

below: Colorful plants that appear natural to the landscape gently lap at the edges of this undulating terrace located off the dining area. Note the steep metal roof, suggestive of the amount of snow this mountain home will receive. Large wood braces signify strength, while a slender eave implies lightness. Practicality required detailing the roof so that neither rain nor snow would damage the house or inhibit movement around it.



right: Pamela Pearce worked closely with the homeowners to create a color scheme that blends with the home's rustic surroundings. The great room furnishings provide extreme comfort. High back chairs give rest for sleepyheads, while their forms add strength and scale to the lodge-like room.

Imagine building a mountain home

in Southern Oregon on the edge of an extinct volcanic cinder cone with magnificent 360-degree views and sweeping vistas of the snowcapped Oregon Cascades. Sound dreamy? Or like a logistical nightmare?

When a busy Seattle couple wanted to create just such a mountain vacation home for their family, they hired their very own dream team: Dennis Marsh of AOME Architects in Seattle and interior designer Pamela Pearce of Pamela Pearce Design, LLC, in Bellevue, Washington, with whom they had worked on previous homes.

A close working relationship with the homeowners enabled Marsh and Pearce to create a true vacation home – one with low maintenance, high comfort and plenty of durability – utilizing architecture so indigenous to its surroundings that it respects the origins of its site rather than commanding it.

When the designers first flew to the mountain location with the landowners, they considered various sites on the property before settling ultimately on a sunlit, southerly position.

"From the very beginning," says Marsh, "we knew we wanted walls of native masonry so that the house would seem to emerge out of the existing rim rock. We also knew the house needed to be pushed to the edge of that rock in order to make the best possible use of the site."

Living on the Edge

A SEATTLE ARCHITECTURAL FIRM AND INTERIOR DESIGNER CREATE A VACATION HOME THAT SEEMS TO ERUPT RIGHT OUT OF ITS EXTINCT VOLCANIC MOORINGS



portland home design
UpClose

by donna pizzi photography by phillip clayton-thompson





left:

The "broken wing" plan of this mountain home is intersected by an impressive entryway. The upper story wings are joined by a bridge-like structure, while more stone outcroppings and mesquite wood steps rise above the slate flooring. "As you climb the stairs and turn to cross the bridge," explains Marsh, "you are deliberately brought into a more intimate space. At the same time, a dramatic vista of the mountains appears through a shed dormer lifting out of the roof."

opposite page:

Unseen French doors open onto a charming balcony that floods the southernmost master bedroom suite with plenty of light, while windows from the eastern side of the house bring light from the adjacent workout room. To maintain the balance of light and dark in this cozy space, Pearce and Marsh introduced warm woods and a steeply pitched roof. Pearce created the duvet cover using a Fortuny fabric made in Venice to complement the thick, luxurious looped-wool carpet. All of the floors are warmed by radiant heat.

Design Resource Guide

GREAT ROOM SOFAS
Marco, San Francisco, CA

COFFEE TABLE
W.M., Switzer, BC

CHAIRS IN CORNER OF GREAT ROOM
Guy Chaddock, CA

ROUND TABLES IN GREAT ROOM
First Circle, Oklahoma City, OK

CHANDELIERS AND KITCHEN LAMPS
Dana Creath Designs, Costa Mesa, CA

WINDOWS AND EXTERIOR DOORS
Dynamic Windows, Abbotsford, BC

To determine the appropriate palette for the house, Marsh and Pearce collected rocks, lichen, branches and vegetation from the site. "We pulled the soft gray greens from the junipers and some of the deep mulberry from the indigenous stone to use throughout the house," explains Pearce.

Marsh, Will Beilharz and others at the design studio of AOME Architects relied heavily on computer modeling to design a home that both takes advantage of the spectacular views and provides a natural, warm environment that stimulates interaction between family and guests.

"When we looked at the views we wanted to achieve," Marsh says, "we knew we were going to have a house that was only one room deep and

composed of two wings that would be angled to each other. Where they formed an intersection would be the main entry."

A set of massive, lodge-like wood doors mark the all-important intersection that opens quite unexpectedly to more stone outcroppings, durable copper gray slate flooring and a pair of glass doors that grab the light reflecting off the far distant, snowcapped Cascade Mountains. That intersection also posed one of the trickiest challenges to AOME's design.

"I got a kick out of the way we finally decided to pull the plane of the great room ceiling into the entry and express it with the same

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