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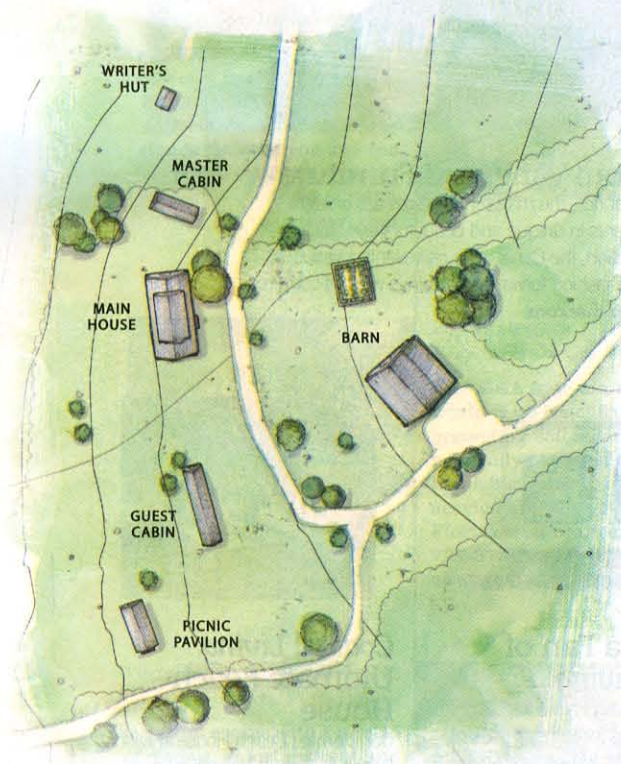
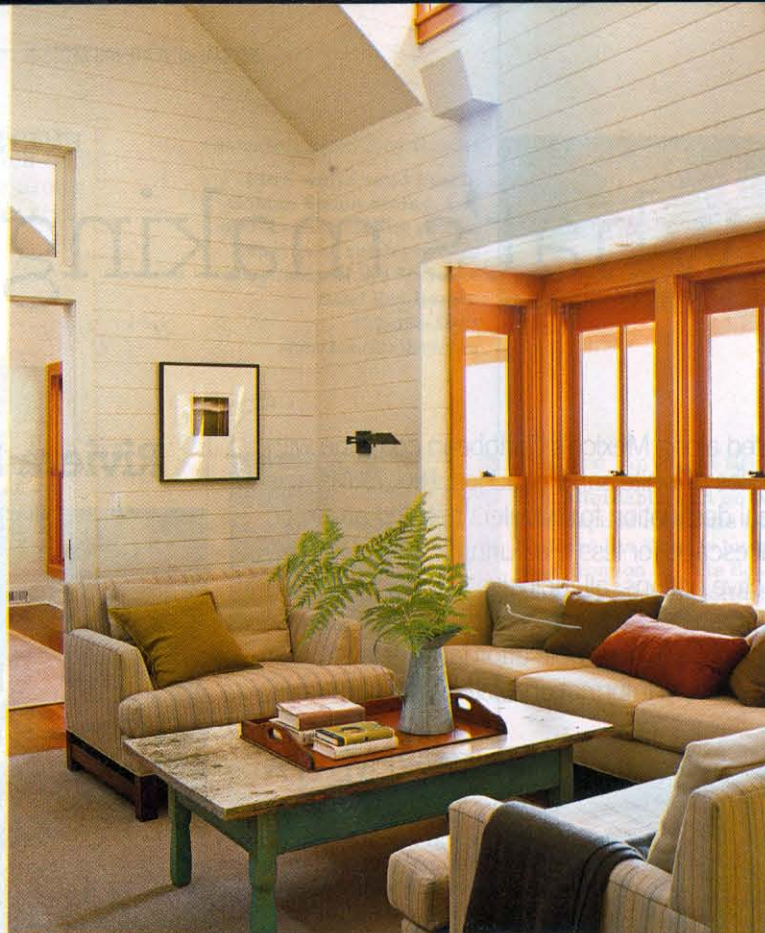
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SEPTEMBER 2011

