



opposite: A SIDE VIEW OF THE HOUSE SHOWS HOW ITS PROFILE RISES UP OUT OF THE MEADOW INTO THE TREES. CLERESTORY WINDOWS FILL THE HOME WITH NATURAL LIGHT AND VIEWS. **above:** THE SYMMETRY—AND SIMPLICITY—OF THE ARCHITECT'S DESIGN ARE EVIDENT IN THE FLOOR PLAN. **right:** A PATH WINDS ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF THE HOUSE.



HOME OF THE YEAR Judges

1. Architect Allan Farkas; 2. Interior Designer Dixie Stark; 3. Landscape Designer Scot Eckley; 4. SHeL Market Adviser Linda Humphrey



are two small towers, which contain sleeping rooms and also feature tall west-facing windows. The cabin is just 1,300 square feet, much of it in the great room, where kitchen, dining and living areas share one open, high-ceilinged space with clerestory windows on the north and south ends.

"When you're in the kitchen, your eye is directed out and up as the roof lifts up," Silk says. "So there's a nice kind of spatial thing that happens there."

Two thick, masonry walls run the length of the home, and the towers are sided in corrugated metal. These exterior materials—as well as birch veneer plywood—extend inside to further blur the lines between interior and exterior. Short hallways on either side of the kitchen lead from the great room to separate bedrooms and bathrooms, and a window at the end of each hall offers a nicely framed, intimate view of the garden.

Another vision that the clients had for the house was that of a cabin nestled in a meadow of tall grasses with exposed boulders. Because the property included a large open space at the top of the bluff that offered a stunning western view, it was a natural homesite.

"We didn't want to have to pull down any trees," Silk recalls, noting that none of the big evergreens on the site were cut down for construction. The home sits at the north end of the clearing, away from the bluff edge. "They

wanted to look through the trees to see the water," Silk says.

The client designed much of the exterior plan, choosing rocks and ground cover for the slight slope in front of the house. Most of the meadow is planted in native grasses that are gradually filling in—just as mother nature might have planned it.

Though the local deer are a bane to many Islanders, the residents here take them in stride, noting which plants seem to attract four-legged diners and which appear to be less tasty. No fences bar their hoofed passage across the meadow. "It's their place, and we're just using it," the woman says.

In keeping with the clients' request for a low-maintenance cabin, the corrugated metal siding, concrete and aluminum windows were chosen for their durability, and the native grasses are drought-tolerant.

The people who live there couldn't be happier: "The house plan—with floor-to-ceiling glass walls in the living room and hallways—allows us to look out over the San Juan Channel, the grass meadow and into the woods," the woman says. "If we had this to do all over again, we would!" ■

For resource information, see Sources, page 70.



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