



On the Waterfront

Waterfront Living in the Pacific Northwest

A Wall Unlike Its Owner

Bainbridge Island, WA

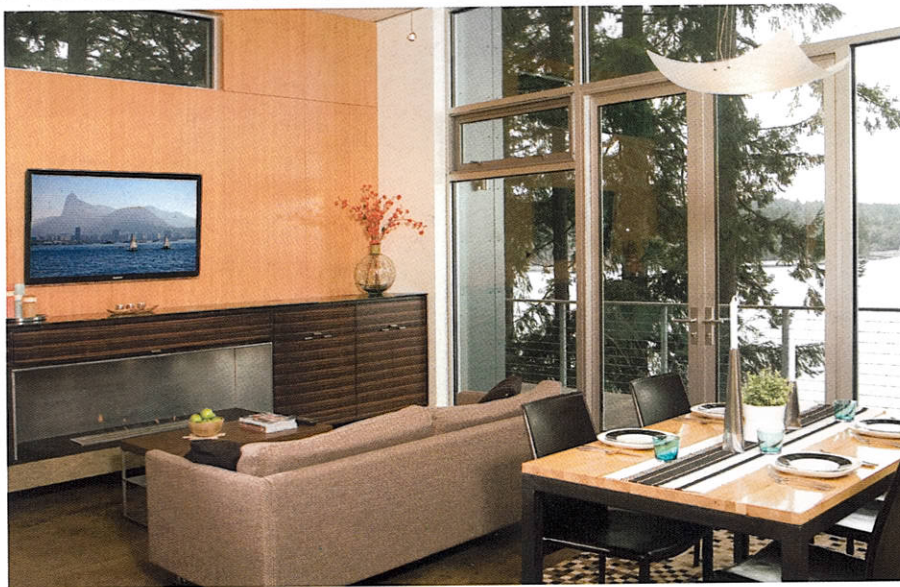
by Russ Young

Architect Matthew Coates of Bainbridge Island, Washington says his goal as a designer is to create a building that is “a reflection of the client; who they are and how they live. You don’t want to impose your personality on them ... you design for them.”

So when Earl Dorsey, a Los Angeles attorney, began working with Coates to design and build a waterfront vacation home on Bainbridge, the architect asked him about his personality. The answer was essentially “warm, welcoming and gregarious”—that is, once someone gets to know Dorsey. But, he told Coates, the initial impression that some people get is that he is reserved, perhaps even unapproachable.



Homeowner Earl Dorsey



The architectural interpretation was concrete; lots and lots of concrete. As you approach Dorsey's home, you are greeted by a two-story, rough-finished concrete wall that wraps around the north side of the house. It's formidable; Coates describes it as a "big gray wall with a couple of holes in it." A low gabion-style wall filled with recycled brick stands between the house and the road, adding to sense that this may be more of a fortress than a home.

But step around the bunker-like wall to approach the front door, and a surprisingly different personality emerges; copper, wood and glass provide a warm and welcoming space. Walk through the door, and the interior is light, airy and spacious.

The three-story, 2,800 square-foot home occupies a small footprint, close to the road and the neighboring homes, built on a steep hillside. But the extensive use of glass on the house's west side maximizes a sense of being alone in the woods, looking out through the maples and firs at the Olympic Mountains across Port Orchard Bay.

There is a series of small terraces, connected by stairs that lead to the stony beach below. It's not hard for a visitor to imagine sitting in one of the brightly colored bucket-chairs, contemplating the view and the sounds of nature, whether in sunlight or a gentle Northwest rainstorm.

Viewed from the water side, it's as if you are looking at a completely different structure; one made of glass, metal siding and wood. That's exactly what Dorsey and Coates were aiming for with the design; "two different houses," the architect said.

The previous house on the site was badly damaged in a fire, and Dorsey had considered repairing and remodeling the home. But after consulting with Coates, the decision was to tear down—actually, make that "deconstruct"—the old structure and build the design that is a reflection of the

You've found the
Perfect Home



Let us customize the
Perfect Insurance



PARKER | SMITH | FEEK

Commercial Insurance

Employee Benefits

Personal Insurance

Risk Management

Surety

www.psfinc.com

2233 112th Avenue NE
Bellevue, Washington 98004
425.709.3600

3800 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 601,
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
907.562.2225

homeowner's personality.

