



CONCRETE TILES GIVE THE OLD FIREPLACE AN UPDATED LOOK AND PAIR NICELY WITH OWNER GREG NETTLETON'S CONTEMPORARY FURNISHINGS. NEWLY REUPHOLSTERED BY DESIGNER RICK BAYE, THE VOLUMINOUS CHRISTIAN LIAGRE OTTOMAN DOUBLES AS A COFFEE TABLE. OTTOMAN AVAILABLE TO THE TRADE FROM THE JENNIFER WEST SHOWROOM, (206) 405-4500. CARPET FROM DRISCOLL ROBBINS, (206) 292-1115.

TUDOR RENOVATION

REMODELING MAKES A CRAMPED WEST
SEATTLE HOUSE FEEL AS EXPANSIVE AS ITS VIEW

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER HAUPT PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM WRIGHT

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When Greg Nettleton purchased his West Seattle home 12 years ago, he fell in love with the sweeping views of downtown, the Port of Seattle and Mount Rainier. "You couldn't ask for a more perfect setting to live in," recalls the Alaska Airlines pilot. "The house, on the other hand, left a lot to be desired."

Figuring he could remodel the home in stages, Greg settled into the 1,800-square-foot Tudor and put up with its postage-stamp windows, pantry-sized kitchen and head-scraping stairway for five years, until he could afford to renovate. "We thought about tearing the entire structure down, but zoning issues and building permits made it more economical to keep the core of the structure and rebuild around it," says architect Tyler Engle. "Our first priority was to break open the back of the house to get at those gorgeous views."

Engle peeled off the rear wall and replaced it with an angled addition. Although it added only 168 square feet of living space, the addition redirected views on both floors, accentuating the picture-postcard vistas. Upstairs, double-hung windows were traded for panoramic panes of glass, including floor-to-ceiling windows in the master bedroom that appear to thrust the space over the dramatic wooded slope below. The effect is like having a helicopter view of Seattle from the comfort of your bed.

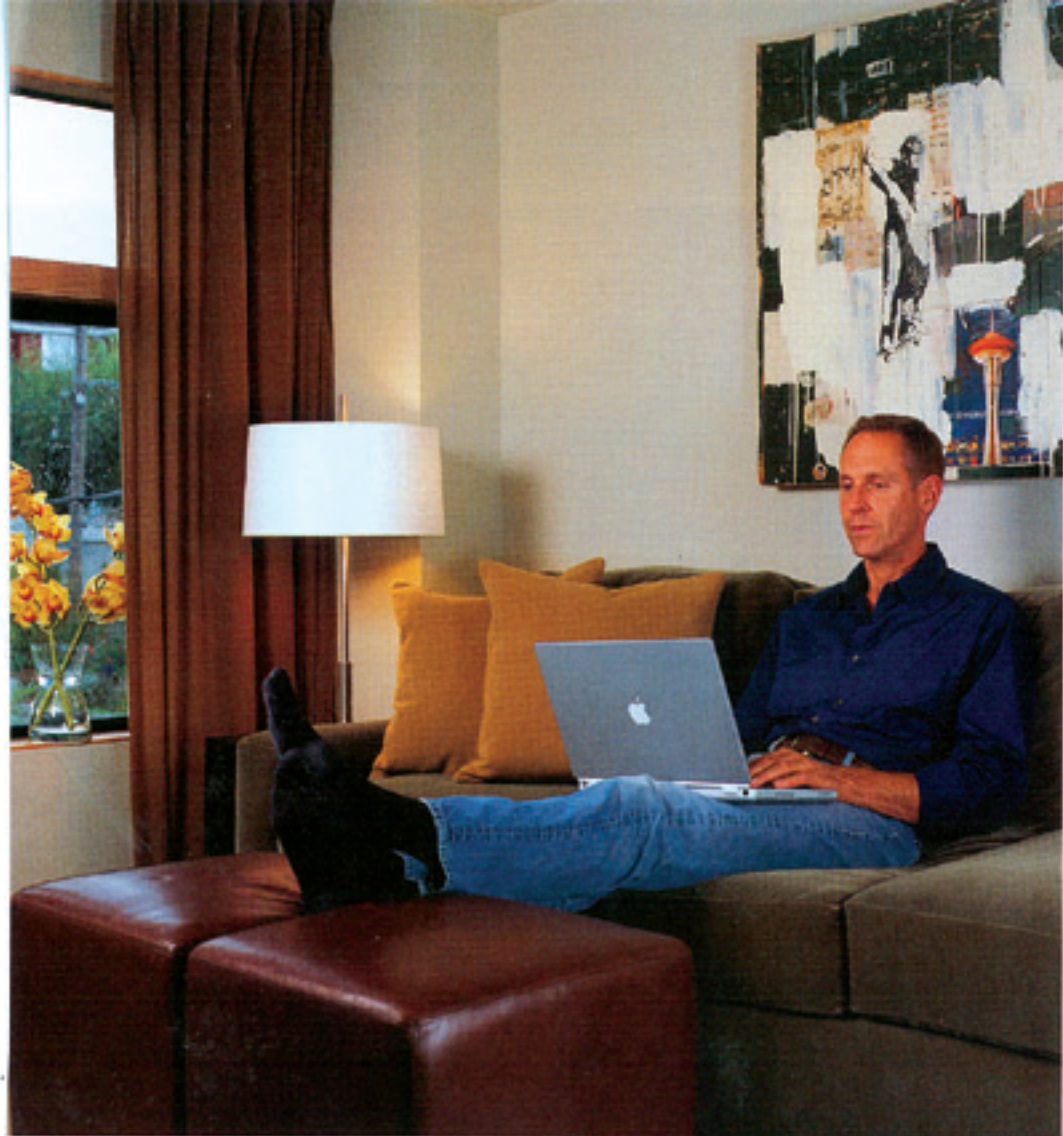
Phase two of the remodel originally called for enlarging the kitchen and master bathroom. "Once we started morphing this boxy, dark Tudor into an open and airy contemporary, it was like pulling a thread on a sweater—the whole thing started to unravel," says Greg. The homeowner wound up adding 833 square feet to the front of the home and keeping less than 30 percent of the original structure.

