

Custom Homes are Tailor-Made

Pamela Pearce, ASID—Pamela Pearce Design LLC
Mark Elster, AIA—AOME Architects PS

Interior design by Pamela Pearce Design, LLC
Architecture by AOME Architects

“TO US, OUR HOUSE WAS NOT UNSENTIENT MATTER— IT HAD A HEART, AND A SOUL. It was of us, and we were in its confidence and lived in its grace and in the peace of its benediction. We never came from an absence that its face did not light up and speak out its eloquent welcome—and we could not enter unmoved.”

—Mark Twain, 1896

Twain expressed a sentiment about his home that we all can (and should) aspire to. As you embark on the process of building a custom home, bear in mind that the design can be “tailor-made” for you and your family. You are an individual and your family is unique—your home should be as individual as you are. Creating a home that reflects your individuality requires imagination, creativity, planning, and understanding—choosing the right architect and interior designer will be key to your success. Although their work should include designs you admire it is often more important that you sense a developing rapport and chemistry with them.



The interiors of this country house reflect the personal tastes of the owner. The entry provides a transition between formal and informal wings of the house.

to synthesize and interpret this information, responding by illustrating the solutions in the form of drawings, sketches, models, and samples, providing the best “picture” of your home possible, so that you can visualize for yourself living and using your new or remodeled home. Pamela Pearce Design has collaborated with AOME Architects on numerous projects that demonstrate success at achieving tailor-made solutions that stir in our clients the sentiments Twain so eloquently articulated.

To illustrate we’ll examine our responses as a design team to our clients’ specific requests: one design team, three individual clients, and three very different responses to the individual programs provided.

A Country House

The first project was designed for a large family who wanted to build an American Shingle Style home on their country acreage. The large scale of the home provided the opportunity for many of the charming detail elements a Shingle style home incorporates, without creating a busy facade.

As design work on the exterior and architectural elements

progressed we discovered the owner's affinity for Country French furnishings that immediately began to suggest an approach to the interiors that would incorporate them into the architecture, beginning with a palette of colors and materials that would create an enhanced setting for the furnishings. Refined interior finishes and detailing evoked French character with details like the combination of stone and wood flooring in the main entry, antique French light fixtures, "parchment" wall finishes, and herringbone hardwood floors. The Family Room fireplace combined the used brick that the client had requested in parts of the home with the sandstone used for flooring in the entry, dining room, and terraces. This fusion of materials and details created a very personal style for the interior of the home, providing a stunning background for the collection of French Country antiques that was procured for the new home. The collection appears to have been assembled over generations, rather than just during the design and construction process, and provides the setting the owner desired for both formal space for entertaining larger groups, and informal spaces for extended family gatherings.



The new fireplace of antique Chinese limestone provided needed focus to the 8-sided room and graciously displays the ultra-modern translucent speakers.

Northwest Pavilion

When our clients asked us to remodel their 1970's home we relished the challenge. Their desire to create a more serene environment, and a comfortable space for serious music appreciation and performance in the living room was a particular challenge. The existing character of the space had badly missed its potential. They wanted a more serene Japanese-influenced environment with display space for their Asian art collection, and more dramatic spaces for entertaining. Our goal was to create a sophisticated Asian atmosphere, and a stronger character for the

living room pavilion and bridge to the entry. As a design team, we made a concerted effort to achieve a seamless integration of interiors, architecture, and landscape.

The existing fireplace was off-axis in the eight-sided room, creating a feeling of being off-balance, and a difficult space for furniture arrangements that would include a baby grand piano. Their existing large audio speakers required placement away from a wall surface for ideal performance. Pamela Pearce Design



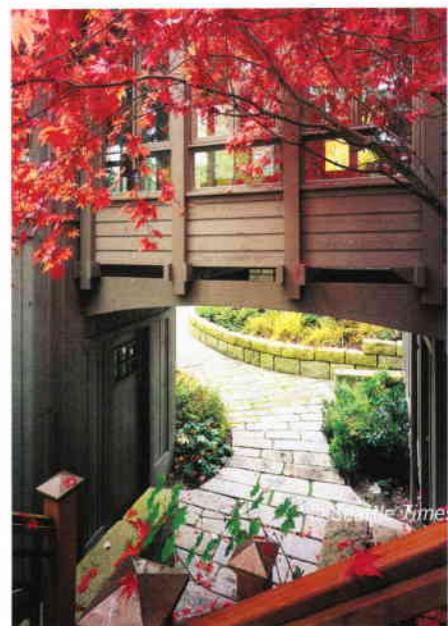
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New lighting, architectural details, and carefully chosen color and material palettes transform the living room into a haven for music appreciation and the owner's collection of Asian art and artifacts.

proposed adding a new fireplace bay on the long side of the room, to provide a visual focus and central axis without decreasing the room's depth. The antique Chinese granite fireplace, anchors the open feel of the room, while creating a unique textural contrast to the wood, and establishes hierarchy for the space. It also allowed space for the transparent speakers on the raised hearth, using them as sculptural-architectural elements in front of windows flanking the fireplace. Custom walnut and wenge display cabinets were added opposite the fireplace for balance, and to provide display for the client's Japanese Samurai helmets. Oxidized brass tops provide a slight reflection and a compatible background for artifacts. A second cabinet houses the client's music equipment at the far end of the room. A lighter staining and glazing treatment of the existing and new wood elements created a softer, more unified surrounding than the original severe, almost black stain. The carpet is a custom wool interpretation of Japanese matting, and the dark woods used in the furniture and cabinetry are reminiscent of Japanese farm-

houses.

