrounding rocks and madrone trees, respectively. "The forms are modern and boxy, but the materials are natural," explains LaBenz.

The living room protrudes from the side like a covered porch, with nothing but a fireplace to interrupt its floor-to-ceiling sweep of glass. (The builder was Ravenhill Construction.) The angled roof mimics the posture of the windswept trees, while outside materials wrap around inside walls and slink over thresholds, further blurring divisions between interior and exterior.

The master suite above commands an awe-inspiring view of San Juan Channel and the Olympics beyond. The screened sleeping porch next door was inspired by Lynn's memories of dozing on the roof of her grandparents' Texas ranch.

Furnishings throughout are colorful and contemporary—but not immune to teenage exuberance, so the owners built a barn behind the house, an indoor covered space "where the kids can raise hell," Ginny says. A stair tower enclosed in translucent plastic leads to a bridge linking the barn with a hilltop playfield in back. At night, the tower glows like a lighthouse—a dramatic beacon anchoring the sprawling compound.

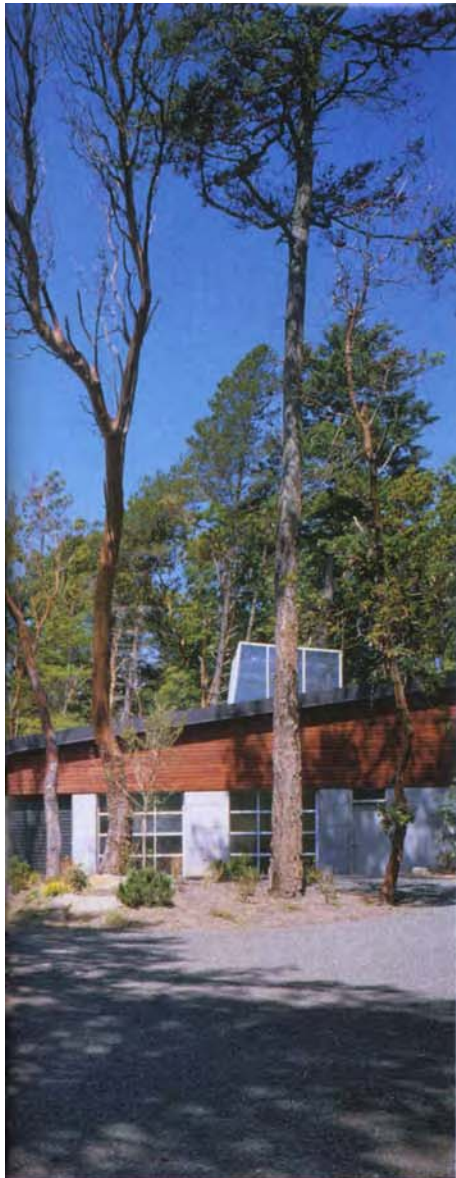
Ginny loves whiling away the hours in Rainbow Rock's sunny, spacious kitchen—that is, when she's not rowing, playing sports with the kids or going for runs with Shimmy, the family's standard poodle.

"When I'm in Seattle, I always feel I've got to be contributing to the community," she concedes. "Here, I just get to be *alive*." ■



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: THE MAIN HOUSE STANDS TO THE LEFT OF THE BARN; THE COMBINATION OF GRANITE, STUCCO AND CEDAR SIDING HELPS MINIMIZE THE BUILDING'S MASS AND BLENDS WITH THE SETTING. A STUCCO FIREPLACE OBSCURES VIEWS INTO THE LIVING ROOM FROM THE DRIVEWAY; THE CEDAR CEILING ADDS WARMTH. THE SCULPTURES WERE MADE BY LYNN'S FATHER. SECTIONAL FROM EGBERT'S, (206) 728-5682. FOSSIL-ENCUSTED SLATE TILES SURROUND THE MASTER BATH AND THE VIEW SHOWER. SHIMMY LOUNGES IN THE MASTER BEDROOM, WHICH BOASTS A SWEEPING VIEW AND AN OFFICE AREA, AT REAR. THE SKYLIGHTED KITCHEN FEATURES MAPLE CABINETS AND A BAMBOO FLOOR. THE ROOM IS OPEN TO THE LIVING ROOM, DINING ROOM AND VIEW, SO GINNY IS NEVER FAR FROM THE ACTION.