Once the front addition was complete, the entry was only 12 feet from the sidewalk, so Engle screened off the street with a pair of concrete walls and used transition spaces to enhance the journey to the front door. Visitors approaching from the sidewalk ascend a few steps and enter a secluded courtyard adorned with lush tropical plants. A short, winding staircase leads to the front door, further separating the home from the street.

"Previously, when you entered the house you were dumped directly into the main living space with no time to appreciate the view you were coming upon," Engle explains. "Now, when you open the front door you face a frosted-glass panel with backlit bamboo that serves to separate the home from the garage and continues the open-courtyard theme."

According to Engle, the big challenge of this redesign was taking a small house on a narrow lot—just 38 feet wide—and finding ways to create more usable space, as well as the illusion of more space. The key to accomplishing this was through contraction and expansion.





BY LESHOLD PHOTOGRAPHY

GREG NETTLETON CATCHES UP ON WORK IN THE DEN (ABOVE, LEFT). THE HOMEOWNER OPTED FOR A SPARE APPROACH IN THE MASTER BATHROOM (ABOVE, RIGHT) AND THE MASTER BEDROOM (RIGHT), WHERE AN ANGLED ADDITION MAXIMIZED STELLAR VIEWS OF DOWNTOWN AND THE DUWAMISH. A MORE SIZEABLE ADDITION IN FRONT (OPPOSITE, LEFT) NEARLY OBSCURES THE ORIGINAL TUDOR ARCHITECTURE AND INCLUDES CONCRETE WALLS THAT HELP PRESERVE PRIVACY FROM THE SIDEWALK 12 FEET AWAY. BACKLIT BAMBOO (OPPOSITE, RIGHT) ANIMATES THE FROSTED-GLASS WALL OPPOSITE THE FRONT DOOR. OTTOMANS FROM DESIGN WITHIN REACH, (206) 443-9900.





THE LEFT: RICK BAYE PHOTOGRAPHY

BLUE STEEL LINES THE OPENING BETWEEN THE LIVING ROOM AND DINING ROOM (LEFT), FRAMING A SCULPTURAL WENDELL CASTLE DINING TABLE FROM TRAMWELL GAGNÉ (2001) 762-1511. THE KITCHEN (RIGHT) IS MORE THAN DOUBLE ITS PREVIOUS SIZE AND WAS LEFT OPEN TO THE ENTRY HALL, SO THE HOUSE APPEARS WIDER. GREG (OPPOSITE) TRAVERSES THE WALKWAY OVERLOOKING THE NOW TWO-STORY ENTRY HALL. THE COLUMN IS A 19TH-CENTURY RELIC GREG BOUGHT IN SAVANNAH, GA. FLOOR PLANS (BELOW) ILLUSTRATE THE ADDITIONS MADE TO BOTH THE FRONT AND THE BACK OF THE HOUSE.

The entry hallway is purposefully narrow, then broadens to a dramatic open stairway and kitchen, which creates the illusion of even greater width. A long, narrow counter of Absolute Black granite spans the 13-foot length of the kitchen, which is now more than twice the size of the original. "I frequently entertain, and guests invariably wind up congregating in the kitchen, so I wanted a comfortable, inviting space," Greg says. "The counter is perfect for accommodating lots of people cooking or for spreading out a buffet."

The entry-hall ceiling was knocked out to create a spacious sense of depth between the first and second floors. Blue-steel columns and railings, designed by Engle and crafted by Drew Middlebrooks, continue the open-and-closed motif.

Despite the home's expansion, the individual rooms remained small, so Greg furnished with a light hand, pairing contemporary furniture and art with ethnic pieces and a few timeworn artifacts. A sculptural

Wendell Castle table dominates the dining room, its round mahogany top balanced atop a confluence of splayed timbers. (The round table also takes up less space, yet manages to seat eight.)

Designer Rick Baye, who assisted with the interiors, re-covered Greg's old living-room furniture in rich, earthy fabrics and introduced a voluminous Christian Lacroix leather ottoman topped with walnut trays that can serve as both a coffee table and extra seating, when needed. Concrete tiles surround the fireplace, adding an industrial edge that echoes the working waterfront below.

"After the remodel, everything I had originally loved about this site—the beauty and expansion of the outside—was pulled into and woven through the inner space," explains Greg. "It was definitely worth the wait." ■

Jennifer Haase frequently writes about home design, community action and other issues for regional and national magazines.

MAIN FLOOR BEFORE

- 1. GARAGE
- 2. ENTRY
- 3. KITCHEN
- 4. LIVING ROOM
- 5. DINING ROOM



MAIN FLOOR AFTER

- 1. GARDEN COURTYARD
- 2. ENTRY
- 3. KITCHEN
- 4. HALLWAY
- 5. POWDER ROOM
- 6. GARAGE
- 7. LIVING ROOM
- 8. DINING ROOM
- 9. DECK





