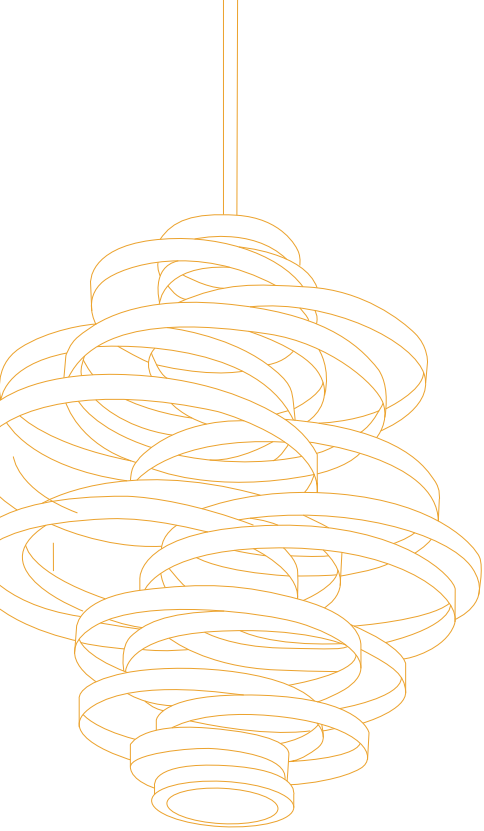


INTERIOR DESIGN®

best of residential

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN





foreword by Cindy Allen

There's no place like home. There *is* no place like home. There's no place...You get the drift.

Never has that wizardly saying rung more true, when you consider the chaos of our hustle-and-bustle, tech-driven lives.

Home has become the ultimate sanctuary. It's our refuge, our getaway to escape the world—or engage in it full-on. And we're definitely not in Kansas anymore. We traveled the world from Minnesota to Monte Carlo, from Hawaii to Kuwait, and back again.

I'm delighted to present *Interior Design Best of Residential*, the newest book in our growing series (*Best of Year*, *Best of Hospitality*, and *Best of Office* preceded). You'll see in the following pages what boundless imagination and enormous commitment can accomplish.

Who stands behind all this vision and talent? According to our 2010 Universe study, there are more than 25,000 design firms in the United States, and 52 percent of them handle residential projects. That translates

to a whopping 26,000 individual designers potentially working on your home! The scale of the firms—from small studios with fewer than five designers to businesses employing 20 or more—may vary, but the results in this book are uniformly s-t-e-l-l-a-r.

The money involved is nothing to sneeze at, either. Consider this: Among residential design firms, the average home is valued at \$2.3 million, and designers specify nearly \$1.8 million in products a year. And we can't talk about the home without celebrating its heart, the kitchen, and everyone's favorite private oasis, the bath. Clients clearly agree, putting their money where their mouth is: The average kitchen renovation costs \$86,000 and a bathroom, \$47,000.

If you're interested in today's trends, we've made it easy for you. The book is divided into eight chapters we think defines them: Inside/Outside, Vintage Modern, City Living, Modern Family, Getaways, Green, New Tradition, and Global Inspiration. Prepare to be dazzled...and inspired. Just tap your heels three times and you'll be there.



3,300 sf
4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms

Studio19 Architects

MERCER RESIDENCE, SEATTLE

Having your own home scrutinized is an occupational hazard when you're an architect. Tricker than opening your doors for all to see, though, is living in a space that's entirely closed off from views, a lesson Studio19 Architects principal Hui Tian learned upon finding her dream home. Sight lines—not to mention stunning lake vistas through the living room's wraparound picture windows—were blocked by a warren of wood-paneled rooms and a front hall that led straight to the staircase. Keeping intact the Midcentury envelope, Tian gutted the interior, doing away with nearly every division in the living areas.

First to go was the staircase leading to the basement, which was relocated behind a door next to the kitchen. With the entry closet demolished as well, guests stepping through the front door now have an unobstructed view of the kitchen, dining, and living areas. Tian underscored the feeling of lightness with a subtle cantilever motif that distinguishes the coffee table, sofa, and kitchen counter. The only wall left in place (for structural reasons) now sections off a reading nook flanked by a triple-sided transparent fireplace, where Tian and her husband retreat when they want a snug alternative to the newfound expansiveness. After all, architects—even those unafraid to flaunt their handiwork—sometimes need privacy, too.

Clockwise from right: Exposed during the wall demolition, awkward ceiling angles created by past additions were drywalled over to soften the visual impact. Floors are fumed white oak; cabinetry is wenge. A triple-sided gas fireplace warms the living room and the adjacent reading nook, both overlooking the lake. The only remaining divisions are those bordering the bathroom and bedrooms lining the hall near the entry. ➔







- 1 ENTRY
- 2 LIVING AREA
- 3 READING NOOK
- 4 DINING AREA
- 5 KITCHEN
- 6 BEDROOM
- 7 MASTER SUITE





DESIGN PRINCIPAL HUI TIAN, AIA, MAIBC, LEED AP
PHOTOGRAPHY MING-YI HSU
www.studio19architects.com

Clockwise from near left: A nod to Eastern living appears in the master bathroom, where a tiled foot-soaking tub is tucked behind the bathtub. In the master bedroom, a backlit drywall "headboard" adds ambience, while the radiant-heated floors are warp-resistant engineered hardwood. A frameless glass shower enclosure and recessed medicine cabinet make the guest bathroom feel more spacious. Though the guest bedroom shrunk a bit when the new basement stair was installed behind it, it now features hotel-style lightswitches on either side of the bed. A Gregg pendant in satinized glass adds a focal point—and a sense of drama—to the dining area.



