

TREND WATCH: THE SEASON'S "IT" COLORS & THE CONDO CRAZE

SEATTLE HOMES & LIFE

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*Find out Who and What
defines local design*

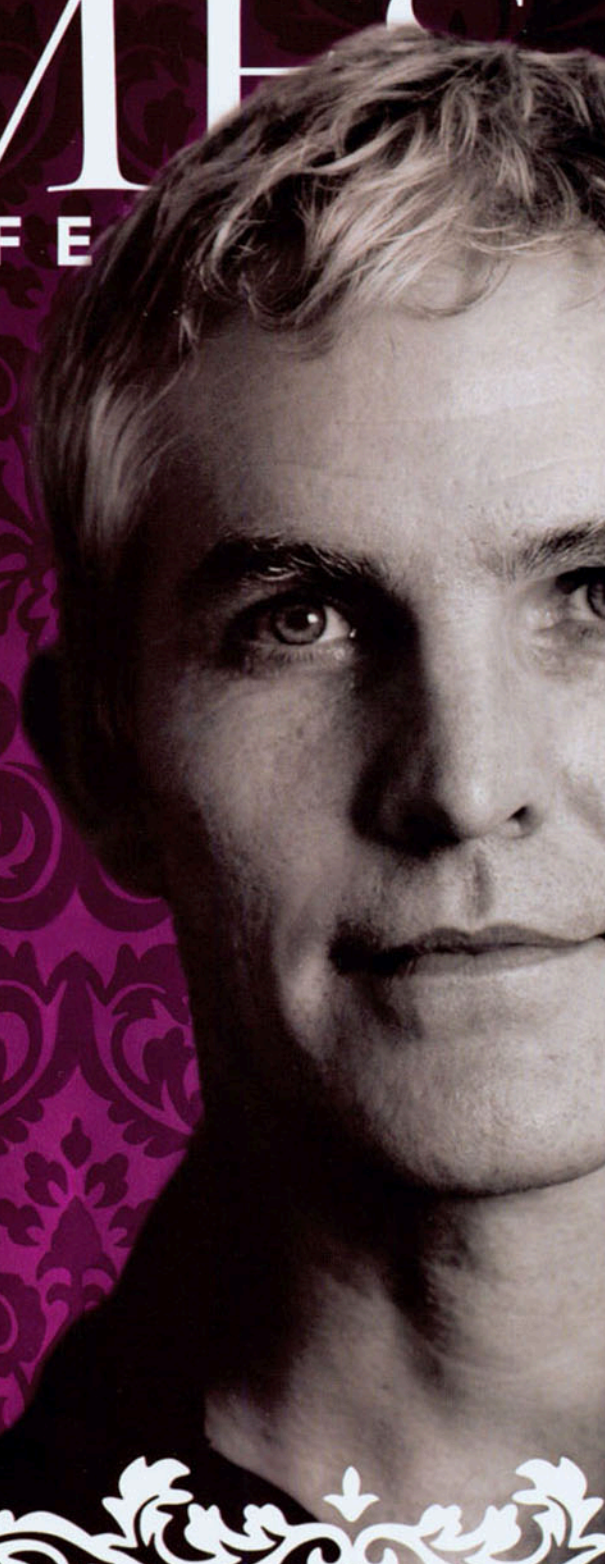
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JONATHAN JUNKER SKETCHED THIS RENDERING OF A LAKE-FRONT RESIDENCE THAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DESIGNED BY SULLIVAN CONARD ARCHITECTS. THE HOME'S STRUCTURE MAXIMIZES LIGHT, ENCOURAGES NATURAL VENTILATION AND ENGAGES JAPANESE DESIGN AESTHETICS.

COURTESY SULLIVAN CONARD ARCHITECTS

SULLIVAN CONARD ARCHITECTS

Neither Stephen Sullivan nor Peter Conard took the conventional route on the way to becoming an architect. As early as age 10, Sullivan would sit down and draw plans and elevations, but he eventually decided to study studio art in order to become a potter. When he had a family to raise, however, he opted to return to his early passion for architecture. Conard, on the other hand, worked as a carpenter after college graduation, but knew—from the first moment he stepped into an architect's office—that that was his career goal. Sullivan and Conard now have Masters of Architecture from Harvard and the University of Oregon, respectively.

Those circuitous routes haven't stopped them from making their mark in the Seattle area. Founded in 1986 as Stephen Sullivan Architects, the firm does 80 percent of its work in the Puget Sound area, with work appearing in regional and national publications and winning distinguished awards. The two principals strive to position their projects to enhance the natural qualities of the environment, taking into consideration each site's history, neighborhood, views, topography and the Northwest palette.

"It's not as much about authorship as it is creating the best thing we can together," Conard says. "That's one of the hallmarks of how we work. It's not about who's doing it; it's the opportunity to lose yourself in the design."

What projects enthuse them most? "I'm always most excited about what I'm doing now," Sullivan says. "I love the creative process, especially when there's extraordinary collaboration. An intuitive approach always leads to creative cuisine at the architectural drafting board." ■

—HEATHER J. PAPER

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