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INSIDE.



TOUR OF ARCHITECTS Showcasing Contemporary Northwest Design

BY ALLEN COX

Contemporary architecture in the Pacific Northwest tends to be innovative, thought-provoking, in harmony with landscape and environment, and often a marriage of style and sustainability. The warmth of natural materials, the use of natural light and the elegant, organic flow of interior and exterior spaces are all hallmarks of our contemporary Northwest architects. The region's designers are adept at translating their clients' and their own aesthetic visions into nuts-and-bolts reality. On March 25, the Tour of Architects presents a unique opportunity to see the best of the best in Northwest architecture on the Eastside and beyond and perhaps inspire a dream of your own. Here's a preview of the Eastside buildings on the tour.

IMAGES BY BENJAMIN BENSCHNEIDER

ISSAQUAH REPURPOSED STRUCTURE *Nils Finne*

Architect Nils Finne renovated a 1905 bungalow to create a new Christian Science Reading Room, a tranquil space for study and contemplation.

"The new Reading Room brings a modern expression to an old building," Finne says. "It creates an intriguing dialogue between past and present."

A new reflecting pool on the corner of the site anchors the renovated space. Finne removed interior walls and beams to carve out a large, open space filled with natural light from new Douglas fir windows and generous ceiling light monitors. New exposed roof framing is Douglas fir, the rebuilt fireplace sports a new face of Montana ledgestone and custom furnishings bring a welcome touch of craft to the room. Satin etched glass walls add more natural light and "floating" Sapele shelving lend a weightless quality to the room. The end wall features a stone screen with 8-ft high pieces of basalt placed at crossed angles to form a delicate pattern of light and shadow with a small glass-walled quiet room on the other side.

"Sustainable design principles were incorporated from the start of the project," Finne says. "Renovations are inherently sustainable, since an existing structure is recycled and given new purpose rather than being torn down." >>