To satisfy the client's desire for an intimate music appreciation space, six chairs were centrally arranged, capitalizing on the pavilion feel of the space. The chairs are a custom design of wood lattice backs, inspired by the rhythms of Japanese fences. The custom-designed coffee table is fashioned after a Japanese hibachi



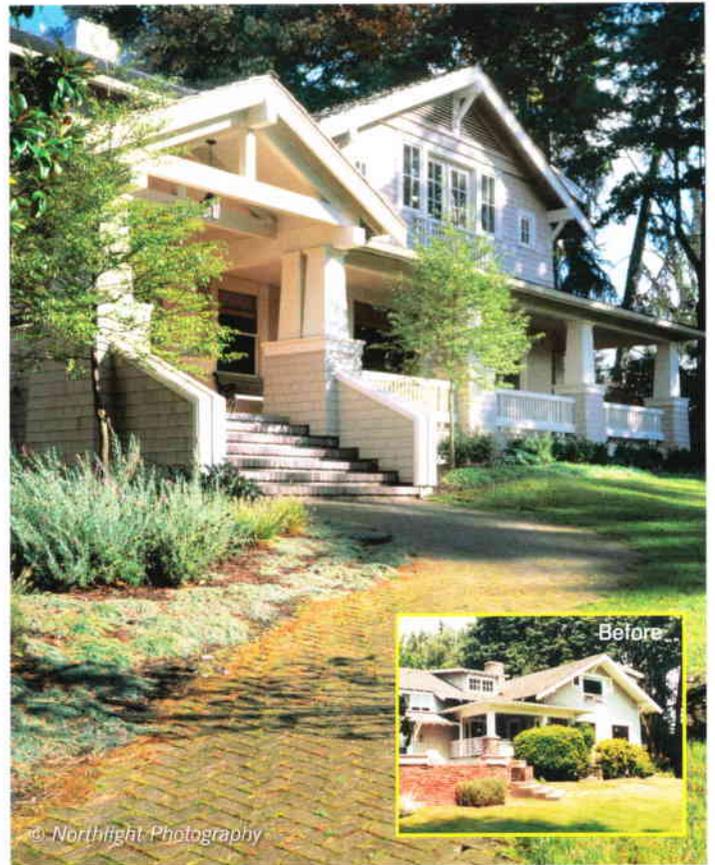
The home's new Asian character is reflected on the exterior also.

form, with a recess to provide space for our client to “bury” his pre-Columbian artifacts in the sand, under glass. End tables are in walnut and wenge, similar to the surrounding cabinets. The clients love their Asian retreat in the trees, which became a very inspiring space for listening to music.

Summer House

Another client purchased a turn-of-the-century home in Medina, Washington. AOME recognized its original romantic character, that had been all but obliterated by a series of bad remodels and urged our client to restore the structure to its original “summer house” character rather than remodel it in an ill-advised colonial style.

AOME Architects proposed a solution that included large covered wrap around porches for outside living, and a return to a Craftsman house character with reportioned massing, cedar shingles, exterior bracket details, and a strong integration with the mature landscaping. The house required an addition to provide a new kitchen and family room space downstairs, and a new master bedroom and bath suite upstairs and a whole new roof to allow for full-height ceilings on the upper floor (formerly an attic). The remodel is seamless, unless you are aware of the addition, it is next to impossible to tell the old from the new.



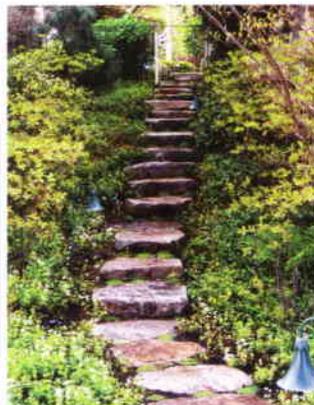
A new wrap-around porch and gabled entry steps establish a new charming character for this remodeled home.



