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ART HOUSE

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IT'S RARE TO FIND A HOME THAT'S AS MUCH ABOUT AESTHETICS AS IT IS ABOUT FUNCTIONALITY. Yet, a 7,500-square-foot modern-style residence in Medina, Washington, is just that—a showplace for art and a true family space. The four-bedroom waterfront home is perfect for its four residents: a businessman, his artist wife, and their two children, ages 13 and 11.

Art was actually what drew the couple to their architect, Bellevue, Washington-based Brian Brand, AIA, of Baylis Architects. Several years ago, the couple purchased another home that he'd designed.

ARCHITECT Brian Brand, AIA, Baylis Architects

HOME BUILDER Mike Bellan, Bellan Construction

BEDROOMS 4 **BATHROOMS** 5 **SQUARE FEET** 7,500



COLOR CODE

The wall of art glass, by Joseph McDonnell, adds a shot of intense color and movement to the spare, modern interior.



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They appreciated its livability and conduciveness to the display of art. Later on, when they decided to overhaul their current home, they turned to Brand, as well as to Seattle-based builder Mike Bellan of Bellan Construction. The family charged the two with enlarging the 3,000-square-foot residence, incorporating more adult rooms and an art studio. They also wanted a more refined and luxurious look, with sophisticated materials and techniques.

With its geometric form and extensive metal and glass, the resulting home embodies cutting-edge modern architecture. It consists of two floors, effectively dividing the casual and formal areas. The upper level includes a living room, dining room, kitchen, family room, two offices and the master bedroom. The lower level houses separate bedrooms for the children, a guestroom, play area and art studio. Outside, there's an ample deck and patio, as well as a dock right on Lake Washington.



LIGHT BRIGHT

Tall windows usher sunlight and views into the clean kitchen, with its limestone floors, mahogany cabinets and custom chairs from Northwest Fine Woodworking.

VIEW MASTER

The home, with its deck, patio and direct waterfront access, is a testament to stylish outdoor living. Sculptures, such as these metal giraffes, accent the exterior and interior alike.







WHITE OUT

The master bathroom demonstrates what the lady of the house describes as the home's "clean, true, direct" design. She designed the room's revolving mirror.

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Suffusing the whole home is an abundance of light, a much-needed boon in the rainy Northwest. Brand achieved this by incorporating a slew of tall windows on the southwest side of the house, taking advantage of the exposure, as well as gorgeous views of the lake, mountains and downtown Seattle. Brand also designated these sun-lit spaces for the most frequently used rooms—the family room, kitchen, master bedroom and kids' bedrooms. At the same time, he added sunshades above the windows to protect them from excessive exposure to sunlight during the summer, provide outdoor cover during storms, and enhance visual interest.

Further contributing to the comfort of the home is the durability and easy maintenance of its materials. The majority of the exterior is stucco siding, which requires a mere power-washing every five or six years. Meanwhile, the metal (used for the curved walls, sunshades, staircases and more) will develop a natural patina. On the interior, all of the floors on the lower level are made of radiant-heated and tinted concrete for family members who come in dripping after swimming or water-skiing.





HOME RUN

The subdued earthy palette of the furniture does not detract from the home's true stars—the views and the art. The fireplace is clad in an unusual material—metal panels.



SUNNY SIDE UP

Many of the windows are topped with anodized aluminum and sand-blasted glass sunshades, which offer protection from the sun and a panoply of visual interest.



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The home is more than just functional, though. A sinuous assemblage of shimmering glass and metal, it is almost a piece of sculpture itself. The sunshades, mimicking the trellises so common in Northwest architecture, feature glass and steel rather than the traditional wood. The result is a modern, geometric spin on a standard. Inside, art, including paintings, glass pieces, and sculpture, is everywhere. Yet, much of the art does more than tempt the eye. The lady of the house, a graduate of Cornish College of the Arts and the home's interior designer, commissioned local artists to create unique furniture and visual accents. These include a pair of wooden doors by Steve Jensen, a wall of art-glass by Joseph McDonnell, a metal kitchen table by Gerry Tsutakawa, and a rug by Carl Chew. In addition, she herself designed a floating steel mirror for the master bathroom; the cabinetry in the office, kitchen, and bathrooms; and much of the furniture, including the sofas and master bedroom set.

This lakeside home is truly a work of art, and a haven for living. As the lady of the house says, "We don't go anywhere in the summer because we live the rest of the year to spend the summers here. It's our dream house." **L**