

**EASY-CARE GARDENING**  
**NORTHWEST**  
**HOME**

JULY 2008

# Great Vacation Homes

FROM URBAN PENTHOUSE TO MOUNTAINSIDE RETREAT, SECOND RESIDENCES THAT ARE FIRST-RATE

**COOL OUTDOOR  
GAZEBO KITCHEN**  
**FAB PRE-FAB CABINS**  
**OPEN HOUSE:  
A NEW LOVELY LOFT  
ON CAPITOL HILL**



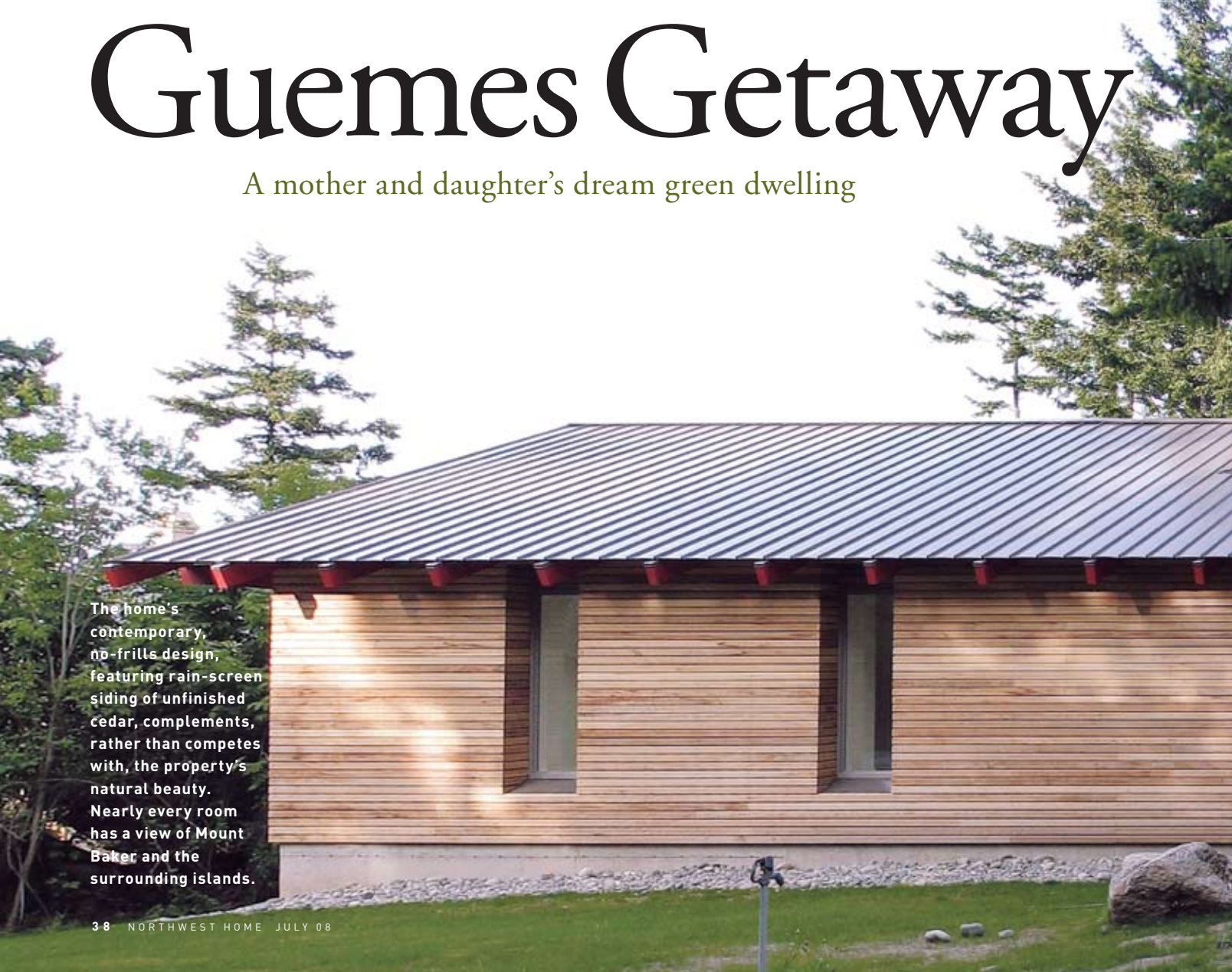
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**SPECIAL SECTION**  
**WESTERN**  
**AVENUE**  
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# Guemes Getaway