The first step was to build the massive concrete wall, which is 18 inches thick and is set 15 feet into the ground. That part of the project alone took three months; the rest of the construction took just over a year.

Much of the material used in the new house was reclaimed from the original home, thanks to the "deconstruction," rather than demolition. The burned house had been built around a large fir tree. While the tree was cut down to accommodate the new footprint, it was milled and lives on in a sense; it is now part of the wood-and-steel stairs that connect the home's three floors.

Go up those stairs, and you'll find a roomy master suite with a to-die-for view out huge west-facing windows. A steam shower with a massive rainfall-type showerhead looks like the perfect way to start a morning at



REED LONGYEAR



Contact
Phone: (206) 624-6271

acauthorn@reedlongyearlaw.com
<http://reedlongyearlaw.com/>

801 Second Avenue, Ste 1415
Seattle, WA 98104

Anton B. Cauthorn, J.D., LL.M.

Estate Planning Attorney with Reed Longyear

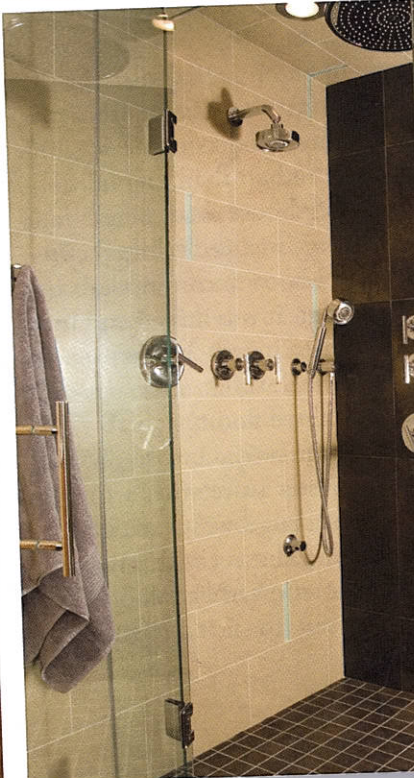
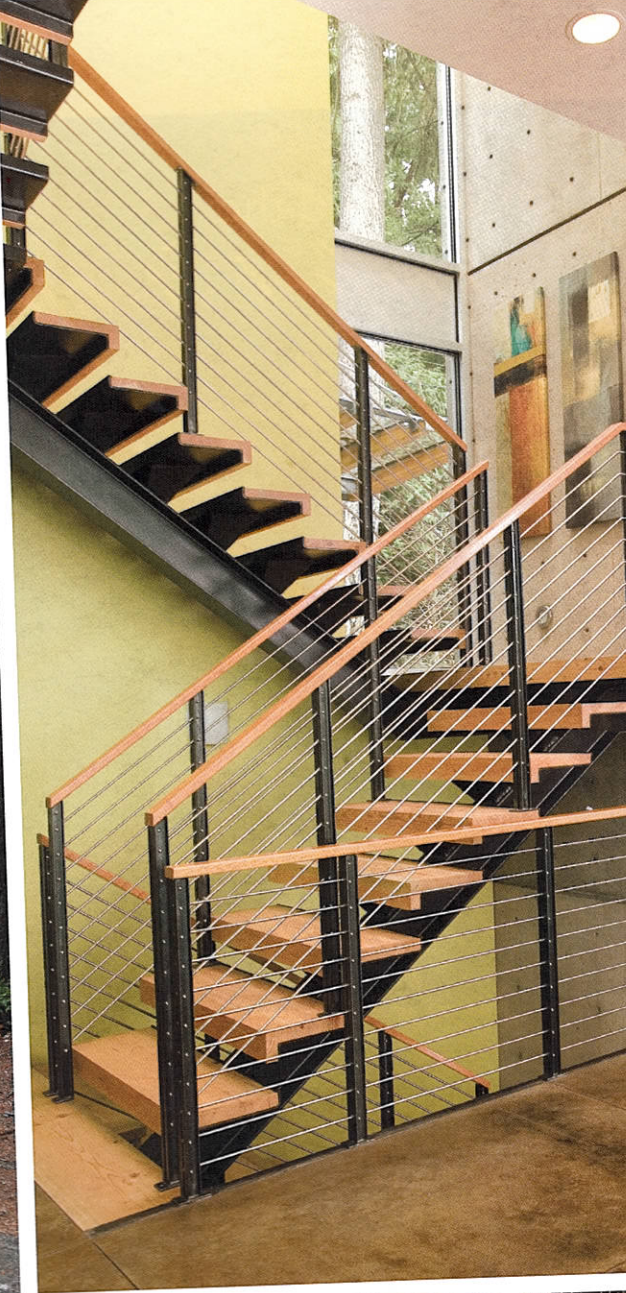
Anton is an attorney at the law firm of Reed Longyear focusing his practice on helping clients develop proactive planning solutions in the areas of estate planning, tax, and business.