THE STAIR TOWER BESIDE THE BARN GLOWS LIKE A BEACON AT NIGHT. THE ARCHITECTS WRAPPED THE TOWER WITH PLASTIC PANELS NORMALLY USED FOR GREENHOUSES; THE BRIDGE LEADS TO A HILLTOP FIELD WHERE THE FAMILY INDULGES ITS LOVE OF SPORTS.

design details



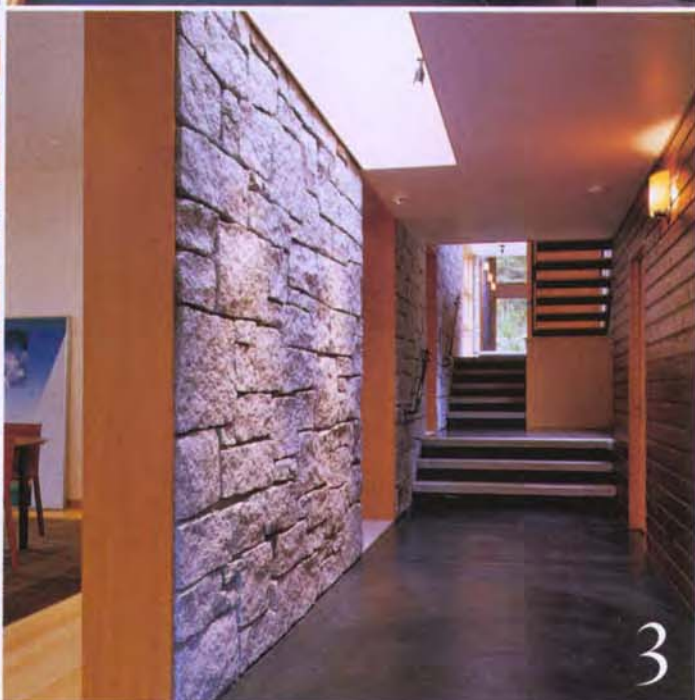
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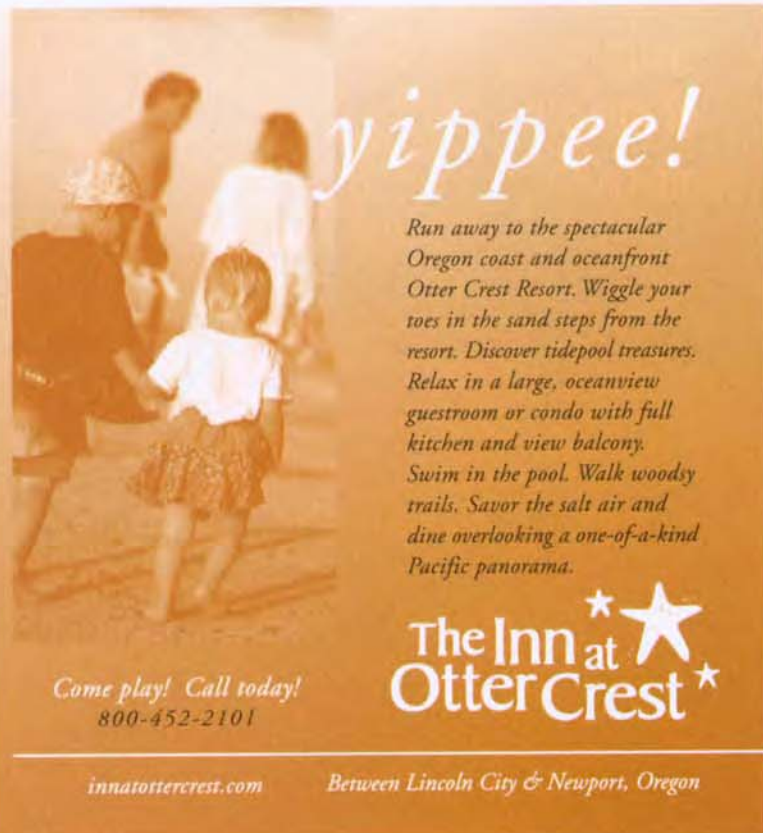


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3

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: 1 LYNN AND GINNY WANTED THE HOUSE TO BLEND IN WITH ITS SETTING. GRANITE BOULDERS HELP WEAVE THE TERRACE INTO THE LANDSCAPE AND DOUBLE AS SEATING AROUND THE FIRE PIT. THE MEDIA ROOM AND GUEST ROOM BEYOND ARE SHEATHED IN GRANITE BLOCKS SELECTED TO MATCH EXISTING ROCKS FOUND ON THE SITE. 2 A GLASS BRIDGE CONNECTS THE MAIN HOUSE TO THE BEDROOM WING, WHICH FEATURES SIDE-BY-SIDE GUEST ROOMS CLAD IN STONE AND A DORM ROOM SHEATHED IN CEDAR. RAVENHILL CONSTRUCTION MADE THE BENCH FROM A SLAB OF PONDEROSA PINE. 3 THE CENTRAL HALLWAY DIVIDES THE "STONE" SIDE OF THE HOUSE FROM THE "WOOD" SIDE; A SLIDING BARN DOOR (VISIBLE BEHIND THE STAIRS) CLOSES OFF THE BEDROOM WING WHEN THE CHILDREN AREN'T IN RESIDENCE. ARCHITECT TOM LENCEK PLACED THE SKYLIGHT FLUSH WITH THE MASONRY WALL TO HIGHLIGHT THE COLORS AND TEXTURES IN THE STONE. 4 THE BARN IS RESERVED FOR THE OWNERS' FIVE CHILDREN, WHO USE THE SPACE FOR GAMES, PROJECTS AND GENERAL MAYHEM. RACKS HOLD ROWING SHELLS; THE LOFT CAN SLEEP UP TO EIGHT VISITORS. A STAIRCASE FRAMED IN POLYCARBONATE PANELS LEADS TO THE BRIDGE CONNECTING THE BARN WITH THE KNOLL ABOVE.



