

FROM House TO HOME[®]

MARCH
APRIL
2009

A New BEGINNING At Home In Yakima

Q&A WITH
CHRISTOPHER LOWELL

FLOOR ME!
Rug & Carpet Magic

Yakima Valley
MUSEUM
A TOUCHING EXHIBIT
MAY 1—AUGUST 31

THE HOME & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE OF YAKIMA AND CENTRAL WASHINGTON

SUPPLEMENT TO THE YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

Property of Publication Services of America, Inc. Reproduced with permission. ©2009 All rights Reserved.

Architectural Range

Smart, sustainable building and crafted modernism find full expression in architects' varied designs

TEXT CHRISTINE HOLM



The road to architecture

Cheryl Heinrichs knew she was going to be an architect by the time she was in eighth grade. "I remember sitting with the Sunday paper and looking at the floor plans and changing them," the Nebraska native recalls. "I created with Lego floor plans, too. I was pretty interested in art and math, so architecture was the right thing for me."

That interest led her to the University of Kansas, where she earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree. From there, she spent some time with firms in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Cambridge and Newton, Massachusetts. Nothing really gelled for her in those areas, so she went on a one-year volunteer stint with Habitat for Humanity in Oregon. "I was their construction coordinator—essentially the contractor for them: I ordered materials, paid bills, trained volunteers. It was a great experience; I got much more than I expected," Heinrichs says. When the year was over, she joined a Bend, Oregon, architectural firm but made a decision to open her own firm in 1995. She also has an office in the state of Washington.

She has done small garage conversions, timber-frame structures, and straw-bale homes. A growing interest in modern design is evident in a home she recently did. The couple, living in Florida until their home was completed in Oregon, worked with Heinrichs long-distance. Heinrichs opted for low-profile rooflines that hug the property. In order for the couple's extensive art collection and exquisite antique furniture pieces to retain the focus they deserved, Heinrichs kept interior lines clean and simple and created lighted niches where appropriate. The result is sophisticated, understated, and elegant.



For more information about building green, check out Heinrichs' website, www.charchitecture.com.

The homes

Heinrichs' architectural range and experience is striking. She

THE GREEN ARCHITECT

Cheryl Heinrichs was interested in sustainable and green building long before it became the hot trend it is today. She's designed several straw-bale homes and works with Rastra block, structural insulated panels (SIPs), insulating concrete forms (ICFs), and recycled wood. "I help people find sustainable materials," Heinrichs says, "and I try to steer people toward buying materials that will last a long time."

► Tranquility is a delightful 2,600-square-foot straw-bale home that embraces the environment as well as the family within.





Scandinavian and American influences

Nils C. Finne, AIA, owner and principal architect of Finne Architects in Seattle, was raised part of the time in his native Norway and part of the time here in America. He completed undergraduate work at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design and received his

Master of Architecture degree from Harvard. In 1985, he was a Fulbright Scholar in Helsinki and Florence. Finne has more than 25 years of experience in all phases of residential, institutional, industrial, and commercial work. His residential work has been widely published and televised nationally, and he has taught architectural design at UCLA, the University of Washington, and the University of Southern California. Finne has published several scholarly articles concerning Scandinavian architecture. He is licensed in Washington and California.

Letting in the light

With such notable connections between Scandinavian design and training in both continents, you'd expect Finne to be well-versed in both—and that expectation would be correct. "The Scandinavian outlook doesn't necessarily result in a certain style but rather in a way of

looking at things I think are very important," Finne observes.

Making the most of natural light is of utmost importance in the Scandinavian regions of the world—and also in the American Northwest—and Finne has very distinct ideas about how that should be achieved in today's homes. "Skylights are the worst thing you can install in a home," he says with conviction. "It just puts a hole in a roof; the light is harsh, and it bleaches out everything underneath it. They generally leak. I prefer high clerestory windows. The light is warmer and softer, and the placement still offers plenty of privacy." ■

Christine Holm is a writer with more than 20 years' experience. She is convinced of the importance of clerestory windows and hopes to add one to her home soon.

All images on this page courtesy of Benjamin Benschneider

▲ Finne designs homes of all sizes, large and small.

◀ Natural materials and clerestory windows illuminate this home.



FURNITURE

"Furniture is interesting," Nils Finne remarks. "I think it's one aspect that distinguishes my firm from others." His studies with influential Danish designer Tage Frid at the Rhode Island School of Design sparked Finne's interest in furniture design. "We create custom high-end design. We go well beyond the typical scope of furniture, lighting, and hardware design into the realm of what I broadly call 'custom fabrications.'" The simple and elegant Troms cylinder lighting, above, is a best seller.



Crafted Modernism

What Nils Finne calls "crafted modernism" is one of the most "underlooked factors in sustainability." "If you don't create something with enduring beauty," he believes, "all of the green materials won't make a bit of difference." The first order of business? Build well.