



Schmidt Residence Sequim, Washington (1998–2000)

A beloved family cabin once stood in this clearing above Sequim Bay on the Olympic Peninsula. The land belonged to the wife's parents, and when it came back to the market, the Bay Area–based couple seized the opportunity to build their own waterfront vacation home.

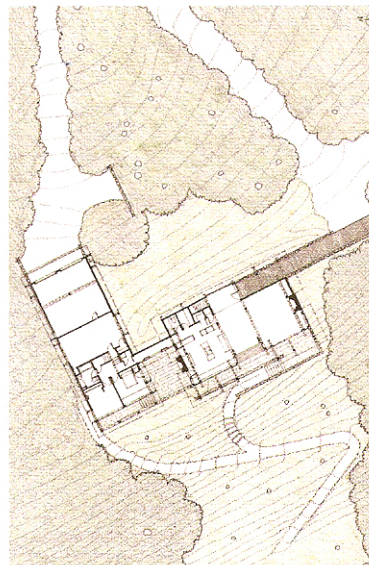
The 4,500-square-foot (418-square-meter) house is split into two structures. A raised walkway connects the main living area (with a master bedroom above) to an adjacent building containing guest rooms, a model train room, and the garage. The two wings sit perpendicularly and enclose a generous outdoor terrace, complete with a fireplace, overlooking the water. The

house's simple gable forms and exposed structure are set on a stone plinth and resemble a tent pitched on a platform in the woods. In some places, the stone is higher, forming fireplaces, and in others it extends out as low walls that anchor the house to the landscape or step down to the shoreline.

A long plank boardwalk through the woods to the house parallels the slope toward the water but reveals only glimpses of the bay. The front door is set perpendicular to the gable end so visitors enter under a low eave before turning into the main living area and toward an uninterrupted water view. The first floor is

completely open with low cabinets, overhead beams, and a fireplace defining the kitchen, dining, and living areas. Instead of heavy-timber posts and beams, the structure features pairs of lightweight wood framing, adding to the buoyant quality of the space. The beams and columns continue beyond the glass skin of the house, dissolving the boundary between inside and outside.

BELOW || Site and first-floor plan







LEFT || The two wings of the house enclose an outdoor terrace, complete with fireplace, that overlooks the water.

Long Residence

Orcas Island, Washington
(2000–2003)

This retreat on Orcas Island along the Harney Channel has a view of the green and white Washington State ferries as they ply their watery route among the San Juan Islands. The house is on a shallow south-facing strip of land along the narrow waterway with a tombolo—a rocky silt connected to the main island by a spit of sand—completing the scenic picture. There is little fetch (the amount of open space on water where wind builds up), allowing the roof to pitch up toward the water without fear of a gale ripping it off.

The design of the house is all about supporting the roof. Because most people experience wood as sawn lumber, the house is an opportunity to underscore the raw beauty and power of trees in their

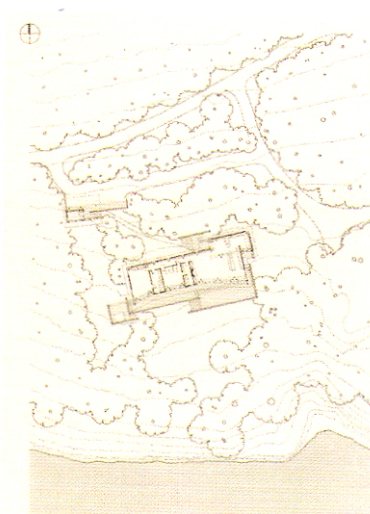
more natural state. Western red cedars were harvested from the contractor's father's land and then water-blasted to remove the bark and reveal their skeletal form. The six logs, between 12 and 60 feet (3.7 m and 18.3 m) long, are hoisted in the air on bundled tripods of cedar poles.

The logs and beams sit on a simple rectilinear concrete platform that retains earth on the north side of the house and forms a large terrace on the south, where the steep hillside slopes down to the water. The longest log runs parallel to the north wall of the house along the forest and supports the low edge of the roof as it slopes up to 15 feet (4.6 m) along the water. Three logs sit at a slight angle to each other along the south to form a seg-

mented arch that captures a view of the channel. A glass wall with large panes and few mullions sits outside the structure, wrapping it on three sides.

Visitors arrive through the woods along the north edge of the house, which is nestled into the forest floor. A series of small windows in the otherwise opaque wood-shingled façade frame vignettes of the wood tripods inside. A retaining wall extends into the hillside and holds back earth at the front door. The entry is into a low enclosed area that widens as the ceiling slopes up over the main living dining area with the channel beyond.

BELOW || Site and floor plan





BELOW || The roof is lower above the entry on the north and slopes up above the main living-dining area along the channel.