They look as though they've stood forever in this lush Northwest forest. Half a dozen structures, as discreet and dignified as gray-sheds, peek from evergreen boughs on a 25-acre compound overlooking the waters of Puget Sound. Instead of designing a single home for his client on this remote island off the Pacific Northwest coast, architect Steve Hoedemaker of Bosworth Hoedemaker, a Seattle firm known for refined understatement, created a hillside grouping of small buildings—a central house for meals, and outlying buildings for sleeping, reading, and cookouts. The property contains six modest wooden cottages, ranging in size from a small writer's hut to a renovated barn, half hidden among the alders and firs. "We didn't want an overgrown, bloated house," says the homeowner, who planned the property as a place where he and his wife could gather with



The Bird's-Eye View

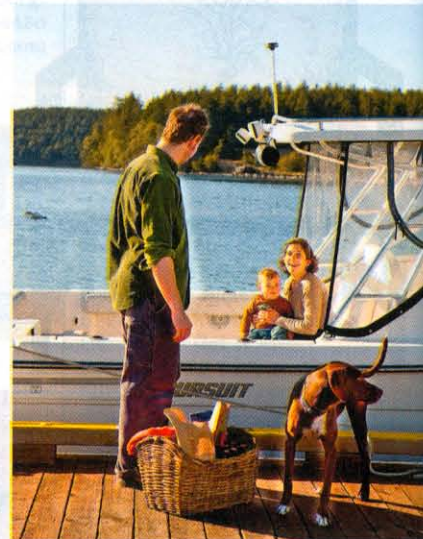
The six structures sit on a 25-acre property with views of Puget Sound on three sides. An old barn that came with the property was remodeled to include a generous porch and a sleeping loft.

their friends, four grown children, and a first grandchild while maintaining the ability to have quiet downtime.

As with all good home design, the buildings are a response to a specific place. "We live in a part of the country that's blessed with temperate weather," Steve says. "The thing that makes this vacation property unique is interacting with the outdoors on a regular basis. If you want to go back to your bedroom, you encounter nature along the way. It's like a camp."

To be sure, the family compound has all the rustic charm of old-fashioned cabins, complete with a timber-framed pavilion, Adirondack chairs, and outdoor fireplace, but without the usual dark rooms or the rough-hewn clutter. "We did not want cabin cliché," says the homeowner. "We wanted clean lines and brightness."

Seattle-based interior designer Garret Cord Werner made the rooms faithful to their rough-edged setting without resorting to predictable kitsch. In the main house, where the kitchen and the dining and living spaces line up in the manner of a shotgun house, he painted the wood-paneled walls a basic white to amplify wan Pacific Northwest sunlight streaming in from clerestory windows that are positioned >



Interior designer Garret Cord Werner designed and custom-made the sofa and club chairs in the living area of the main house (top). They're upholstered in solid and striped linen fabrics from Rogers & Goffigon. Above: the family catamaran



For the linen upholstery, he chose light neutral tones complemented by pale blue stripes. The interior echoes the simple lines of the architecture, with no skirting, no drapery, no flourishes. “Everything is very linear and symmetrical,” Garret says. “We wanted the look to be serene and sophisticated, but not so sophisticated that the house would seem out of place.”

The furnishings are all the more pleasing given the remoteness of the setting, as though the compound were an outpost of comfort and taste on a watery frontier. A private water taxi makes several trips a day to the island, but the family also enjoys the flexibility of their own 25-foot catamaran. They reside well out of sight

The master bedroom (above) resides in its own cabin. A bath in the guest cabin (above, right) contains a rolltop claw-foot tub from Sunrise Specialty. Right: The picnic pavilion has a metal roof, which will last longer than shingled versions.

of their neighbors, but they can still see boats passing in the distance. The view, composed by landscape architect Kenneth Philp, extends from a meadow framed by the forest to the expanse of water beyond.

Days are spent kayaking, gardening, or just relaxing. At mealtime, the family gathers on the main house porch. When dinner winds down and the dishes are done, the group adjourns down grass paths to the two separate sleeping cabins tucked among stands of trees. They are alone in the hush of the forest edge, but they are always one meal away from a happy reunion. 🌿

For more information, see Sources, page 110.