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64 RAINBOW CONNECTION

Architects: Tom Lenchek and Scott LaBenz, Balance Associates Architects, (206) 322-7737; **Contractor:** Ravenhill Construction, Inc., (360) 378-5404; **Landscape Designer:** Robin Ritchie, Madrona Point Landscaping, (360) 908-1319; **Masonry:** Dave Steinbrueck, Stonebridge Masonry, (360) 468-2088; **Page 66:** Counter stools, Design Within Reach, (206) 443-9900; **cabinetry,** Ravenhill Construction, Inc.; **Page 67:** Coffee table, Design Within Reach; **sectional,** Erik Jørgensen, Egbert's, (206) 728-5682; **bedding,** The Company Store, (800) 285-3696; **slate tile,** American Slate Company, (206) 938-3718; **slate installation,** tile setter, David Baney, Renaissance Tile Craft, (360) 376-7111; **robe, basket, bathtub,** Waterworks, (206) 441-9300.

70 PARADISE FOUND

Interior Architect: Norman Sandler, Sandler Kilburn Architects, LLC, (206) 682-5211; **Interior Designer:** Elisabeth Beers, Sandler Kilburn Architects, LLC; **Contractor:** Trend Builders, (808) 879-0033; **Pages 70-71:** JJ Custom round ottoman and sofa, Gulassa coffee table, Terris Draheim*, (206) 763-4100; **patterned chair and ottoman** designed by Sandler Kilburn Architects, fabric from Walenta Upholstery*, (206) 762-8100; **Michael Berman chaises, A. Rudin wood-frame chair,** Trammell-Gagné, LLC*, (206) 762-1511; **Page 72:** Coffee table, love seat, lounge chairs, breakfast table and chairs, Sutherland, Susan Mills Showroom*, (206) 682-6388; **bar chairs,** Summit, Terris Draheim*; **floor,** Gasconne Blue limestone, Worldwide Design Studio, (808) 871-1440; **painting,** Dale Chihuly, Chihuly Studio, (206) 781-8707; **Page 73:** Dining table designed by Sandler Kilburn Architects in collaboration with the Chihuly Studio and Interior Environments Inc., (206) 764-4903; **dining chairs,** Berman Rosetti, Terris Draheim*; **lanai chairs and table,** Summit, Terris Draheim*; **lanai glass door** custom designed by Glassworks, (206) 441-4268; **sculpture,** Jun Kaneko, available through William Traver Gallery, (206) 587-6501; **counter top,** Labrador Antique Granite, Worldwide Design Studio; **range hood** designed by Sandler Kilburn Architects, made by Ballard Sheet Metal Works Inc., (206) 784-0545; **counter stools,** Berman Rosetti, Terris Draheim*.

74 BAY WATCH

Architect: David Foster Architects, (206) 726-9558; **Interior Designer:** Robin Chell Design, (206) 226-6896; **Lighting Design:** Susan Rhodes, LightWire, (206) 292-8177; **Page 74:** Fireplace surround custom designed by David Foster Architects; **wicker chair,** Smith & Hawken, (425) 881-6775; **console table, side table, lamp,** IKEA, (425) 656-2980; **Page 76:** Area rugs, InterfaceFLOR, (866) 281-3567; **dining table,** David Smith & Co., (206) 223-1598; **dining chairs,** IKEA; **bar stools,** Design Within Reach, (206) 443-9900; **cabinetry,** Steve Flatten of Coyote Cabinets, (360) 691-7389; **pendant lights,** MP Lighting, Milligan + Associates*, (206) 382-9410; **Page 77:** Patio chair covers, Urban Outfitters, (206) 381-3777; **umbrella,** Cape Cod Cornfls, (206) 545-4309; **blanket, throw pillow covers,** Morgan Collection, Montrose Enterprises*, (206) 658-1467; **end table,** e15, Cument, (206) 622-2433; **chair,** Crate and Barrel, (206) 937-9939; **rug,** Terra, InterfaceFLOR; **Americh bathtub,** Grohe bathtub faucet, Anacortes Plumbing, (360) 299-3205.



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