Whether drafting wills and trusts, estate tax plans, or coordinating a business exit strategy with an estate, Anton works personally with clients to ensure their goals are met and their plans create security and peace of mind.

Call if You Have Questions About:

- Personal and Estate Planning
- Wills and Trusts
- Administering an estate after the death of a loved one.
- Estate Tax Planning
- Small Business Planning

PROACTIVE PLANNING – SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Business Law • Real Estate Law • Family Law • Estate Planning





this home-away-from-home. There is also a second bedroom that's made versatile by a Murphy bed, a built-in desk and a large pocket door.

Back down the stairs, the 12-foot ceilings on the main floor add to the openness of the home. You'll spot a basalt-and-zebrawood surround for a bioethanol-burning fireplace. It's decorative, rather than a heat source, as the constraints of the site didn't allow for a propane tank. But that's where the big concrete wall, partially exposed in some parts of the interior, shows off its functionality: it serves as a thermal mass, retaining heat during the winter and helping naturally cool the home during the summer.

Walk across the radiant concrete floor to the minimalist kitchen, and its uncluttered countertops and streamlined appearance. There is a large adjacent pantry; "caramelized"





bamboo cabinets hide the refrigerator, washer, dryer, wine chiller and substantial storage space. There is a large cantilevered deck that completes the connection between the indoor and outdoor spaces.

On the ground floor, there is a guest suite with a bathroom that Coates jokingly says is the place to be in case of a disaster, thanks to the concrete walls and footings that surround it. A spacious media room opens onto a covered terrace with those aforementioned bucket chairs, so Dorsey and his houseguests can decide between a movie or some natural, outdoor entertainment.

Bainbridge Island is a short ferry ride from downtown Seattle and is home to a substantial number of commuters who work in the city. But for Earl Dorsey, it's his place to take a break from a city and a career, resting and reflecting—and living a lifestyle that's quite unlike that “unapproachable” concrete wall. 🚣

acres of pristine forest
miles of shoreline
7 distinctive waterfront acreages

Sitka Cove is a planned oceanfront development situated on the rugged shores of Gabriola Island.

This rare offering includes up to 7 distinct waterfront acreages with exceptionally finished west coast style homes and cottages in a serene and spectacular waterfront setting.

RE/MAX OF NANAIMO
Independently Owned and Operated
40% Sold

Come see for yourself!
sitkacove.com

For Information Please Contact
MARTIN VELSEN
o 250.751.1223 c 250.327.2324 tf 877.889.0482
e martin@martinvelsen.com
1 - 5140 Metral Drive
Nanaimo, BC V9T 2K8
martinvelsen.com



MATTHEW COATES

Coates Design Architects, Bainbridge Island, WA

“Responsible Architecture” is more than just a tagline for Matthew Coates and his 12-person firm. In 2005 he won the “Cradle to Cradle” (C2C) design competition for the most sustainable home design of the future; he says many of his winning ideas are now commonplace in design and construction. As a designer with the international firm of NBBJ, he was given a secret project that turned out to be the Seattle headquarters of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which is recognized for its sustainability.

Despite a design resume that included such large-scale projects as Calgary International Airport and Seattle’s Museum of Flight, Coates took a break to build his own home to better understand the start-to-finish process of designing and constructing. As a result, he opened his own firm, which does civic, commercial and residential projects.

Waterfront homes in and around Puget Sound are the kind of challenges he savors, citing steep topography, remote sites and the criticality of the surrounding environment as factors that must often be considered and dealt with during the design and build processes.

A native of Torch Lake, MI, Coates earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees at Lawrence Tech University and the University of Illinois at Chicago, respectively.

His constant companion, both at the office and his Bainbridge Island home, is his ten year-old Great Dane Henri (pronounced “Henry”). Away from work, Coates enjoys hiking and kayaking.

Calling architecture his “obsession,” it is the profession he always dreamed of. He’s stayed true to that dream; at 14, Coates’ first job was working for an architect.