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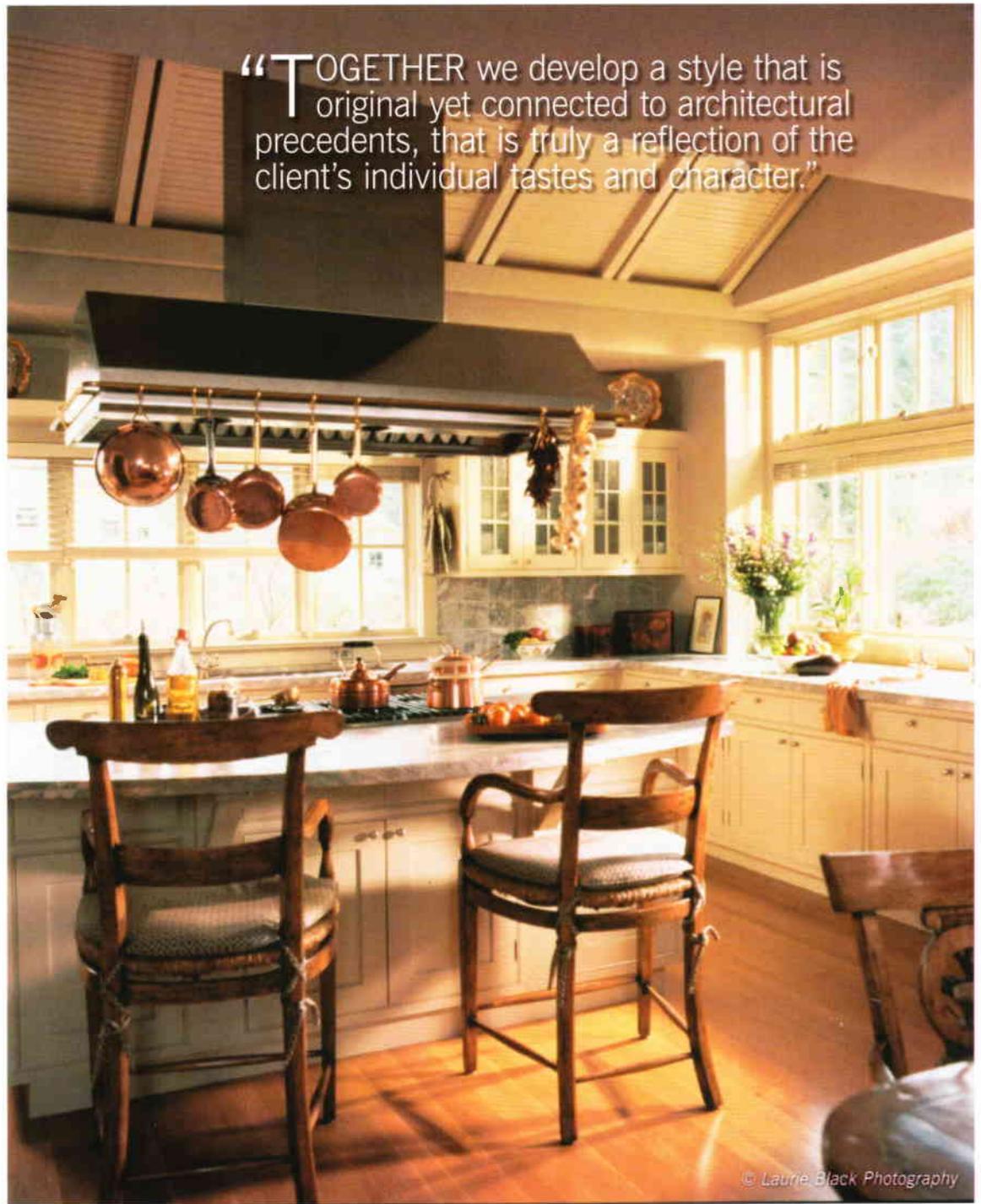
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The circa 1960 remodels were out of character, so we redesigned the living room fireplace, cabinets, and the stair railings with details more appropriate to the earlier part of the century. Our clients requested light interior colors, creamy trim, neutral materials, and the comfortable look of an old family home with well-traveled owners. Furnishings include pieces from France, England, China, Tibet, and India, as well as Oriental rugs, which add the richness and character of a home occupied by a family for generations.

When we commence projects, we recognize how difficult it can be for the homeowner to communicate what they're looking for. Sometimes they know how it "feels" based on their travel experiences, and sometimes they know how it "looks", but cannot identify the style. More often, they will know what they like when they see it.



The new kitchen addition for the "Summer House" incorporates modern amenities in a classic Craftsman-inspired setting that blends seamlessly into the turn-of-the-century home.

Your own home should be tailor-made...

As we begin designing a new or remodeled home, a reciprocal process occurs—the client educates us about their lives and goals, while we in turn educate them about the appropriate responses in design and architecture, antiques and art, etc. Together we develop a style that is original yet connected to architectural precedents, while truly a reflection of the client's individual tastes and character.

Our goal is to provide you with your own unique home, by listening to you carefully, rather than focusing on our own design agendas. We want your home to be a peaceful, satisfying and inspiring environment that also meets the practical requirements of your busy life so that when you return home, you too can experience the emotions Twain so eloquently expressed.