

COMFORT ZONE

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THE SHINGLE-STYLE RESIDENCE, WHOSE BACKYARD SCAMPERS MERRILY INTO THE SAMMAMISH PLATEAU'S BEAVER LAKE LIKE AN ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL PUPPY, LOOKS LIKE A VACATION HOME. But with a bunch of boisterous boys and parents who entertain at the drop of an inflatable beach ball, the house, alas, never gets any time off. "There's always something going on here," says Darcie Wolfe, who shares the home with her husband, Shaun, and their blended family of four sons, whose ages range from 18 months to 19 years.

INTERIOR DESIGNER Dixie Stark, DA STARK Interiors		
ARCHITECT Jeff Loveless, Loveless, Eiffert & Anderson, Inc.		
HOME BUILDER Todd Hohanadel, Ben Leland Construction D.B.A. Hohanadel Homes, Inc.		
BEDROOMS 3	BATHROOMS 5	SQUARE FEET 5,500



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"The kids and their friends hang out here, they swim and fish, and when we're not entertaining the neighbors or having a family barbecue, we're hosting weddings, showers and birthday parties."

The three-level house, set on one and a half acres of woodland, was designed to be durable enough to be a team player when the boys toss their football or practice soccer kicks in the living room, comfortable enough for swimsuited guests to lounge in after a quick dip in the lake, and sophisticated enough to host elegant holiday parties. "As Darcie kept telling me, everything had to be bulletproof," says interior designer Dixie Stark, of Seattle-based DA STARK Interiors. "Yet it all had to stand the test of time. We tested all the materials—we walked on them, dripped things on them and tried to scratch them."

STYLE SELECTION

This pillow's geometric design of ivory velvet bands over an ivory linen field creates balance and form. *Trellis Applique Pillow*, \$952; kohlerinteriors.com

STONE FACED

A stone fireplace defines the light and airy great room, which is furnished with indoor-outdoor wicker. A vintage gardener's sieve becomes a hardy mantel decoration.

**SECRET ESCAPE**

The design in the master bedroom conjures up the outdoors. The paneled wall, reminiscent of a garden trellis, has a secret door that leads to a storage room.

LIGHT REFRESHMENT

With its limestone floor and countertops, and custom his-and-her vanities, the master bath is a sweet retreat.



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The kid-proofing started with the color scheme. Various hues of dirt-forgiving brown that range from chocolate and espresso to honey and linen united interior and exterior spaces. The floors and furniture, as well as the kitchen and living room cabinetry, were distressed to mask most of the anticipated wear and tear. Creamy white trim and accents of watery blue and orange provided refined punch. “The floors do have some scratches,” says Wolfe, “but I look at them with love and think about how they got that way.”

Stain-resistant carpet was installed in high-traffic public rooms, and seating furniture was upholstered with cleanable Ultrasuede. Architectural features, including a Dutch door near the front entrance that keeps boys and pets at bay yet allows guests easy access to the house, were added for a family-friendly feel.

The *piece de resistance*, and the ultimate ode to the fun-loving family feel of the house, is the outdoor living room, which builder Todd Hochanadel, president of Bellevue-based Ben Leland Construction D.B.A. Hochanadel Homes, Inc., calls the “highlight of the home. It has everything—

**COTTAGE LIVING**

Architect Jeff Loveless designed this traditional, yet informal, shingle-style home with a classic feel. Elegant elliptical arches span between classic columns.



STYLE SELECTION

Sophisticated and polished, this light features a bronze finish with a natural paper shade and dark-brown trim. *Reed Hanging Light, \$357; circalighting.com*

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heaters above, a barbecue, an eating area, a pass-through from the kitchen for food and, like all the key rooms, it has an incredible view of the lake.” Framing the lake views was a challenge because the plans had to work around the wetlands. “We were also restricted because we were only allowed to have three bedrooms due to the drain field,” says Jeff Loveless, president and project manager of the Bellevue-based architectural firm Loveless, Eiffert and Anderson. “The site is like a big, gorgeous park, and even though we were hemmed in by the setbacks, it doesn’t look that way.”

The open floor plan, which 19-year-old Jesse, 18-year-old Taylor, 8-year-old Ethan and 18-month-old Max treat like their own private playing field, turns the living room, dining room and kitchen into a great room that more than lives up to all meanings of its moniker.

When Wolfe wants some peace and quiet, all she has to do is look to the lake. She can see it from the window seat of the master bedroom that has cool blue accents to reflect the water, from a fireside seat in the outdoor living room, or from the kitchen window as she cooks for her brood. “The lake is always changing, so I never stop looking at it,” she says. “And it’s always calming, whether it’s shrouded in fog or still and sparkling when it’s frozen over.” **L**



EATING IN
Family meals are eaten at the kitchen island, which has a silver-pearl granite top. The cabinetry features a clear umber glaze that is designed to mask kids’ dirty fingerprints.