

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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BRIAN BRAND, AIA, BAYLIS ARCHITECTS
AS FEATURED IN LUXE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

■ MARRIAGE OF EQUALS ■

WRITTEN BY **CHELSEA GREENWOOD**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **PATRICK BARTA**

BRIAN BRAND GAVE HIS WIFE A QUESTIONNAIRE. As with any other homeowner, the architect wanted to measure Katie's stylistic preferences before he began plans for their new Kirkland home. And, because the two had married just the year before, the house represented both a literal and figurative fresh start, in which they wanted to balance the wife's traditionalist leanings with her husband's signature modern aesthetic.

ARCHITECTURE Brian Brand, AIA, Baylis Architects
INTERIOR DESIGN Robin Luchsinger, Robin Luchsinger Interior Design
HOME BUILDER Donald W. Bender, Bender Chaffey Corp.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE David McNeal, FASLA, JGM Landscape Architects
BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 4 SQUARE FEET 4,160



STYLE SELECTION

Williams-Sonoma Home twists the classic club chair with sophisticated details such as windowpane-carved feet, chunky rolled arms and a padded back embellished with nailhead trim. *Chatelet Chair*, from \$1,850; wshome.com



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“All of the homes I’ve lived in during my career have been different, and this reflects our new marriage and new life together,” says Brand, principal and vice president of Baylis Architects in Bellevue.

The project got off to a charmed start with the acquisition of the site, atop a bluff and featuring endless views of Lake Washington, Seattle and the Olympic Mountains. When Katie and Brian were still dating, the two visited friends who live just north of the site. “Katie said, ‘If I could live anywhere, I’d live in this area,’” Brian recalls. “When the lot became available, we were able to purchase it. It was a dream for my wife to live on this site.”



LOFTY PROPORTION

In the two-story living room, the homeowners’ existing sofa and chairs center on a custom cocktail table with a limestone top from Oregon Tile & Marble in Seattle. The Fireplace Xtordinaire fireplace was purchased at Kirkland Fireplace, the wood Chinese tables were found at Honeychurch Antiques in Seattle, and the *Ancient Mesa* oil-on-canvas is by Bellevue artist Susanne Werner. The Sharp TV is from The Music Room, a division of Pro Comm in Lynnwood.



CENTER STAGE

The atrium is a central design feature of the home and offers a glimpse of the water feature, behind a bench created by Russell's Custom Cabinets in Tacoma. The staircase, designed by architect and homeowner Brian Brand, comprises carpet-topped oak treads and a railing of stainless steel and white oak caps, by Stageplan in Enumclaw.



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However, the lot is quite narrow, and the home is accessed via a shared driveway that snakes down the property line—which makes the structure somewhat unassuming from the approach, says builder Donald W. Bender, president of Bender Chaffey in Kirkland. “It’s a difficult lot to build on and have the house really come off wonderfully well, because you don’t have the opportunity to enter it from an area that makes it look bigger,” he says. “The surprise is inside: the view, the orientation, the materials.”

Mitigating the size of the site was one of Brian’s primary goals in designing the home, which the couple decided would be a meld of

CREATURE FEATURE

To reach the custom wenge front door, guests traverse a concrete bridge with stone facing, by Emil’s Concrete in Redmond and Oregon Tile & Marble, and pass a “pocket garden” with a koi pond (also by Emil’s) and basalt fountains from Marenakos Rock Center in Issaquah. Brand and landscape architect David McNeal collaborated on the project; installation and irrigation were done by Olympia Landscaping in Redmond.



ISLAND TIME

The kitchen island was made oversized to accommodate the Brands' large extended family that enjoys cooking together; anigre cabinetry pairs with granite countertops from Western Tile & Marble in Bellevue. The oak floors are by Baker Hardwood Flooring in Monroe, and the appliances—by Sub-Zero, Dacor, KitchenAid, Zephyr and Viking—were purchased at Seattle's Albert Lee Appliance and Arnold's Appliance in Bellevue.

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mid-century modern and Northwest modern styles. To maximize light and views as well as privacy, Brian planned the two-story house around an atrium. "We wanted our master bedroom to be isolated from the guest areas for privacy, so the atrium also splits those spaces," Brian says. Those guest areas were another priority, as the Brands often entertain their children and long-term guests. The solution is an accessory dwelling unit that features its own entry; the home also contains a guest suite and a multipurpose computer/guest room.

While Katie deferred to her architect on the layout, she was set on creating a warm interior that recalled the homes of her youth. To ensure that both homeowners' voices were expressed, Brian brought in longtime collaborator Robin Luchsinger, of Robin Luchsinger Interior Design in Woodinville. "They both have very good design sensibilities," she says. "It was a matter of trying to blend."

That blend resulted in a streamlined, Asian-inspired décor that utilizes modern forms with traditional materials. Shoji screens allow rooms to be opened up or partitioned off, while a neutral color palette as well as plenty of wood—a must for Katie—exude warmth. "We have so many gray, cloudy days that it was important to counteract that," Luchsinger says. Existing furnishings and art were supplemented by a handful of new finds,



SNEAK PEEK

The library looks onto the atrium via pocketing shoji doors with anigre frames and translucent Lumicore panels. The elm-and-persimmon-wood tansu cabinet, from Korea and purchased at Del-Teet Furniture in Bellevue, balances the staircase. Custom MDF panels with acrylic finish, implemented by builder Donald Bender, grace the walls.

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such as the Korean tansu chest from Del-Teet Furniture in Bellevue. It was chosen for its presence and weight, which counterbalances the modern, linear staircase (designed by Brian) under which it rests.

Because the lot didn't allow for landscaping on the sides of the house, Brian and landscape architect David McNeal, of JGM Landscape Architects in Bellevue, focused on opportunities in the front and back, including an entry courtyard with a koi pond and a waterfront patio that "becomes an extension of the main house," Brian says.



GOOD EATS

In the dining room, Como chairs from Kasala in Bellevue surround a 40-year-old walnut Dunbar table, which can expand to seat large groups. The oil-on-canvas, *Cinibar Falls* by Anne Martin McCool, was purchased at Friesen Gallery in Seattle, and the Royalty Carpet Mills rug underfoot was found at Associated Incorporated's Designer Showroom in Seattle.



SIMPLE SANCTUARY

The serene master bath features French limestone flooring from Michelangelo Fine Marble and Granite in Seattle, as well as anigre cabinetry and granite countertops from Western Tile & Marble. Toto faucets and Kohler sinks are from Keller Supply in Redmond.

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McNeal says he chose native plants, such as Douglas fir, mahonia and kinnikinnick, for practical reasons: “We’ve got to be water conscious, and they deal well with minimum water in our dry summers.”

No matter the time of year, Katie enjoys relaxing in the living room, admiring the sunsets and vistas. “Everybody who comes over has to stand there for 15 minutes to enjoy the view before they can sit down,” she says. But did her modernist husband succeed in creating a home that pleases his traditionalist wife? “I asked him to design a house as warm as possible for me,” she says. “He definitely accomplished that.” **L**



VIEW FINDER

Furnishings in the master bedroom were kept simple to focus on views of Lake Washington, which can be seen through a sliding door from Windows Doors & More. A Corbusier chaise by Cassina was purchased at Dania in Kirkland and faces the Baronet platform bed and bedside tables from Kasala. Over the bed hangs a triptych of photos, *Five Lands*, by the architect/homeowner’s son Josh Brand.



2

3

4

5

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HOME BUILDER Bender Chaffey Corp.
INTERIOR DESIGN Robin Luchsinger Interior Design
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE JGM Landscape Architects

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