21st Century Houses

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Redmond Residence

Seattle, Washington, USA

FINNE Architects

Photography: Benjamin Benschneider, Nils Finne, and Paul Warchol This house, on a 3.5-acre wooded hillside site with large stands of fir and cedar, is a delicate structure of wood, steel, and glass, perched on a stone plinth of Montana ledgestone. The stone plinth varies in height from 2 feet on the uphill side to 15 feet on the downhill side.

The major elements of the house are a living pavilion and a long bedroom wing, separated by a glass entry space. The living pavilion is a dramatic space framed in steel with a "wood quilt" roof structure. A series of large north-facing clerestory windows create a soaring, 20-foot-high space, filled with natural light.

The interior features many custom-designed fabrications, including complex, laser-cut steel railings, hand-blown glass lighting, bronze sink stands, miniature cherry shingle walls, a textured mahogany/glass front door, and unique furniture such as the cherry bed in the master bedroom. The dining area features an 8-foot-long custom bentwood mahogany table with a blued steel base.

Sustainable design features include extensive clerestory windows for natural lighting and cross ventilation, low-VOC paints, linoleum flooring, 2 x 8 framing to achieve 42 percent higher insulation than conventional walls, cellulose insulation, radiant heating, and natural stone exterior cladding.





















