



# QUIETLY CONTEMPORARY

UNDERSTATEMENT'S A VIRTUE IN THIS HOLMES POINT REMODEL

WRITTEN BY MIA NICHOLSON PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE KEATING



A CONTEMPORARY CANVAS BY EBERHARD QUINKENSTEIN DOMINATES THE DINING AREA IN CARL AND SUSAN TORIK PASCHKE'S HOLMES POINT RESIDENCE. THE BUFF-COLORED BRICK EXTERIOR (OPPOSITE) ACKNOWLEDGES THE HOME'S '50S ROOTS, EVEN THOUGH THE ONLY ORIGINAL PART THAT SURVIVES IS THE LIVING AND DINING WING AT RIGHT. TERRACES OFFER AN EASY INDOOR-OUTDOOR FLOW AND FULL, FILTERED OR SHADED SUN. ART FROM D'ADAMO/WOLTZ GALLERY, (206) 652-4414.



**F**or some people, a modern house is like a big city: a nice place to visit, but you wouldn't want to live there. Too slick. Too impersonal. Too edgy to ever feel comfortable.

Those people have never visited the home of Carl Paschke and Susan Torik Paschke. Nestled beside Lake Washington, the Holmes Point residence is warm, welcoming and human in scale. Rich colors and natural textures cover walls, floors and furniture. This radically remodeled house is definitely contemporary, but it defies the chilly stereotype with a cheerful livability.

"Come on in," says Susan, swinging the front door wide to reveal a circular foyer. The space is intimate, with a metallic blue-gray ceiling lit by hidden lights. It's the architectural equivalent of an embrace—designed to invite rather than impress.

"This is an informal house designed for warm people," says architect Lane Williams. "They weren't out to make a big, artsy statement."

What the Paschkes really wanted was to make the most of their property's natural gifts, namely 152 feet of gently sloping waterfront. The old house offered fewer charms. Although designed by famed

Northwest architect Roland Terry in 1957, the residence had suffered an unfortunate remodel in the early '90s.

"The existing home was more a point of departure than anything," says Williams.

The Paschkes were inclined to tear it down and start from scratch. But Williams detected worthy vestiges of Terry's original vision. The living-room wing featured an oversize aggregate fireplace of obvious midcentury provenance, a wall of windows and a cantilevered roof over the adjoining patio. Williams convinced his clients to preserve this wing's shell and revisit the fireplace when the rest of the room was remodeled. The experiment paid off. Paired with walnut plank floors, fir woodwork and walls the color of vanilla custard, the pebbly vintage fireplace adds an authentic dose of retro texture.

"It's the treasure we saved from the original structure," says Williams, whose vision throughout was expertly executed by Joseph McKinstry Construction.

The revised great room features a serene sitting space and formal dining area with clean-lined furnishings from Diva and a red abstract painting by Eberhard Quinkenstein. The look is true to the home's Roland Terry roots.

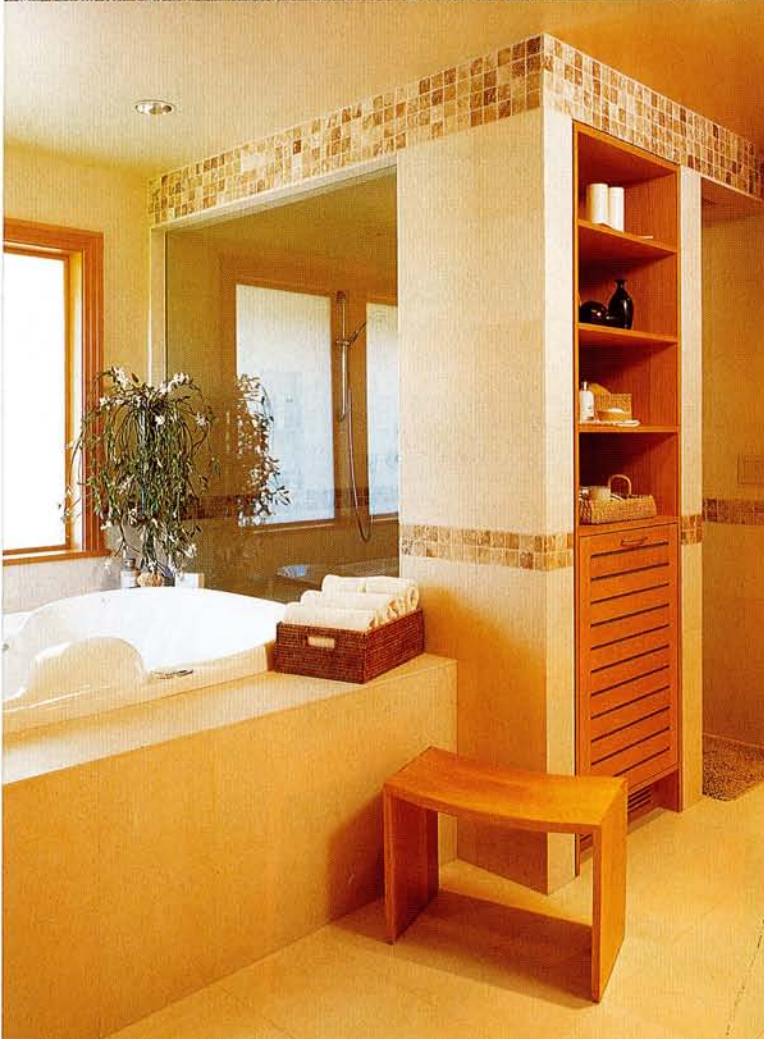
ARCHITECT LANE WILLIAMS PERSUADED THE OWNERS TO KEEP THE ORIGINAL AGGREGATE FIREPLACE, WHICH SETS A MIDCENTURY TONE ECHOED IN THE SLEEK, MODERN B&B ITALIA FURNISHINGS FROM DIVA, (206) 287-9992. SUSAN TORIK PASCHKE CONVERSES IN THE KITCHEN (OPPOSITE, ABOVE), WHICH FEATURES RIFT-CUT WHITE OAK CABINETS, HONED-GRANITE COUNTERS AND SLATTED DOORS. THE ADJACENT FAMILY ROOM (OPPOSITE, LOWER LEFT) FEATURES A COFFERED CEILING AND SOFTLY ROUNDED FURNISHINGS, IN CONTRAST TO THE MORE FORMAL AND RECTILINEAR DINING ROOM (OPPOSITE, LOWER RIGHT).





