



WHETHER A ROOFTOP garden, an entertaining-friendly patio or an ivied cloister, your outdoor space should reflect how you live. In fact, many architects recommend that you think of your outdoor area as premium living space — an extension of your house and place of refuge.

# THE Great Outdoors

"Almost two-thirds of architects report an increase in demand for outdoor kitchens, patios and decks, a dramatic surge from just one year ago," says American Institute of Architects Chief Economist Kermit Baker. "With that, there has been a penchant for upscale landscaping and formal lot boundaries, as well as the desire for outdoor amenities such as pools, tennis courts and gazebos."

This trend is a result of larger happenings in the economy: As the overall size of U.S. homes has begun to level off after decades of expansion, more attention and investment is now being devoted to enhancing individual properties. To keep satisfaction at an optimum and frustration at a minimum when planning your own outdoor oasis, be sure to share your ideas with a skilled architect.

*Designed by Stan Boles, FAIA  
BOORA Architects  
Portland, Ore.*

photo: Laurie Black

## BOUNDLESS BEAUTY



photo: Laune Black



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BOORA Architects  
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**CLIENT:** A Portland, Oregon-based architect and his artist-printmaker wife, in search of a calming retreat and work studio.

**DILEMMA:** Having purchased a narrow infill lot in the wooded, coastal town of Neskowin, Oregon, this couple desired a quiet hermitage that would feel like it was in the forest but also take in expansive ocean views. At the same time, their weekend sanctuary needed to provide privacy from neighboring structures and save the mature trees found on the site.

**SOLUTION:** The slender 33' x 22' home embraces clean lines, natural materials and abundant daylight. The house is three stories tall, with the top floor devoted to living and dining, and the bottom two floors to bedrooms and an art studio. Living spaces are arranged in a narrow bar to allow southern light to penetrate the depth of the spaces and to capture ocean breezes. Limited first- and second-floor windows keep the house private at the ground level; an almost entirely opaque north wall shields interiors from an adjacent home. On the upper floor, where the views are best and privacy greatest, the east, south and west elevations offer extensive views via floor-to-ceiling glass. Within the house, wood-clad built-in furniture conceal service functions, their positions directing views and defining spaces. To break up the scale of the tower-like house and to blend the house into its forested site, a combination of cedar bevel siding and vertical siding stained a custom dark tone mimics the color of the bark on surrounding trees. Local basalt stone is used in the garden walls, pathways and site terraces. Interior materials express the warmth of wood, with floors of pine, ceilings of cedar, walls of spaced horizontal fir cladding and cabinets of fir.

## KEEPING THE CAMPFIRES BURNING

**CLIENT:** A city-bound family wanting to reconnect with their childhood memories of summer camp in New England. They purchased and completely remodeled an ill-conceived owner-built home perched on the side of a wooded mountain at the end of a half-mile driveway.

**DILEMMA:** The pre-existing house had no fireplace and made little use of the site beyond a few view windows. The family needed a place to congregate and socialize outside as well as a hearth that could be seen and enjoyed from all points on the inside.

**SOLUTION:** Create an uphill family-room addition anchored by an indoor/outdoor chimney configuration. On the exterior, a large Count Rumford fireplace was designed with a semi-circular deck and bench that mimicked the classic campfire circle. Inside, another large hearth backs up against the same chimney, completing the campfire circle indoors. On either side, doors allow circulation entirely around the two fireplaces. Everything was constructed with stone collected from the site. For the interior fireplace to be visible from all points, the family room addition had to be curved to the north. This provided the necessary sight lines, but it also produced an interesting curved porch, requiring special detailing in the floor and ceiling. The homeowners requested a wood ceiling, which was fulfilled by using Douglas-fir dowels.

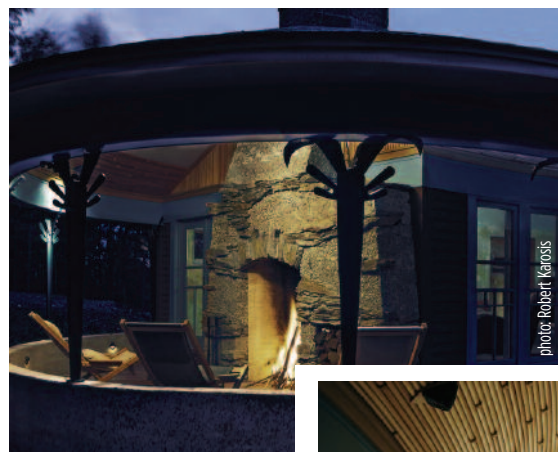


photo: Robert Kaross

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