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Gray™

The DESIGN MAGAZINE for the Pacific Northwest

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ARCHITECTURE FOR APOCALYPSE

FACE OFF: TWO DESIGN THINKERS
DEBATE DEVELOPMENT AND THE
FUTURE OF OUR CITIES

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A DIFFERENT ANGLE

BattersbyHowat designs a striking concrete-and-glass gem for a fashion expert that breaks the Northwest modern mold.

Written by JORDAN KUSHINS
Photographed by TOM ARBAN



complex, choreographed movement flows from the front landscape down through the space," he says.

Behind the home's unassuming exterior is where the unique connection between client and architect truly bore fruit. When visitors enter the house, "all they can see is sky," Battersby says. That magnificent vista is made possible by a low piece of custom millwork that defines the entryway and directs the gaze upward through large windows across the house. Around the corner, to the right of the entry, is a gentle descent into the open-plan living and dining space; to the left is a hallway to the kitchen, which adjoins the master bedroom, perched on a mezzanine level and accessible via cantilevered gray-stained oak stairs.

The angular layout maximizes privacy and directs views over the pool terrace—and the city skyline and Strait of Georgia—through the floor-to-ceiling glass along the entire length of the home's south-facing façade, rather than toward neighboring homes, which crowd closely on either side. Natural illumination floods freely throughout the house thanks to a sloped ceiling formed by an inverted truss that "bounces light and sound," Battersby says.

Once they'd moved in, the client and her family found comfort in the home's clean lines and clear vistas. "It is very modern but not at all cold," she says. "It's aesthetically beautiful and yet so livable." Battersby, who keeps in touch with her, isn't surprised by the perfect fit. "The house is an expression of who she is," he says. "She's one of the most stylish people I've ever met. Whenever we visit, she looks like she's been styled along with the home." ❄



OPPOSITE: Lem stools, designed by Shin and Tomoko Azumi for La Palma, line one of two kitchen islands topped with PentalQuartz from Pental Granite & Marble, and floating stairs lead up to the master bedroom.

TOP: A smaller, more intimate patio with an outdoor barbecue adjoins the kitchen. "I grew up in houses that had a private courtyard meant just for family, not guests," says the client. "It's very common in 20th-century Iranian architecture." **ABOVE:** In the en-suite master bathroom, a freestanding Victoria & Albert tub is positioned for optimal sunlight.