

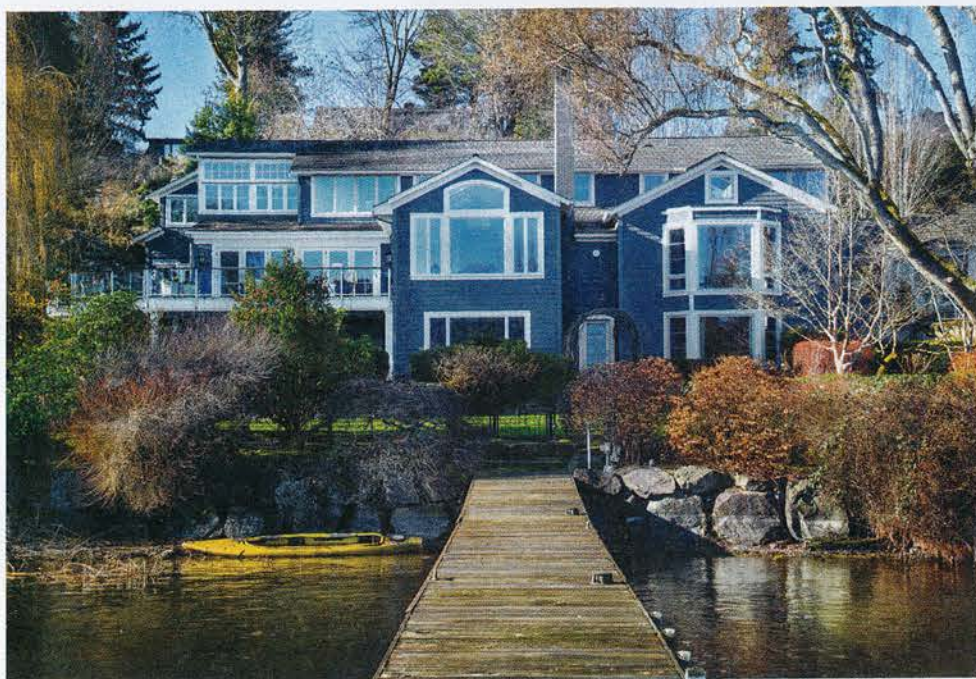
PACIFICNW

A high-angle photograph of a mountain climber standing on a jagged rock peak. The climber is wearing a red helmet, a green shirt, and a backpack, and is holding a rope. The background shows a vast mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a turquoise lake in the valley. The overall scene is dramatic and scenic.

A photographer celebrates
North Cascades National Park's
influence on his life
— and its half-century
anniversary — with an
ambitious season of summits

50 PEAKS *for* 50 YEARS

The Seattle Times
APRIL 28, 2019



Architects Carrie Anderson and Stuart Silk, along with project manager Brittney Wilson and interior designers Julianne Shaw and Janae Klein, all of Stuart Silk Architects, joined forces with contractor Schultz Miller to remodel Liz and John Tinkham's 1940s-era Yarrow Point home, re-envisioning the first floor, and adding a new gable addition on the upper floor to create a symmetrical, more welcoming front facade.

BALANCE, BEAMS

A strategic aesthetic and structural remodel brings cohesion and symmetry to a 1940s-era waterfront home on Yarrow Point

BY THE TIME Liz and John Tinkham moved here from Chicago — and decided to stay — this sumptuous waterfront estate on Yarrow Point had lived through a lot.

Built in the 1940s, "This home had been remodeled and added on to numerous times," says architect Carrie Anderson, of Stuart Silk Architects. "While each project added value, there was a lack of coherent design for the house as a whole."

From the outside, she says, "Stuart and I noticed it wasn't symmetrical coming

down the driveway." Inside, on the main level, Liz says, "The whole area was a warren of rooms. The ceilings were low." In the disoriented little kitchen, "They basically just built over what had been a solarium," she says, and nearby, actual peril perched just above the main stairway: "As you came down the stairs ... if you were over 6 feet tall, your head would hit a beam."

In their first meeting, Anderson says, Liz and John requested a unifying update of "symmetry, harmony and simplicity." ▶

The light, bright, view-framing new family room had been a dark dining room before, with a teak Balinese fireplace surround. "The beams had been painted brown," says Anderson. "We replaced the window to the side of the fireplace, and made it bigger to line up with the others."





