



CLEAR HORIZON

WRITTEN BY SAXON HENRY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRICK BARTA

THE RULES OF SYMMETRY ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING CLASSICAL BEAUTY ARE STRICT, AS THE UTMOST ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO MAINTAINING THE PROPER PROPORTIONS. That said, once pure classicism is realized, a talented architect can play fast and loose with the stylistic points of view. "Donald Whittaker is a stickler for classical detailing," observes Michael Schuerlein, partner in Kirkland's Worthington Custom Homes & Remodeling, the general contractor on the jewel box of a residence that Whittaker designed in Bellevue, Washington. "He really is so adamant about getting it right."

Whittaker's adroitness certainly paid off during the planning of this project, which began as a Tuscan-style villa and morphed into a refined Dutch Colonial cottage. "Early on, the architecture was guiding the interior finishes, which called for lots of stone," says Whittaker, principal of The Design Guy in Bellevue. "The young Italian couple building the home wanted something cozier yet feared we'd have to redesign everything. But I told them, 'Not at all. Give me two days.'"

ARCHITECTURE Donald Whittaker, The Design Guy, LLC

INTERIOR DESIGN Rose Capestany, RCI, Inc.

HOME BUILDER Ross Worthington and Michael Schuerlein,

Worthington Custom Homes & Remodeling

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE George Rudko, R. David Adams Associates, Inc.

BEDROOMS 5 **BATHROOMS** 6 **SQUARE FEET** 6,500



STYLE SELECTION

Lighting designer Kevin Reilly crafted this steel fixture for Holly Hunt to have both indoor and outdoor capabilities. *Passage Hanging Lamp*, price available upon request; hollyhunt.com



SOPHISTICATED LIVING

Baker's Milling Road sofa and chairs, from the Baker Knapp & Tubbs showroom in the Seattle Design Center, pair with a cocktail table by Woodbridge Furniture in the formal living room. Sconces by Hudson Valley Lighting flank the fireplace and a painting from the owners' collection.



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The home sits on the spine of the tallest hill in Bellevue, which means views of downtown Seattle across Lake Washington with snowcapped Mount Rainier in the distance to the west and views of downtown Bellevue with the Cascade Mountain Range looming large to the east. Landscape designer George Rudko, of R. David Adams Associates in Seattle, pushed the envelope where plantings were concerned, choosing species that would have normally sprung up in the Northeast where Cape Cod architecture rules. "Some of the plants we used, like lilac, are not native to Seattle," he says, "but they work so well with the architecture and will thrive in the climate."

Framing views and opening the home to the area's ample natural light while achieving coziness may seem paradoxical tasks, but Whittaker was undeterred. "I refer to this project as the Windward Cottage," he says. "The way the home graces its surroundings and the fact that it is buffeted by the area's strong winds brought to mind a nautical feel, which I referenced in the architecture."



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It can be said that certain projects are lucky from the start, and both Whittaker and Ross Worthington, partner and president of Worthington Custom Homes, describe their collaborations with each other and designer Rose Capestany, of Seattle's RCI, as exceptionally easy. "The planets truly aligned on this project," Whittaker remarks. "Working with Rose was a dream, and the artisans brought in by Michael and Ross were some of the most mindful and talented I've seen."

Specificity was the order of the day every day as detailing was treated with the utmost scrutiny—from the sophisticated layering of the millwork to the exterior shingles, which were boiled on the job site and bent to fit different curvatures when they were applied. Because Capestany knew there would be an abundance of crisp white woodwork in the home—envisioning wainscoting,

CREAMY CENTER

The mottled granite countertops in the kitchen create textural interest in the space and complement the cabinetry from International Kitchens in Bellevue. Hudson Valley Lighting's fixtures over the island and the Pratt & Larson backsplash are perfectly in tune with the charming room. Appliances are from Arnold's Appliance in Bellevue. Hardwood flooring from Double Eagle Interiors in Auburn runs throughout.



SMALL BITE

Ballard Designs' Chianni Trestle Table in the breakfast nook pairs with the company's Key West Wicker Chairs. Stroheim's Cocoa Beach Faux Raffia covers the cushions on the banquette, a sunny spot to kick back for a snack or a great read. The shutters, by Window Design in Snohomish, received a custom paint treatment to match the window trim.

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layered crown moldings and chair rails throughout—she felt the color palette should be warm. She chose buttery yellows, soft teals and tempered taupe tones to bring a hospitable refinement to the string of welcoming spaces.

In order to complement the interior and exterior architecture, Capestany chose furnishings along classical lines, bringing in transitional elements along the way as a nod to the family's youthfulness. "I enjoy the timelessness that we achieved with this home," says Capestany, who collaborated with team member Thomas Miller. "The detailing adds a sophistication to the house that brings an understated elegance to the spaces."





TONAL QUALITY

Coffered ceilings and glamorous millwork by BMC in Issaquah make the family room one to admire. Granite surrounds the fireplace, echoing the elemental hues of the upholstery on the Leathercraft sofas and ottoman, and the chairs from Restoration Hardware. MB Design in Woodinville fabricated the accent pillows using Pindler & Pindler fabric.



FIT FOR A KING

An ample loggia is a favorite gathering place for the young family, complete with a Heat & Glo fireplace from Fireside Hearth & Home in Bellevue and durable tile flooring from Pental Granite & Marble. Gloster's Kingston line of furnishings suits the classically designed space.

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It's no surprise that Whittaker and Capestany are itching to work together again. "I was truly enthused about the detailing Rose achieved in the interiors of this project," says Whittaker. "I believe there will be many more collaborations ahead for us." And fortunate are the future benefactors of their joined efforts. Says Worthington: "Rose's sense of aesthetics meshes with Don's beautifully, and the balance Don realizes is visionary. Architecture has an inherent principle not unlike the act of tossing a stone into water—there is a ripple effect that will make an impact on a building all the way down the line, and Whittaker understands this from the start." **L**