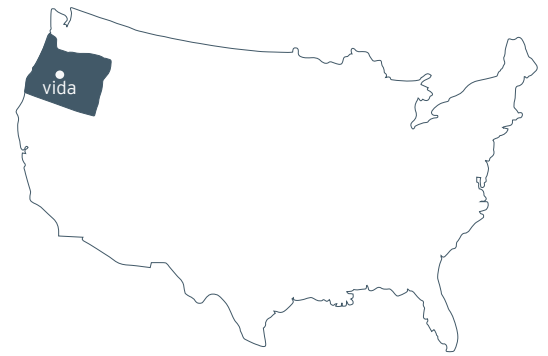




EAGLE ROCK RETREAT

Architect: Richard Shugar AIA, LEED AP
Project Manager: Jenna Fribley AIA, LEED AP
General Contractor: Dennis Coduti Construction

Completed 2010
Vida, Oregon
2700 sf new construction



Site on the River

The property is located along the north bank of the McKenzie River and features old-growth trees and a breathtaking view of Eagle Rock, a basalt column rock formation at the river's edge.

Located in a Douglas Fir forest, the building site was carefully chosen to minimize the number of existing trees that needed to be removed.

The old house on the property was in poor condition and needed to be removed prior to construction. We were able to re-use the roof beams from that structure in the new home.





Fine-tuning the bedroom pods

Making the bedroom pods as flexible as possible offered many opportunities for design. A covered entry to each pod provides protection from rainy weather. The sleeping pods have two bedrooms with sliding doors between them, so they can be configured into two bedrooms or a sitting room and a bedroom.

The shared bathroom in the sleeping pods is finished off with concrete vanities and his-and-her sinks. The floor is a continuous-poured concrete slab that steps down to create an integral soaking tub and shower. A yellow glaze over the concrete brick that is also used on the home's facade creates a 'tile' appearance. A transparent resin panel protects the countertop from water.



Concept Modeling



Details of the Concept

The final design features three “pods.” The individual living spaces were oriented toward the south in order to capture the view of the river and Eagle Rock and to maximize daylight exposure on the heavily-wooded site. With a ceiling height that exceeds 21 feet, the middle pod offers a great view of Eagle Rock from either floor. “The height of the room makes it possible to experience Eagle Rock from its peak down to the river”, says lead architect, Richard Shugar. From the loft space, a bridge crosses above the dining room and living room area to an upper-level outdoor porch where you can actually see fish swimming in the water.

The other pods provide more secluded spaces, with each structure containing two side-by-side bedrooms and a full bath. Shugar divided each pod into “dry” and “wet” zones.



Clad in wood panel and batten siding, the dry zones include the living room, dining room and bedrooms. Resting on steel-reinforced concrete piers, these spaces appear to float above the ground, creating a sense of lightness as the landscape flows beneath. Unlike conventional foundations, these concrete piers pose no harm to the roots of the surrounding Douglas fir trees.

The “wet” spaces within each pod contain the kitchen and bathrooms and are constructed of ground-face concrete block that penetrates into the ground, alluding to the weathered rock formation across the river. Tub-showers within each pod are formed in the concrete with walls made from a shower-suitable version of the concrete block that appears on the home’s exterior.



Focus on Sustainability

Two cisterns harvest rainwater that is used for toilet flushing. The buildings face south to maximize daylighting and passive heating in the winter. All the spaces have radiant floor heat, and there is no HVAC cooling system. Instead, the spaces rely on a series of windows which, when opened, cool the spaces in summer by venting hot air out of the building. A large ceiling fan circulates the air in the main living pod.

"Now there are three attractions vying for attention...the river, the rock and the house. As you approach down the driveway the rock is visible between the pods. The pods became the solution for privacy even though there were a few skeptics in the early stages who thought it would be a bit weird going outside to get from sleeping to living quarters."

"The great room is magnificent and has become exactly the gathering place we had hoped it would be. There is even room for most of us in the kitchen simultaneously. Prepping and cooking as well as eating have become family affairs."
Marilyn Cross, Owner

Designing for Family

Window seats overlooking the river, furniture grouped in front of the fireplace, an oversized table to gather around, a bar counter to lean against and visit with the cook; these spaces are made for the family to be together. The center pod contains all the cooking, full bath, and an upstairs sleeping loft for the grandchildren to crash.