A mother and daughter's dream green dwelling

The home's contemporary, no-frills design, featuring rain-screen siding of unfinished cedar, complements, rather than competes with, the property's natural beauty. Nearly every room has a view of Mount Baker and the surrounding islands.



# H2

Home Sweet Second Home

\* Seattleite Dana Bettinger and her mother, who lives in Kansas City, spent months searching for the perfect site on rural Guemes Island on which to build a family vacation home. “We knew we wanted a waterfront lot with views and were very particular [about choosing the right one],” says Bettinger. \* Eventually, they fell in love with a sloping lot with spectacular vistas of Mount Baker and the surrounding San Juan islands, and they built a home where the views command center stage.

PHOTOGRAPHY  
MARKUS KOLB,  
WHITNEY  
ARCHITECTURE



“Every room except the laundry room has a wonderful view and opens out to a deck or a balcony,” says Seattle architect Paul Whitney (who collaborated with Dana on the project, as well as with Dyna Contracting, with whom he frequently works and sublets office space). “Even the shower in the master bath has a floor-to-ceiling window.” Points out Dana, “We deliberately put all of the utility and storage spaces on the side of the house facing the road so the main living area [on the east side of the house] could open up to the view.”

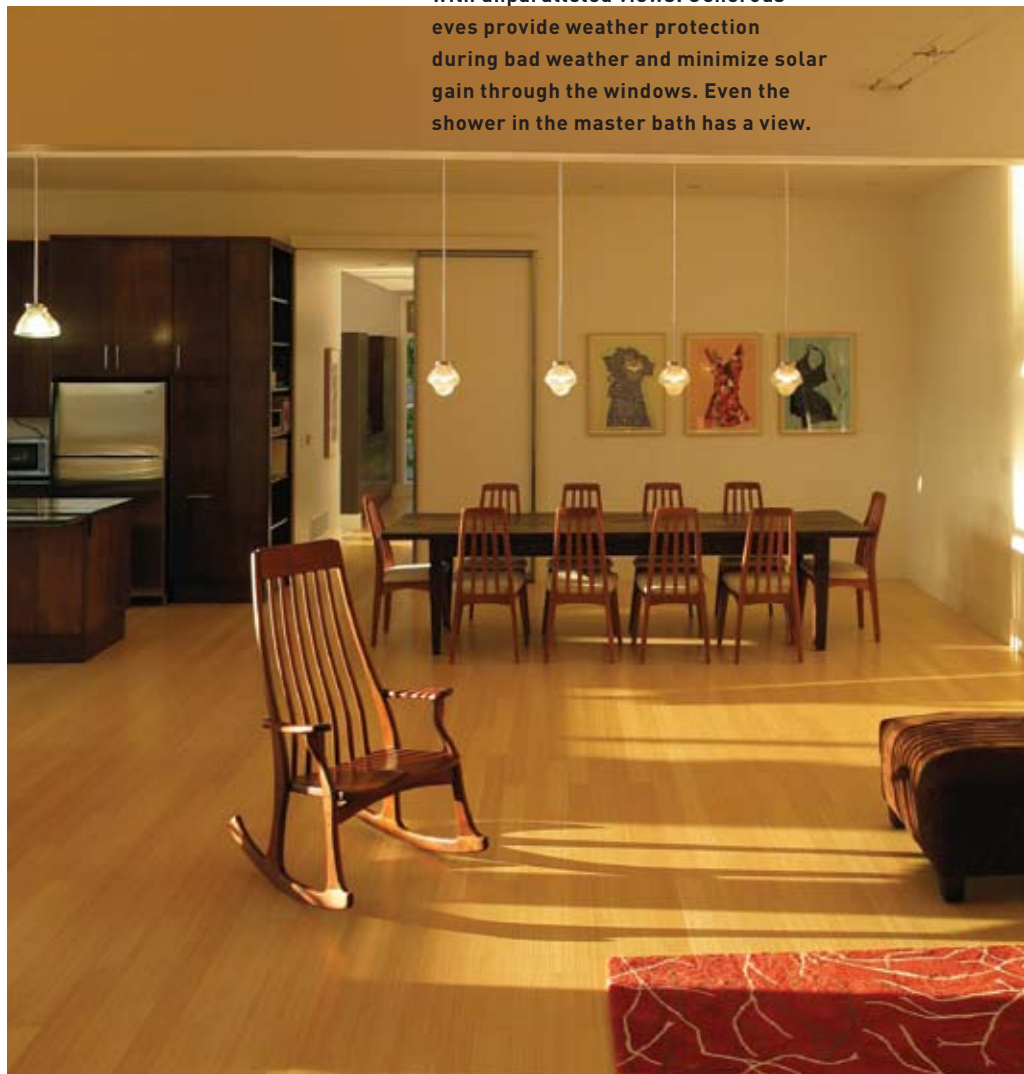
The approximately 2,500-square-foot home has a contemporary “hub” design. Each of the three bedroom suites connects up to a great room with 14-foot ceilings, allowing family members to spend time together and also to retreat into private quarters. “We wanted a big central gathering space because we entertain a fair amount,” says Dana, “but my mom also spends a lot of time there on her own, so we created living spaces that feel spacious but not vast.”

