

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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INTERIORS / ARCHITECTURE / INSPIRATION

DESIGN

2017



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GOLD LIST EDITION

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ESSENTIAL TIPS ON ARCHITECTURE

1. Authenticity is paramount: If the exterior is a tribute to Mediterranean style, the genre's ornate columns and archways should be introduced in the interiors.
2. Create an entrance with a statement-making staircase, with features such as a floating stairwell or risers highlighted in a mosaic tile.
3. Emphasize natural light by rethinking the home's fenestration using clerestories, skylights and glass French doors.
4. Building materials should serve as an ode to the area's historical character, such as classic brick in a New York condo.
5. Don't sacrifice function for style: When building a home from scratch, focus first on how it will facilitate your lifestyle.

Structures reminiscent of traditional agricultural buildings rise from the Montana flatland along the Ruby River. Architects George Suyama and Chris Haddad wanted to create a defining and protective terrain for the house where none existed before, so they dug out two large ponds to anchor the site and used the extracted earth to build a network of berms.



GEORGE SUYAMA
Architect

Share your concept for how this home (shown) sits in the landscape. We wanted to create a place where water is surrounded by man-made earth berms to establish a sense of peace and refuge.

What excites you most about residential design in the Pacific Northwest? The most exciting part of Northwest residential design is its reverence for our natural surroundings.

Are there any currents in residential architecture that speak to you? I like the idea of living with less. I like smaller, more efficient spaces. I also like spaces with multiple uses and areas that celebrate living in a more elemental way.

Where do you turn for inspiration? The place-making ideas of indigenous people leads to the elimination of the non-essential.

Does sustainability play a role in your work? To me, sustainability means living with less, using materials that age gracefully and designing spaces that are timeless. To me, a sustainable life chooses quality, not quantity.