

Landscape Architecture, Nov/Dec 2008

Residence; San Juan Islands, Washington



Residential Design, Honor Award

San Juan Island Residence

San Juan Islands, Washington

Paul R Broadhurst & Associates, Seattle

The landscape architect carefully weighed the geological botanical, historical, and even auditory context of this mid-sized San Juan Island residence with nearby views of a small horseshoe-shaped bay and distant mountains. The resulting design celebrates the strong views from the site while paying equal attentions to the intimacy of the woods.

As the view remains blocked by the dense forest, a visitor must descend through the forest to the house. The walk offers a meandering engagement in all things minute and intimate. A pathway of local “alger green” rock marks the way. With the exception of two enclosed gardens, local and West Coast native plantings were favored.

A “light tower” was a collaborative design element, acting as a beacon at night on the path through the trees to the front door. Ascending the tower takes one above the “forest canopy” and provides a view of the bay. “The landscape architect has created a romantic space with color,” jurors said. “The design is not obvious, which is very difficult to achieve.”