The home’s relatively small footprint is one of many green elements. Inside, earth-friendly materials include sustainable bamboo flooring, high-efficiency windows and low-emission paint. Outside, unfinished cedar rain-screen siding is an ultra-durable exterior that requires little maintenance. A solar-energy system on the roof allows the Betingers to sell power back to Puget Sound Energy. “The goal was to build a home that uses zero energy,” says Whitney—a goal that is usually achieved, depending on the time of year and how often the house is used. “I find that as I get older, being environmentally responsible becomes increasingly important to me,” says Dana.

Building a new-construction home allowed the family to customize it to their needs and tastes. “We designed the house to be all on one story, so it can accommodate people at various stages of life and mobility,” says Dana. Some of the larger walls have plywood under the sheet rock, so the family can hang their art collection without having to search for studs.

“We’re delighted with the end result,” says Dana. Adds Whitney, “It’s a place where they can relax and reflect on life.” +

**Clockwise from below: The spacious great room is the centerpiece of the home’s “hub” design. Solar panels on the roof feed power into the grid during times of surplus production. Ample decks of Bankirai wood come with unparalleled views. Generous eaves provide weather protection during bad weather and minimize solar gain through the windows. Even the shower in the master bath has a view.**



**TEAM:**

■ ARCHITECT: PAUL WHITNEY, WHITNEY ARCHITECTURE, 1537 NW BALLARD WAY, SEATTLE; 206.789.3934; WHITNEYARCHITECTURE.COM

■ CONTRACTOR: REN CHANDLER, DYNA CONTRACTING, 1537 NW BALLARD WAY, SEATTLE; 206.297.6369; DYNAContracting.COM

■ COMPLETION DATE: OCTOBER 2006

■ SIZE: APPROXIMATELY 2,500 SQUARE FEET

■ COST: NOT AVAILABLE

■ WHITNEY’S ADVICE ABOUT BUILDING A VACATION HOME: “BUILD A HOUSE THAT IS SIMPLE AND FUNCTIONAL. THEN IT TRULY BECOMES A VACATION HOME, BECAUSE YOU DON’T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.”

# H2

Home Sweet Second Home