"The steel beam set the width and depth of the decorative beams. We wanted to keep as much ceiling height as possible," Anderson says of the reconfigured kitchen and TV/breakfast area, brightened by beautiful touches of blue.

"We really wanted Carrara marble for the island," says Liz. "But we're really messy people, and we knew we would ruin it. We traipsed all over Seattle for a piece of granite and said, 'Why don't we look at porcelain?' It looks like marble, and wears like granite." Shaw "came up with the pewter on the band of the [range] hood and in the Xs on the cabinets," Liz says.

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NW LIVING

And now, thanks to a series of structural fixes, ingenious transformations, strategic additions and room-to-room switcheroos, the Tinkhams' home is living its best modern life: as a thoughtfully traditional home with contemporary touches, transported in one coherent form to the 21st century — and, in one sense, to the northern hemisphere.

"[The home] had a whole Balinese theme, very beautifully and expensively done: Pacific Northwest on the outside, Bali on the inside," says Liz. "For a while, we thought we could live here, but it was really dark. It was beautiful, but when we put all our Midwestern stuff in, it just didn't work."

Today, the Tinkhams' home works magnificently — with the former Stairs Of Danger as the new, *centered* center of attention in an effortlessly flowing design.

"Initially, we wanted to move the stair; it's in a weird spot, off-center," Anderson says. "But it was too structurally complicated. If we could widen it to center it, it'd be more gracious, and resolve the symmetry. The main bearing line was right down the middle of the kitchen; we removed it and put in a large steel beam."

In that greatly expanded, cleverly rotated kitchen and breakfast/TV area, with a giant island and dazzling bursts of blue, "Basically everything in here is new," says Liz — except the must-keep lake view from the sink.

Speaking of new:

- Off the kitchen, "An existing breezeway between the garage and house was enclosed as a mudroom and pantry for additional storage," says Anderson. "My favorite room in the house is the pantry," says Liz. "It's like having our own grocery store in here."
- The family room took over the previous dining space, where, "Every wall was covered with grasscloth, and the room was very ▶



The new staircase (previously off-center, and cut off by an upstairs closet) takes center stage under a gracefully high new arch. "Moving the stair would have been too expensive, so it was widened to maintain the existing load paths while achieving symmetry in the space," says Anderson. "This stair is now the focal point of the home, with the new kitchen, family and dining rooms situated around it."

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NEW LIVING



A walk-through bar area, with new paint and new hardware, opens to the family room, to the rear, and to the living room [out of frame]. There's a similar bar space right next to the kitchen.

dark," Liz says. "The fireplace had a huge teak Balinese surround." Now a bright new light, a larger replacement window to the side of the fireplace (now with a warm limestone surround and hearth) and white beams brighten the soaring space, with views across and beyond Lake Washington, and doors to the updated outdoor deck.

- The previous meditation room, which was missing a beam up above (and light inside, since its windows and skylight had been covered), morphed into a bright office for Liz, with an inviting, wider window and a custom built-in designed by Julianne Shaw of Stuart Silk Interiors.

- One wall relocated to create a separate new dining room where there had been an office, with a repurposed Holly Hunt light fixture from the previous dining room. (Nearby, a cheerful new powder room was tucked in, "making the most of a small space," says Anderson.)

- Up those graceful stairs (now under a striking — and safe — high-clearance arch), a new, bumped-out "little extra room" adds a balancing gable to the front of the home, while creating a special space for the future. "We're hoping to use it as a nursery someday for a grandchild," says Liz.

- And decor-wise, Anderson says, "Stuart Silk Interiors replaced the existing carved, dark wood trim with painted white trim more appropriate to the Shingle Style of the home. Repainting the existing and remodeled rooms a warm white color gave a fresh feel and brightened the interiors dramatically. Pewter accents, wallpaper and pops of color added additional sparkle, texture and visual interest throughout."

In the newly enlivened living room, for example, refreshed floors, paint and trim embrace Liz and John's Midwestern furniture like a long-awaited friend — while at the same time, elsewhere, previous pieces are meeting all-new fans.

"There had been a Balinese screen over the window," says Liz. "All of their décor was gorgeous. Instead of throwing it away, we're recycling it. John called the previous owners' decorator. She said, 'Send it back here.' Every once in a while, we get a check from her when she sells something."

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