“When family members get together on a retreat, they’re retreating from their daily lives, of course. But even when they’re together,

there’s a point where they need to have their own retreat, their own individual place. We felt that this was an opportunity to build smaller, more discrete elements that feel cabin-like rather than end up with a large building in the landscape, which could not have happened if we’d lumped all the square footage together.”





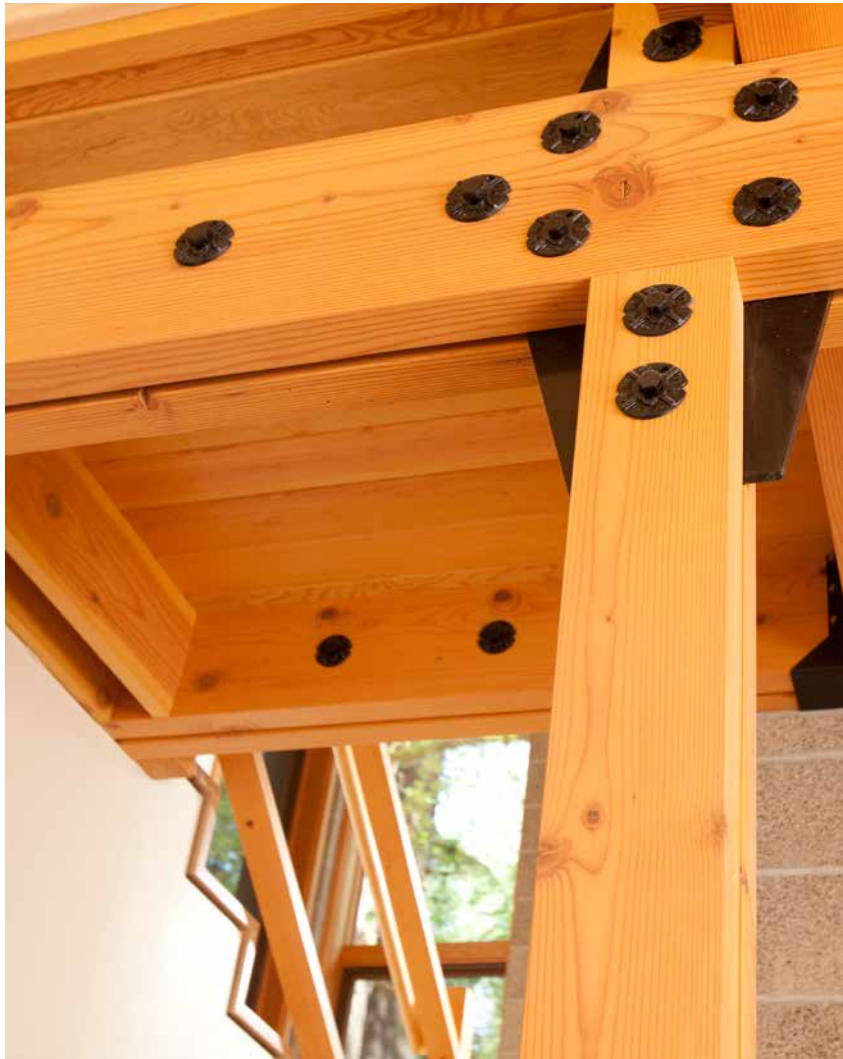
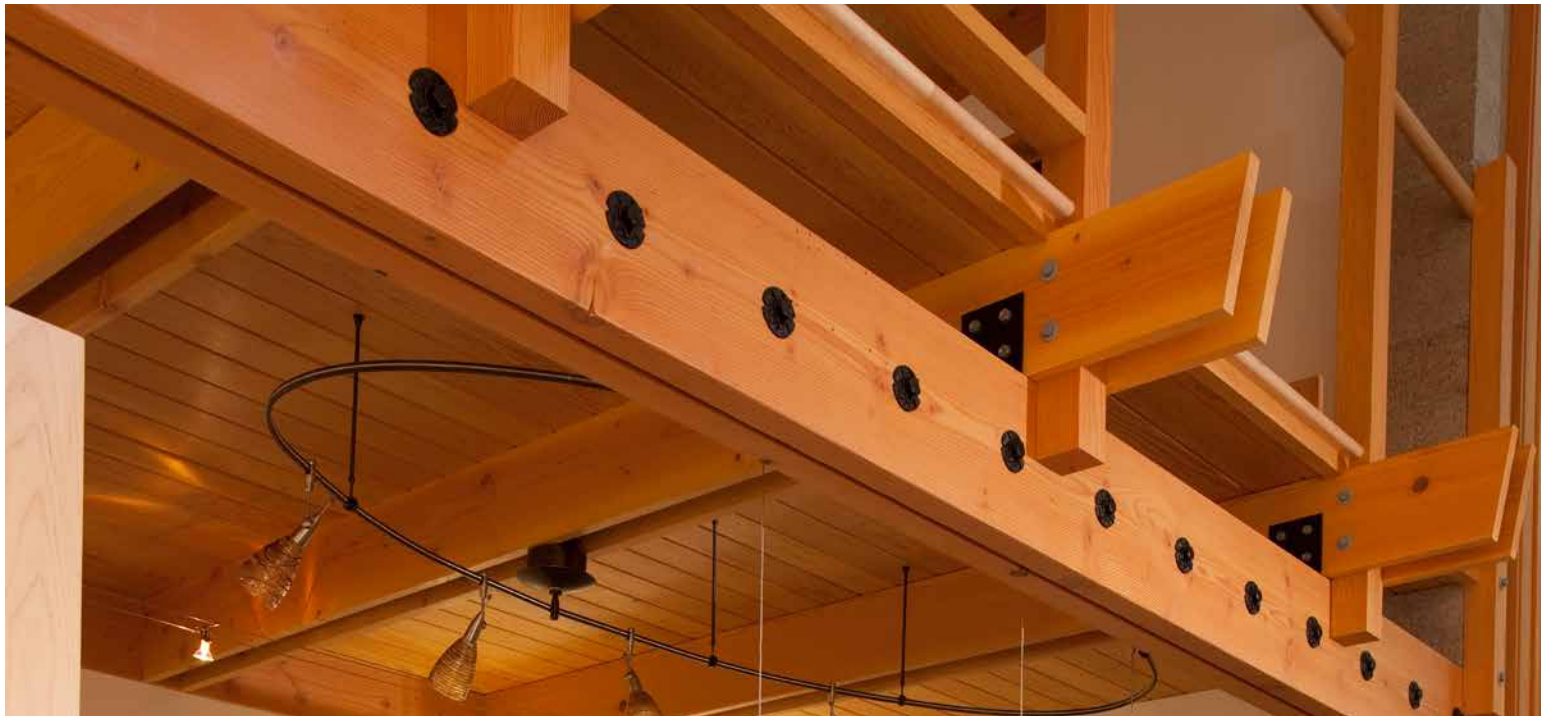
Dry Zone Design

