

2014 WOOD DESIGN AWARDS - WINNER

Residential Wood Design

David Hewitt, Hewitt + Company Architecture Inc.

Silver Lake House, Silver Lake, WA



“Distinctive uses of wood. Simple and elegant details.”

- jury comments

High resolution images available. Please e-mail mmclaughlin@wood-works.ca

This small lakefront vacation home is located on Silver Lake, Washington just south of the BC border and within an 80 minute drive from the owner's Vancouver home. Situated on a mountainous 1.5 acre property of woodland, the 1,300 square foot lakefront house is rainforest living personified. The low profile linear design of the house nestled into the hillside takes advantage of a natural 'plateau' in an otherwise steeply sloped site and responds to the mountain topography to minimize the imposition on the landscape. The cross hill linear design blends into the natural terrain and allows maximum views to the lake from every room with minimal impact on the natural site.

Structure:

The use of glulam beams permit large expanses of glass to capture the lake view while the 2 x 6 framing provides the structural requirements for both heavy snow loads and extra insulation. The glulam beams also allowed for the master bedroom to be cantilevered out, showcasing a treehouse view of the lake and mountains beyond. The sloped metal roof parallels the natural hillside and appears as a flat roof sloping away from view and is a response to the high snow load design criteria.

Exterior:

The indigenous rainforest is comprised primarily of red cedar and maple trees. In harmony with the surroundings, extensive use of these natural materials is evident in the Western red cedar siding, decking and soffits

on the exterior all of which are sourced locally. Used in combination with charcoal-coloured fibre cement panels, the wood siding exterior blends into the natural hillside landscape when viewed from the lake. All natural vegetation has been allowed to re-establish on the site to minimize the impact on the landscape.

The second floor brise soleil is also made of Western red cedar stained a honey colour to contrast with the charcoal panels. The brise soleil have been extended the full height of the windows to provide a natural shade to the western summer sun both directly and indirectly from reflected sunlight off the lake surface. A feature cedar slat sliding wall panel at the front entrance allows natural ventilation through the wall on summer nights while keeping the local wildlife from wandering into the house. Constructed to blend seamlessly with the siding when closed, it provides additional security when the owners are away.

Interior:

Maple has been used exclusively on the interior for floors, kitchen cabinetry, wall finishes and heavy timber stair treads cut and milled from windfall trees on the site. The feature staircase is evocative of an interlocking puzzle using clear natural finish slats milled in one piece and heavy timber solid maple beams projecting through the wall slats - cut, milled and finished on site.