

Waterfront Retreat

A contemporary country home brings together a contrasting but complimentary palette of materials that are enhanced by the natural charms of a picturesque location.







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| 1 entry | 7 master bedroom |
| 2 office | 8 master bath |
| 3 living room | 9 master closet |
| 4 dining room | 10 mud room |
| 5 kitchen | 11 wine room |
| 6 media room | 12 garage |





The sheer beauty of this ocean-side location presented architect Vassos M. Demetriou of Demetriou Architects with a great challenge – to make the most of the site with a design that reflected and respected its natural environment. Allowing the surroundings to inform the design, regionally inspired materials were used for their low maintenance and natural weathering abilities. Cedar, concrete, cor-ten, steel and zinc are heavily punctuated by expansive fenestration, used to bring the outdoors in and minimize visual dead ends.

Characterized by the expression of the structure, the home is a modern take on Northwest architecture. The clean lines of the contemporary materials used are carried from the outside in. Exterior concrete walls are exposed on their interior faces and cor-ten steel panels on the exterior volumes wrap around to the interior.

Different but complementary materials define individual volumes, visually organize the structure and strengthen the connection between inside and out. The division between inside and out is blurred by large walls of glass that look out over the waterfront, whose landscaping was carefully considered during the construction process. The treatment of the shoreline is now considered by the area's regulatory agency as a prime example of how to maintain the beauty and integrity of a waterfront site.

A grasscrete motorcourt was laid to define the approach, reducing the paved surface area and preserving the wooded waterfront feel. Inside, structural members and architectural elements are used instead of walls to define spaces within the lofty living areas. Mimicking the trees surrounding the home, exposed steel columns and beams facilitate the open plan desired by the clients and allow for large windows to the waterfront which maximize connection to the stunning outlook.

Acting both as an architectural focal point and a means of separation between the family and living rooms is a custom steel and Jabota staircase. Below run large sliding glass doors that enclose a media room, retaining visual connection with surrounding spaces.

A centrally located cast concrete fireplace with cantilevered steel mantle and integrated wood storage is a unifying design element that can be viewed and its warmth enjoyed from the kitchen, dining room, family room and upstairs hallway. It also acts as a divider between the living room and adjacent office spaces.

Enjoyable all year round, this innately beautiful and cleverly organized country home leaves us all daydreaming about curling up by the cozy wood fire and gazing out over the stunning waterside landscape: It doesn't get much more romantic than this.

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