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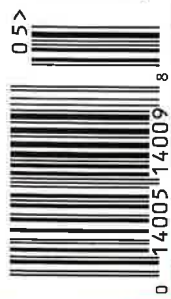
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Poised across from the main entry, the living room speaks with a formal grace. A cozy hearth tiled in multicolor slate is framed by a custom maple mantel.



A design team creates a traditionally styled home with some modern-day sensibilities.

TIMBER

TREASURE

BY CARRIE A. SMITH

Seattle marries the hip and down-home as well as any other trendy, growing American city. Its residents are an arm's length from both mountains and ocean, yet they have embraced the cutting edge as well: Mother Nature meets Microsoft.

Designer and builder Roger MacPherson understood this unique combination well when he created the Timbercrest for a Seattle-area tour of homes. With the help of designer Mary O'Neill Hanson, the Craftsman-meets-rambling-ranch house is a showcase for the best in nature and the manufactured world: warm woods and natural stones side by side with a high-tech media room and commercial-grade kitchen.

"The site pretty much named the house Timbercrest," MacPherson says. Perched on the crest of a hill among huge Pacific Northwest timbers, the house is situated near the outer edges of Issaquah, Washington, about 30 miles from Seattle. Two acres of rolling green and wooded land cradle the 4,300-square-foot home and surround it with trees—home to wandering deer and raccoons,



as well as countless birds. The style of the architecture and interiors is a change for MacPherson, who has concentrated on more contemporary homes in the past. “People [in the Seattle area] wanted the Craftsman style, and there was also a great demand for ramblers,” he says.

To bring the evergreen outdoors inside this single-story, multilevel home, MacPherson carefully selected various woods to accent the interiors. Maple, hemlock, and knotty pine comprise the architectural trim, the custom cabinetry, and the wood ceilings and beams. He also handpicked several kinds of natural stone—granite, slate, and limestone—for floors, hearths, and countertops to lend a touch of the surrounding landscape to the home’s everyday spaces.

The wooded locale and the earthy materials posed the best kind of interior design

challenge for Hanson. To complement the textures of wood and stone, she chose textiles in nubby wools and plush chenilles. Used in simple swaths of neutral beiges and greens, they bring the softness of nature inside.

One of her trickiest tasks was to unify the look of the maple, hemlock, and knotty pine in the large, open family room and kitchen area. She enhanced the woods’ natural tones when she could, and neutralized the brighter yellow cast of the ceiling’s knotty pine with a semitransparent stain. “It was my job to interpret Roger’s design and coordinate the furnishings to be congruent,” she says.

The home’s spaces flow effortlessly from public to private, and from one to another, by virtue of the one-story “rambling” design. The main entry opens into a somewhat formal foyer. To the left is the luxurious master suite. Straight ahead lie the open living room and

Best Cellars

No need to bottle up your dreams for a home wine cellar. With the help of a general contractor and a custom wine cellar manufacturer—or the know-how of an experienced do-it-yourselfer—you can have your wine and drink it, too.

Though usually stored in a cool, dry basement or cellar, wine can be equally at home in the heart of your house. Builder Roger MacPherson chose to locate a wine nook just off the kitchen and dining areas of this Seattle house. He worked with wine cellar subcontractor Apex Wine Cellars to create the room's beautiful and functional particulars. Companies such as Apex will take the dimensions of your room and your anticipated bottle storage capacity and create a custom-cut racking system, which arrives on-site as a kit.

Other elements to consider for your new wine cellar:

- A cabinet and counter surface for storing glasses, corkscrews, and related items.
- Light control to protect the bottles from harsh direct sunlight.
- Temperature controls to keep the space at the ideal temperature.
- Easily cleanable flooring in case of accidents.
- A table for two for a romantic rendezvous.

Not interested in dedicating a room to your collection? You could also install a wine cooler for your kitchen or dining area.



Left: This custom-designed wine room features a red cedar racking system and leaded-glass look doors.

Opposite: Although a lot of traffic can converge at the kitchen, the island keeps wanderers out of the cook's way. The custom maple hutch reaches toward the ceiling with nooks and cubbies for storage.

Bottom: A cozy, informal dining area opens onto a covered porch and the welcoming glow of the family room's stone fireplace.



views; instead, he recessed the living room two steps down from the foyer and the dining area to make it a destination all its own.

The heart of this home is the kitchen and family gathering area, again divided from a much larger space. The kitchen shows off classic and clean-lined maple cabinetry, topped with striking green-flecked granite slabs. Commercial-style stainless-steel fixtures and appliances keep the look uncluttered.

Although many doorways—and much family traffic—converge here, the kitchen island protects those hard at work from the wanderings of friends and family, and it provides convenient counter seating opposite the stove.

The work area is separated from the family room by a casual dining area with access to the

formal dining area, which are framed on the outside wall with floor-to-ceiling windows and tailored window treatments that lend an air of elegance without being stuffy. MacPherson distinguished individual rooms in this large space without building walls to block the



outdoor covered porch. A painted wooden rail also guards the two steps down to the family room level. The casual furniture here groups cozily around the stone fireplace.

The family and kitchen area also features an elegant wine nook with leaded-glass-look doors and custom racks. A stone tile floor adds old-world atmosphere to the space while helping with the temperature control so crucial to wine storage. A perfect complement to a house built for entertaining, the wine nook features double doors to let guests mingle freely.

The private areas of the house are divided into two separate wings, with the master suite on one side and guest bedrooms or children's rooms on the other. The guest wing draws attention for its media room, complete with retractable movie screen and blackout shades for daytime movie-watching. Two of the three smaller bedrooms share a bathroom; an

additional three-quarters bath has hallway access. A computer desk area has been ingeniously carved out of a wide hallway.

The luxurious master bedroom divides its attention between the restful outdoor views and the warming hearth. The master bath, with a room-size walk-in closet and dressing area, offers a spa getaway without leaving home. The two-person soaking tub is bookended by large stone-top vanities and elegant architectural mirrors that reach toward the ceiling.

Poised at the merging of comfort and modernism, this home succeeds in creating a welcoming, traditionally styled home. □

BUYING GUIDE ON PAGE 112

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PLAN TOUR

- This single-level "rambler" ranch *right* rolls elegantly along its suburban Seattle homesite. With minimal walls and maximum space, the public areas of the house (plan, *below right*) flow seamlessly together, while still offering the comfort of privacy.
- The foyer presents a grand view of the living and dining spaces. The living room gains a slightly separate effect from two steps that lead down from the entry area and the dining room.
- A private wing to the left of the entry houses the elegant master suite and its spa bath.
- The public spaces ramble on to the right of the dining area, with a large open kitchen, a wine room, and a less formal family entry, accessed via the garage.



Opposite: In the master bedroom, the fireplace brings warmth when the Seattle weather can't provide a sunny day for enjoying the view. **Left:** Master bath or decadent spa? An oversize shower gains privacy from a glass block wall, and the generous tub is flanked by custom vanities. A large walk-in closet and the private toilet area complete the experience.