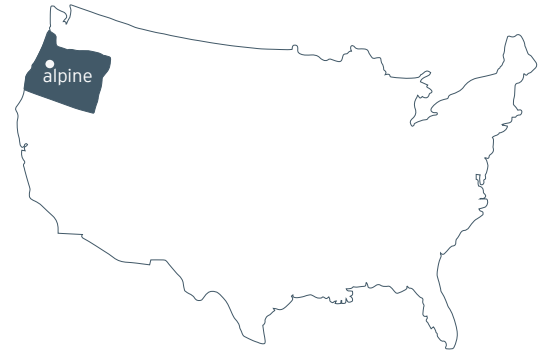


ALPINE RESIDENCE



Architect: Richard Shugar AIA, LEED AP
General Contractor: Seamus Walsh

Completed 2005
Alpine, Oregon
1900 sf residential addition and remodel



The Site and Structure

When the owners first purchased the property, the house was a dilapidated, three-room structure. They referred to it as a “hippie tower”, but it met many of the family’s needs.

It came with five acres, was located halfway between Corvallis and Eugene, was a stick-built home and, most importantly, it was within their price range. “I wanted to find a house that was different,” Walsh said, something other than a ranch-style or more traditional home. A three-story tower fit the bill.

A woodworker and contractor by trade, the owner knew he wanted to do the work himself, and the young expectant couple spent a winter doing just that; cooking meals at an outdoor kitchen and completing the bulk of the work a month before their child’s birth in June.



Concept Design

The owners wanted to maximize daylight, given that the surrounding area is thickly forested. A 2-story addition with a largely glass face was a response to their request. By angling the windows away from the nearby road, privacy is maintained and daylight is gained.

Using the connective space between the structures as a circulation core bridged the new construction to the existing building.





Interior Details

Openings in the living room wall behind the wood stove and stairwell allow heat to move vertically throughout the home. A new stairway provides a link between the home's original footprint and the addition. The stair is focused on a fir tree to the east so one feels as if they are climbing the tree.

Even during the gray, wet winters of Oregon, the expansive windows and open volumes eliminate most of the need for electric lighting during the daytime. Further large windows, along with the home's orientation on the site, allow the building to capture enough solar energy to heat the house during the day.

The natural warmth of the cedar siding is enhanced by the light that pours in through the wall of windows that soars to heights of 20 feet in the living room and loft.

Natural materials including the slate and cork flooring, and maple panels were used throughout the home. The exquisite craftsmanship by the owner, a trained boat builder, was essential to the beauty and quality of the finished space.





Publications

"Bright at Home"
*Eugene Register-Guard***Home and Garden**
Summer 2004

"Towering Tree House"
*Democrat - Herald***Places**
July 2008





121 Lawrence Street
Eugene, OR 97401
541.342.5777

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