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"Lane wasn't making the house something it wasn't," says Susan. "He kept that room intact, and the rest of the house matches it."

Indeed, the 5,600-square-foot house feels entirely of a piece, if less formal when one leaves the living room. In the guest bath, entry, sliding doors and cabinetry, Williams used sumi glass—a translucent layer of textured rice paper sandwiched between two layers of glass—to create a veil of privacy and suggest an Asian subtext. Likewise, horizontal slats on the cabinetry connote an Eastern feeling.

"I've always been a fan of traditional Japanese houses," says Williams, whose work often features Asian elements, including an emphasis on horizontal lines.

Indeed, the entire main floor reflects and emphasizes the horizontal, from the almost-continuous wall of western windows to smaller details. The centrally located kitchen sports rift-cut, slatted white-oak cabinetry with parallel "dashes" of stainless-steel hardware. In keeping with Susan's taste for earthen colors, the room features a tumbled-travertine-tile backsplash and rectangular travertine pavers. Honed absolute black granite counters add an elegant touch.

Upstairs, the house sustains its focus on the lakefront. Thirteen-year-old Clayton enjoys a bright green bedroom in Benjamin Moore's "Brookside Moss"; 4-year-old Livia, a huge window seat and walls painted "Adobe Dust." But the real star is the master suite. Carl and Susan's bedroom is separated from the kids' rooms not by a hallway, but by a sitting area with a small, private lanai overlooking the lake.

"I love to watch the seaplanes," says Susan, who consulted with interior designer Michelle Dahl on furnishings, colors and fabrics throughout the house.

The tobacco-brown sitting room shares a double-sided gas fireplace and revolving entertainment center with the master bedroom, an uncluttered space enriched with silk bedding from Mario and Marielena. For even greater privacy, the Paschkes retreat to their master bath, a creamy, limestone-tiled space built around a double Jacuzzi tub and fitted with a bank of medicine cabinets.

Thanks to French doors and patios that are level with the first floor, the house segues seamlessly with the lakeside. Williams created "layers" of outdoor living spaces with varying degrees of coverage, from the full shade of Terry's cantilevered overhang to broad arbored areas and a portion of patio with full sun exposure. In summertime, clematis and honeysuckle wind up the arbor columns while summer vegetables flourish inside a handsome courtyard in front. From every perspective, the structure seems joined to its setting.

"It's not a house that shouts," says Williams. ■

*Contributing Editor Mia Nicholson writes about food, travel and homes.*



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FOUR-YEAR-OLD LIVIA LOUNGES IN HER DUSTY PEACH BEDROOM, WHILE HER PARENTS ENJOY A MORE TAILORED SETTING (OPPOSITE, ABOVE). A REVOLVING TV OPPOSITE THE BED SERVES THE NEIGHBORING SITTING ROOM, AS WELL. THE MASTER BATH (OPPOSITE, BELOW) IS DRESSED IN CREAMY LIMESTONE, AND BOASTS AMPLE STORAGE, INCLUDING A BUILT-IN BESIDE THE SHOWER DOOR. STOOL FROM SEVA, (206) 323-9920; CUSTOM THROW ON PARENTS' BED MADE BY SPARKS INTERIORS, (425) 869-0838. LIVIA'S BED AND LINENS, POTTERY BARN KIDS, (206) 527-5560.