



THIS AWARD-WINNING OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE FEATURES A FIREPLACE AND ROOM FOR DINING AND ENTERTAINING.

LARA SWAMMER, COURTESY TYLER ENGLE ARCHITECTS

## GARDEN PARTY

Every year, Seattle Design Center presents the Northwest Design Awards to winners in a competition that recognizes design excellence in 10 categories. This year, for the first time, *Seattle Homes & Lifestyles* presented the Publisher's Choice Award to one of the first-place-winning projects that has never been published.

SH&L chose Tyler Engle Architects' Mount Baker courtyard project—the first-place winner in the NWDA Outdoor category—for this award. We loved its economy of space, privacy and functionality.

Robert McCroskey and Stanley Perryman's strictly-for-access backyard was "essentially a drainage ditch off an alley" when they came to Engle for help. The architect's response was to approach the outdoor space in the same way he does houses. "We planned this yard with functional outdoor rooms and cohesive circulation from the alley to the house," Engle explains.

The new outdoor living space features a private patio with a fireplace and room for dining and entertaining, as well as separate areas for a sunken stainless-steel hot tub and an outdoor shower. New pathways connect the house to the garage and alley and frame the primary outdoor living and dining area. An archi-

tectural concrete wall offers privacy from the alley, and a heavy timber trellis and wood fence provide warmth and scale. A jog in the concrete wall provides an additional parking space off the alley.

The clients asked for a modern space but wanted it to relate to their 1909 house. Engle married old and new by covering the wall that conceals the outdoor shower in siding to match the house and repeated the cedar trellis from the alley wall along the garage next to the house to provide shade for the kitchen.

"Our desire for this courtyard was to create a modern sense of introspection that seamlessly coexists with the original house and existing neighborhood," Engle says.

We think he succeeded admirably. It is refreshing to see an outdoor living space truly designed for *living*—isn't that the point of beautiful home design? ■