

# Gray

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DESIGN

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# Reworking the Ranch

**Portland architect Sid Scott bares the heart of his '70s ranch house to connect the home to the outdoors and experiment with bold textures.**

Written by **BRIAN LIBBY** : Photographed by **PETE ECKERT**

DESIGN TEAM

*architecture:* **Scott | Edwards Architecture**

*construction:* **Jak Bartels**

*structural engineering:* **WDY, Inc.**

*windows:* **Milgard**





**F**our years ago, Portland architect Sid Scott and his wife, Teresa, gave up their dream home—a flowing, open-plan house that Scott designed for indoor-outdoor living—to move closer to their daughter’s high school. Keen to design his family’s next residence, too, the architect snapped up a circa-1970 ranch house in southwest Portland’s Dunthorpe neighborhood. It had low ceilings, dark interiors, outdated surfaces, and only a few bedrooms—it was “the worst house in the best neighborhood,” Scott recalls—yet he saw in the dumpy home a canvas for a radical reenvisioning. “I thought, “This is the kind of house you could make into *anything*.”

Scott renovated the house in four stages over 30 months, with his family of three living onsite the entire time. “I would not recommend it,” the architect says, laughing, as he remembers the unconventional arrangement. “You’re washing dishes in the bathtub.” But their period of rough living was worth it: when it was over, the house was utterly

transformed, light-filled and spacious. Scott cut away the roof’s front and back overhangs—totaling some 200 square feet—to draw in natural light, added glass walls that make the living area look like an atrium, and removed the 8-foot-high ceiling spanning the living area to expose the vault of the pitched roof, into which he carved skylights.

None of these gestures was simple: not only was a new structural system required, but Scott had just reshingled the roof a year earlier and was loath to tear it up. “The structural engineer would come over, and we’d just scratch our heads,” says Scott of the dilemma. The solution they devised was to perform the requisite structural reconstruction from the inside in order to preserve the new roof. “You’ve got to have a good challenge with every house,” Scott says. “This was ours. But in the end, we got the large volume we were looking for.”

As a result, the home is not only airy but also effortlessly linked to the outdoors. Mature maple trees at both the front and back of the property softly dapple the morning and afternoon light flowing into the house. While entertaining, »



The wall in the sunken living room—painted in Benjamin Moore's Iron Mountain—further blurs the line between interior and exterior (the same color is used on the home's façade) while emphasizing the renovated space's new, and hard-won, height. The dining room table is from Amish Furniture and the chairs from Portland's Hunt & Gather. **OPPOSITE:** Scott's 2008 Porsche Cayman sits handsomely before a frosted-glass garage door from Portland's Wayne Dalton.







The kitchen features Caesarstone Nougat countertops, a Viking range, and backsplash tile from Portland's United Tile. The trio of pendant lights is from Globe Lighting. »



**FROM TOP:** The master bath includes a Scarabeo sink by Nameek's and a tub from MTI Baths. The master bedroom is a cozy oasis, thanks in part to its Xtrordinair 3615 fireplace.



**“I thought, ‘This is the kind of house you could make into anything.’”**

—SID SCOTT, ARCHITECT

the Scotts often throw open the doors on both sides of the living area—one leads to the back patio, complete with a seating area and fire pit, and the other to the front yard. Distinctive materials are used throughout the house, including a chevron-patterned Island Stone fireplace wall and barnwood floors that Scott sourced as a “gnarly pile of wood with bark and moss on it” from Portland’s Viridian Reclaimed Wood. His wife’s first reaction to the planks was one of alarm. Yet the architect, whose family once owned a lumber company during his Montana childhood, sanded down a few samples five thousandths of an inch at a time to achieve the desired texture. “We wanted some patina and some saw marks,” he explains, “but we also wanted to walk on it and not hurt our feet.”

The homeowners’ framed prints—many of them mementoes of their travels—add pops of color that complement the home’s midcentury and contemporary furnishings, but Scott thinks of their house as primarily an artful showcase for materials: not just the wood and stone surfaces but also the wooded, flower-strewn yard visible through the glass walls. “We really extended the footprint of this house from the inside out,” he says. “Everything just flows.” \*



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lambertetfils.com

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mckinleyburkart.com

**Rory Doyle**  
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cargocollective.com/rorydoyle

**Undrcard Boxing Studio**  
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undrcard.com

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**Brad Turner Art & Design**  
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jagrprojects.com

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jeffmartinjoinery.ca

**92. REWORKING THE RANCH**

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**Design Within Reach**  
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dwr.com

**Globe Lighting**  
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huntgather.com

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islandstone.com

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mtibaths.com

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**United Tile**  
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vikingrange.com

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**WDY, Inc.**  
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shakun.ca

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