

America's
Favorite Home
Inside and Out

Cottage

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{ SARATOGA, WASHINGTON }



One Plus One Equals One

Neither retreat nor vacation home, this tiny cottage on the edge of Puget Sound is enjoyed as often as a busy work schedule allows. When the owner bought the property, she asked architect Ross Chapin to design a cottage for the site that would require removing as few trees as possible. Because a small building is easiest to fit between trees, Ross proposed that they construct two small cottages—an intimate main cottage and a 220-sq.-ft. guest cottage 20 ft. away. The two-story, one-bedroom, one-bath main cottage is smaller than most urban apartments, but the gorgeous setting and expansive views endow it with a generous and luxurious feel.

One-of-a-Kind Houses

One hallmark that sets cottages apart is that each is one of a kind, and cottage owners revel in this uniqueness. Designs for most cottages come from the owner's heart, not from thoughts about resale. The owner of this cottage wanted the first-floor living/dining alcove and kitchen to flow together. She requested one large second-floor bedroom where she could enjoy whale watching and eagle watching from the

Chosen with care to capture the view and to adhere to Washington State's well thought out energy code, the boldly banded windows give the cottage a wide-eyed, cheerful demeanor.

Overnight guests enjoy the intimate scale and privacy of the adjacent studio/guest cottage. Wide window trim, corner boards, fascia, frieze, and belly-band, all painted white, give the small structure the appearance of a dollhouse.



comfort of an easy chair. Storage was a high priority, too; the combination of a second-floor dressing room and first-floor storage room provides more stowing space than the owner ever imagined possible in such a small cottage.

Rather than devoting square footage to a second bedroom that would be used only occasionally, Ross made the second-floor hallway just a little wider than the standard dimension. The well-lit "hallroom," as the owner calls it, accommodates bookshelves and a work and hobby desk. In a nook at the head of the open staircase are built-in drawers with a daybed on top that doubles as an overnight spot for close friends or family.

The See-Through House

Windows are an important feature in cottage design. Ross employs three different window styles here: tall two-over-two corner windows; narrower and shorter windows in the

Highly varnished knotty pine enfolds the dining alcove. The deep banquette is multipurpose: The benches are built-in storage units with wide backs that work as shelves, and the sills are wide enough to hold coffee cups.





NEW NOOK OF THE NORTH

Nooks & Crannies Sometimes the best design decisions are right in front of your eyes. By making a corridor 2 ft. wider and colonizing the headroom space above the stair, Ross Chapin has created a study and office area complete with daybed. Everything has been thought out so well that each element does double duty. The daybed serves as couch by day and visitor's bed by night, while providing storage around the clock. The corridor double-dips as work area and circulation space to bed and bath.



△ The tiled-topped backsplash provides extra counter space and hides cooking operations from the entry and the living room. The tiny 9-ft. by 9-ft. kitchen and dining nook is the activity hub of this intimately scaled cottage.

In some cultures, red signifies happiness and prosperity. The red gate and door are cheery guides, leading visitors like gay beacons to the gray cottages that huddle in the shadows of surrounding trees.



Pairing two windows at the corners presents a panoramic view of the landscape from the living room and kitchen. Slender white mullions set into the tall rectangular windows dissolve into the glass.



same two-over-two pattern in the hallway, dining nook, and kitchen; and square portholes that frame small vignette views of the sky and treetops. The simple formula creates harmonious variety. As the glazing is reduced in scale, the exterior trim and millwork proportionately expand for a hefty look that contrasts nicely with the light effect of the corner windows.

Stacked over each other in the living room and bedroom, the double corner windows afford wide-angle views out to the surrounding landscape. And from the exterior, the windows make the cottage corners visually dissolve, allowing you to see all the way through the cottage to the trees and water beyond.

Opposites Attract

Applying basic color theory can literally add dimension to a cottage. While the white exterior trim of the windows, corner boards, water table, fascia, and rafters gives the cottage an airy look, the cranberry red doors add weight and depth. That's because red is the opposite of green on the color wheel, so that when the two colors are in close proximity,

Eyes upon the World

{Inside&Out} Windows are like a building's eyes upon the world. What better way to get a feel for a cottage's personality than to look into its windows?

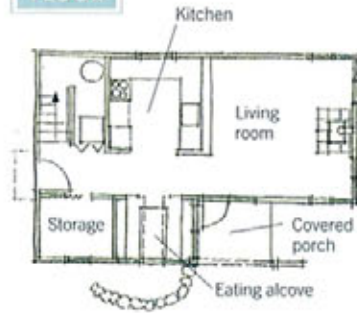
Inside the cottage, window placement must complement interior function, take advantage of views, respond to solar orientation, and provide necessary ventilation. Placement in the exterior wall raises the level of complexity because windows in different rooms with different needs and functions must come together in a composition that works visually.

If windows are the eyes of a cottage, the elevation is its face. Cottage elevations are about many design elements—windows, proportion, color, texture, function, and shape—all working together to make a pleasing mix. From the exterior the windows of this cottage are unified by the consistent trim and the masterful, often symmetrical window placement. Whether small vignettes or extra-large casements masquerading as double-hungs, the windows look toward the great view. All these different windows are brought together by their uniform molding size to make a comfortable elevation and a cozy design.

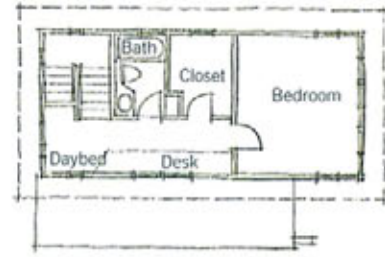


◀ Varying the scale of materials gives clues to the hierarchy of spaces and their functions. Heavy brackets trumpet this entrance, and wide clapboard siding distinguishes the main cottage from the storage lean-to, with its narrower shiplap siding.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



The standing-seam metal roof extends over the porch like a warmhearted handshake, welcoming friends even before they enter the cottage. Generous windows and French doors offer glimpses of the bright and casual interior.





△ The shiny finish of the knotty pine walls and ceiling in the woody guest cottage projects a clean, crisp, rustic look that matches the character and tone of the dining nook in the main cottage.



△ Silky-smooth blond floorboards, honey-pine door molding, dark-stained porch decking, and white-painted wood trellis highlight the delightfully diverse possibilities for wood finishes. Fittingly, the shaggy fir tree trunk looks just like a porch column.

the eye perceives red as advancing and green as receding. The result is an illusion of added depth. As a subliminal bonus, a red door looks weightier and more secure than a white door.

Both the interior and exterior rely on a color palette drawn from the cottage's natural surroundings. The green siding blends in with the evergreen boughs that shelter the cottage. The white trim, gray metal roof, and red door reflect cool colors found in the landscape. On the interior, the warm pine walls, ceiling decking, window and door trim, and the oak floors are naturally finished to highlight the variation in color and texture of the fir, pine, and hemlock woods. With the exception of the terra-cotta walls of the snug dining nook, all the painted walls are the same soft fawn color. The use of one dominant color with one or two accent colors ties the rooms together visually, something important to remember when your cottage is just a little more than 1,000 sq. ft.

