

Seattle waterfront home enjoys carefully chosen views through lush vegetation

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Water views from this long narrow home in West [Seattle](#) by Suyama Peterson Deguchi are strategically framed using existing trees on site.

Junsei House - which roughly translates from Japanese as "purity" – was built for clients seeking to simplify their lifestyle and live in a [minimalist](#) home.

"Simple, efficient and quiet in design, the house is a reaction to today's technology and offers a refuge in an ever changing, chaotic world," said [the architects](#).

To avoid disturbing the lush site along the Puget Sound, the studio designed a home which measures only 25 feet by 75 feet (7.5 metres by 23 metres).

"All of the trees were left in place, and excess excavation was limited to protect tree roots," said the firm.

The residence is accessed via a wooden walkway that leads to the home's middle level. A protected outdoor space is created here by the roof's double-height, [gabled](#) outline.

The master bedroom is located right at the entrance of the home, adjacent to a central [staircase](#) with open treads. Further along the corridor, the architects laid out the kitchen, which is open to the double-height living space.

"Instead of the typical design solutions with unobstructed views to the water, a central tree becomes dominant, and accentuates views and vistas by blocking some while slowly unveiling others."

Lined in weathered [plywood](#) panels, the living room is flooded with light entering from floor-to-ceiling windows on the western facade. An opening leads to an exterior terrace from which residents can catch glimpses of the water.

The home's upper level is only partial, and contains a [loft space](#) that serves as a small office.

"The relatively open floor plan and flexibility of spaces lends itself to a variety of uses, causing the resident to reevaluate how they live," said the architects.

Below, the architects included utilitarian spaces, as well as a parking space fit under the home's pilotis structure.

The design of the home was informed by traditional building styles, as evidenced by the gabled roof form. "Producing little visual noise, the house is composed of a simple vernacular shape in which all programmatic elements were distilled down to their fundamental requirements".

The home's exterior cladding consists of [corrugated sheet metal](#), which was chosen for its low cost and simple aesthetics. This complements the home's interior, where wood is predominant.

Other single-family homes in Seattle include a [home with a double-height artist's studio](#) in a dense urban area as well as a [home that floats on the shores of Lake Union](#), and in which the residents can go for a swim directly from their water-level bedroom.