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Wet Zone Design

Facing away from the river, the wet zones (which include the kitchen and bathrooms) are built of ground face concrete block that echoes the solidity and permanence of Eagle Rock's weathered surface. In contrast with the maple flooring elsewhere in the house, the wet zone floors are poured concrete. We used concrete block because the size and scale of a concrete wall is broken into down into smaller components.



Contractor as Craftsman

Dennis Coduti, owner of Dennis Coduti General Contractor, was chosen for this project because of his exceptional abilities.

Assembling the pods required extreme precision, because the dry and wet zones had to fit together precisely, much like puzzle pieces. "On each pod, there are two individual structures - one supported by the concrete piers, and the other on a solid foundation with concrete block all the way up" says Coduti. "We married the two together with window units that fit in between them."

The owner marveled at Coduti and his crew's attention to detail. "They did a stellar job" she says. "The craftsmanship was amazing! It came together beautifully, and it's the most solid house."



Custom Art Glass

The bar countertop is a custom made piece of cast glass that was made in Eugene by local artist, Annah James of Annah James Studios LLC.

At a work party that included the family members, the architectural design team and the artist assembled the colored glass squares in the mold prior to firing.

The bar is set into a notch under the Paperstone countertop, and edge-lit along the back. The LED lighting highlights the bubbles entrapped in the glass, and mimic the movement of the river outside.





Publications

"Crazy as Peas in Pods" Home & Garden Section of *The Register Guard*
August 2010

Feature Article in *Oregon Home Magazine*
August 2010

AIA Design Awards

First Place
**People's Choice Award for Residential Architecture &
Colleague's Choice Award for Residential Architecture**





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