

# Custom Home

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## Weekend Retreats

Second homes for great escapes

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cotta-colored corrugated metal. "It's a mixture of materials, but both are appropriate for the seaside," says the architect, "the Cannery Row metal and the Shingle style."

Combining such contrasting exterior materials, which also included cedar soffitting and corrugated metal culvert for the columns and chimney, might have concerned some builders. "It required time and craftsmanship to pull it off," says Soli. But he knew his partner in several other projects (including Soli's own house) would enjoy the challenge. "It was so far out of the norm," says Rich, whose Rich Construction Co. is headquartered and builds almost exclusively on the island. "But I had no reservations about it at all. It's what I'm looking for. It gets boring to do the same thing over and over again."


Rich's biggest stretch was building the structure's 25-foot-tall gable elevations. "They were framed as one section, one at a time," he recalls. Then his crew craned in the 42-foot-long, 7x16-inch support beams for the skewed second story. "John is an excellent framer," says Soli. "Very methodical." Attention to detail at the framing stage pays off for Rich because what he really loves is finish carpentry. And, as everyone knows, finish work is no fun if the walls aren't plumb.

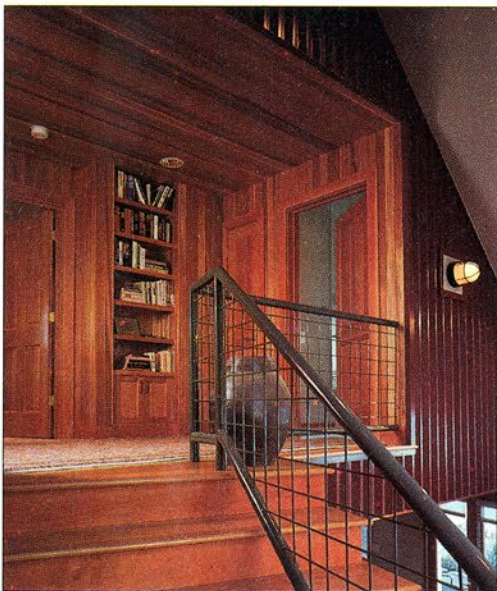
The 1,800-square-foot, two-bedroom interior gave Rich plenty to do. Knowing that the clients intended to retire to the home in the future, Soli spec'd finishes worthy of a primary residence. He also designed a great many built-ins to make maximum use of limited space.

On the first floor, which contains an open-plan kitchen, living, and dining area, Soli combined vertical grain doug fir cabinetry, cedar 1x4 paneling on the ceiling, and oak for the floors. The staircase is also doug fir with white oak treads. "Shopping for all that lumber was a trick," says Rich. "I ended up shopping every source I had. It was important to get those color and grain matches." It was especially crucial because he planned to use wafer joinery on all his woodwork. "It's a cabinet joinery—a biscuit joinery," he explains. "It takes a little more time to do, but it's worth it. It gives the appearance of all one board."

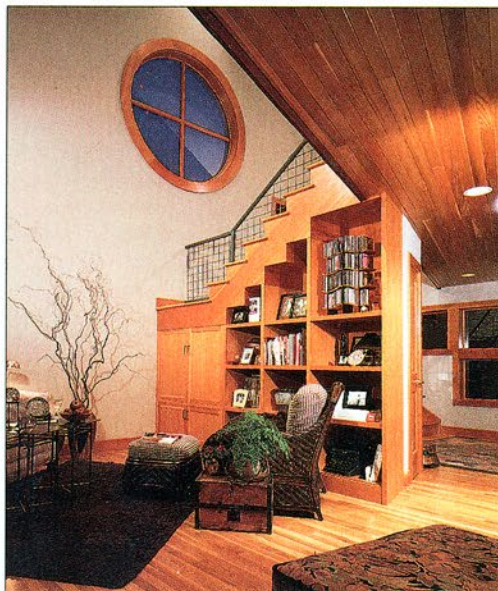
The warm woods of the staircase contrast purposefully with the industrial railing Soli designed. Here, the Shingle-style residential portion of the house gives way to the Cannery Row industrial portion. Terra-cotta corrugated metal surrounds the opening to the second-floor overlook, and the exterior's cedar soffitting turns up as cedar paneling on the walls and ceiling of the overlook.

Not surprisingly, the clients were a little nervous about bringing the hard-edged metal cladding indoors. "Just the fact that it was different gave them pause," Soli recalls. The powder-coated metal stair rail was also an issue. But a little patience and good communication brought them around. "Now, they're so happy that they did it," says Rich.

"Keeping everyone involved as much as possible is the key to doing good custom work," Rich concludes. And he lives up to his end of the bargain, too: "I'm at the site every day, all day. It shows your subs how picky you are." 



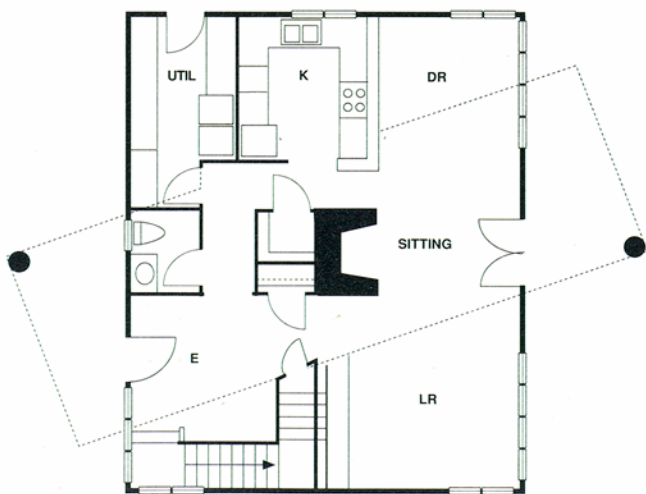
▲ The oversized second-floor landing creates a mini-library overlooking the entry and living room. Cedar paneling, corrugated metal walls, douglas fir and white oak stairs, and a powder-coated metal handrail continue the duet between traditional and contemporary.



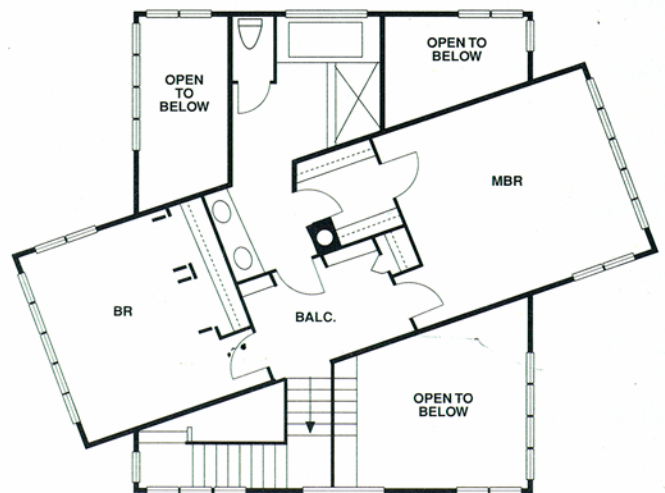
▲ The clients, who intend to retire here, wanted a higher level of finish than is commonly found in vacatio homes. So builder and master carpenter John Rich used biscuit joinery on all the home's woodwork to give it the look of fine furniture.



▲ The sitting area, with its granite river rock fireplace and cedar-paneled dropped ceiling, divides the living and dining areas. Soli tucked storage into as many places as possible, including the vertical-grain fir-and-granite kitchen peninsula.



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