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ROCK SOLID

WRITTEN BY **SAXON HENRY**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **BENJAMIN WOOLSEY**

WHEN A DETERMINED COUPLE FALLS IN LOVE WITH AN ABANDONED QUARRY THAT HAS PHENOMENAL VIEWS OF THE MARINE WATERS WHERE THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA AND THE STRAIT OF GEORGIA CONVERGE, IT’S UP TO A TALENTED TEAM OF VISIONARIES TO MAKE THEIR DREAM HOUSE AT HOME IN THE STONY WASHINGTON SETTING. “We had been searching for a saltwater property with a westerly view for several years,” says the wife. “When we found these 12 acres, we knew immediately it was the perfect location for our second home.”

Envisioning a haven that interacted dramatically with the slip of land nestled into the San Juan Islands, they canvassed the region’s talent for their cause and enlisted designer Christian Grevstad, principal of his eponymous firm in Seattle, to plan the décor and interior architectural detailing. Grevstad identified two main factors of importance as he worked with the husband and wife to craft their perceptions into concreteness. “They intended to spend time in the home with family and friends, so large open spaces were important to them,” he explains. “They also wanted a strong indoor/outdoor relationship between the home and the landscape.” The quarry, with its dramatically sliced and exposed boulders, was a major jumping-off point for the design work. “The site determined the materials we used, the finishes we chose for the interiors and even how the home was situated toward the views,” says Grevstad. “There are incredible stone ‘walls’ on the east side of the home and awe-inspiring water and island views to the west.”

INTERIOR DESIGN Christian Grevstad, Christian Grevstad Inc.		
INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE Christian Grevstad, Christian Grevstad Inc.		
HOME BUILDER Larry Pederson and Andy McElroy, Pearson Construction Corp.		
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Bruce D. Hinckley, Alchemie		
BEDROOMS 3	BATHROOMS 5	SQUARE FEET 15,000



STYLE SELECTION
Carol Gold’ s simplistic bronze sculpture portrays the balance and movement of a Chilean dance. Baile, \$4,900; carolgoldsculpture.com



NATURAL INGREDIENTS
Italian gray limestone flooring from Michelangelo Fine Marble and Granite contrasts the textures in the main living spaces, including the stone walls by Masonry Works and a glass, blackened steel and walnut staircase. H&E Aumont chairs pull up to a dining table from the Christian Grevstad Collection. A Glass & Co. fixture lights above a Ted Boemer table in the distant foyer, both from Terris Draheim.



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Because the residence is situated above the water, there is a three-dimensional quality to the views of the surrounding islands, not unlike the terrain of the setting with its outcroppings of stone. “At every turn, we borrowed from nature and from the sea,” Grevstad remarks. Landscape architect Bruce D. Hinckley, owner of Seattle’s Alchemie, shared this sentiment, creating strong natural connections between the home and the property in his designs. “The large stones in the garden were pulled from the quarry,” he says. “We added a water element adjacent to the open-air dining room, which overflows into a dry stream bed and falls over the cliff during times of heavy rain. This fits so well because, in this area of the country, there are perched aquifers on the faces of the cliffs.”

BRIDGE CLUB
The water element that runs along the edge of the home cements the retreat’s connection to nature. The Montana limestone cladding the exterior of the house, from Quarry S/E, repeats in columns that flank the approach to the intricate walnut entry door, designed by Christian Grevstad and fabricated by Price & Visser Millwork.



ELEMENTAL CONSTRUCT
An abaca weave rug by The Natural Carpet Company anchors the living room, which features a Montana limestone wall surrounding the fireplace. The Spieden sofas and Tabouret ottomans are included in the Christian Grevstad Collection, and the cocktail table is by Harris Rubin, all from Terris Draheim. Two John Saladino table lamps rest on the adjacent bar.



SOLDIER ON
Custom light fixtures by G. Ulano & Co. march in orderly precision above the O. Blaque dining table by Altura Furniture and Coast series chairs by Henry Hall Designs. The space opens to ocean breezes and outdoor seating also by Henry Hall when the NanaWall doors are folded away.



OPEN FLAME
The fire pit, custom fabricated by Lynden Sheet Metal, nestles into one of the home's generous terraces and is a favorite gathering spot when guests are in residence.

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Larry Pederson, president of Bellingham's Pearson Construction, who helmed the build along with site superintendent Andy McElroy, applauds the striking backdrop that was created. "When you stand on the lawn to the approach of the house, you see right through it," Pederson explains. "There's such a 'wow' factor when you take in the views through the axis of the house all the way to the water!" Capturing natural light was another objective in the design of the home. "Because the house is so open, it utterly absorbs the reflective light," remarks Grevstad. "This means its personality changes as the mood and character of the light change throughout the day and into the evening hours."



SALT BATH
Windows from Simmonds Glass allow natural light to illuminate the indoor saltwater pool by All Star Pool & Spa. The Prandina light fixtures are pale, playful elements against the cedar ceiling by Pearson Construction. *Indian Prince*, a cast composite sculpture from H orchow, sits in meditative repose.



SUSPENDED ANIMATION

G revstad designed the suspended ceiling above the range and island in the kitchen; the blackened-steel fascia details echo the datum line running along the top edge of the cabinetry. Wolf and Miele appliances from Anderson Appliance outfit the space. Ted Boerner barstools pull up to granite countertops from Michelangelo Fine Marble and Granite.



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The couple's enjoyment of the retreat knows no bounds. "Relaxing on a driftwood log on the beach with a glass of wine watching the dogs play, the herons glide by, the seals, the otters, the eagles, the family of deer and the boats sailing by is heavenly!" the wife remarks. "We also love to sit by the fire in our library with a good book and a cup of tea, relax in the hammock just above the water and walk with the dogs on our trails through the forest. Even a simple evening with friends around the fire on the patio is special in this setting." **L**

NATURE CHANNEL

The sweeping gestures of the home's architecture frame dramatic views of the ocean and the sunsets that duck below the western horizon.