

H O M E

|||||| REAL ESTATE | INTERIOR DESIGN | LUXURY | PETS |||||

This eco-friendly house in Edgewater, Maryland, offers sweeping water views.



STUNNING SPACES

The winners of this year's Washingtonian Residential Design Awards include secluded waterfront retreats, light-filled renovations, and a meticulous restoration **BY MARY CLARE GLOVER**

A common theme stands out among the winners of this year's Washingtonian Residential Design Awards: All of the projects—whether in the city, the suburbs, or the country—are sensitive to and complement their surroundings. The scale feels right. They sit quietly in the landscape, making the most of their light, lot, and view. They look like good neighbors.

Every spring, a jury of architects comes to town to look at new homes and renovations and to select winners of the annual competition. Open to registered architects of local houses and second homes owned by Washingtonians, this year's contest drew 92 entries.

The jury—Sanford Steinberg of Houston-based Steinberg Design Collaborative; Kenneth Hobgood, owner of his own firm in Raleigh; and Nancy Rogo Trainer of Philadelphia's Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates—spent hours poring over photographs and blueprints. The submissions included traditional and contemporary designs, renovations and new construction, single-family homes and apartments. The award winners were marked by their attention to detail, sustainable techniques, creativity, and careful execution.



PHOTOGRAPH © BY MAXWELL MACKENZIE

Water, Water Everywhere

 DALE OVERMYER

ON THE SITE OF AN ABANDONED OYSTER-PROCESSING PLANT, THIS NEW HOUSE IS ON HONEST Point Peninsula, where the Potomac River meets the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia's Northern Neck. The owner hired architect Dale Overmyer to create a weekend retreat that took advantage of the most dramatic part of the home's stunning waterfront perch.

"Sometimes you see something and it just looks like it belongs there," observed one of the judges. Said another: "We all loved this house."

The house is divided into two structures—one for public spaces, one for private—connected by a glass bridge. To get to either, you have to walk along a pier that crosses over shallow water and onto a small piece of land. Built atop pilings, the structures take inspiration from nearby boat docks and crab and oyster plants. The interiors are contemporary and minimalist, and the public spaces are surrounded by floor-to-ceiling glass that bathes the house in light and brings in the sensational view.

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Updating History

 **ROBERT M. GURNEY**

THE BEACH TOWN OF LEWES, DELAWARE, is lined with charming, historic homes. Although this two-story, shingle-style house, built in the early 1800s, was rundown and in need of a renovation, it would have been a shame to tear it down.

Architect Robert Gurney's solution was to restore the exterior, modernize the interior, and add more square-footage with a series of one-story pavilions around a pool in back. The main house now has white ash flooring, white walls, and an open, floating staircase. The exterior of the new pavilions echo the original home with shingle walls and roofs but are also more modern, punctuated by large expanses of glass set in black steel frames. They house the kitchen and living area, a bathroom, an exercise room, and a screened porch with a fireplace.

The jury was particularly taken with the outdoor space that the new buildings created around the pool, calling the simple, elegant landscaping "unexpectedly beautiful."



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Bayside Beauty

 **GARDNER MOHR ARCHITECTS**

WHEN A DC COUPLE BOUGHT A DRAB 1980S tract house where the South River meets the Chesapeake Bay in Edgewater, Maryland, they envisioned a new home with two key ingredients: water views from as many rooms as possible and "green," sustainable design. Because of strict building restrictions near the water, Gardner Mohr Architects had to create this stunning glass-filled contemporary atop the old home's foundation.

The judges praised the natural palette of materials, such as regionally grown cypress siding, oak floors, and pine decking. The house collects and reuses rainwater and is heated and cooled using geothermal energy. "I like the fact that it's sustainable, but the sustainability didn't take over the design of the house," said one judge.

The jury also loved the way the home opens to the water—there are dramatic views from virtually every room including a two-story living room wrapped in floor-to-ceiling windows. "At least a couple of us want to move right in," said a judge.

A House Reborn

DAVID JONES ARCHITECTS

THIS QUEEN ANNE-STYLE HOUSE IN HISTORIC Chevy Chase Village was built in 1907 and had been haphazardly renovated over the past 100 years. The owners enlisted David Jones Architects to restore it to its original beauty while expanding and updating it for modern living.

Taking inspiration from an early photograph of the house, Jones installed a red slate roof and an inviting wraparound porch. In the back, he added a two-story wing with a family room and bedroom above. The driveway was moved to the side of the house, leading to a new side entrance and detached garage.

"It's quietly beautiful," said one judge. "I got the impression that this architect really liked and cared about this house, and so respected its existing qualities and nature."



PHOTOGRAPH © BY ANICE HOACHLANDER



PHOTOGRAPH © BY HOACHLANDER DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Light and Lively

STUDIO TWENTY SEVEN ARCHITECTURE

IN A SMALL ROWHOUSE, EVERY SQUARE foot of space is precious. Built in 1906, this end-unit house on Capitol Hill had a layout that was outdated, cramped, and compartmentalized. The owners turned to Studio Twenty Seven Architecture to open up the space. One of the first steps was to tear down the wall separating the kitchen from the dining room and to replace the brick wall along the back of the house with floor-to-ceiling windows. The first story now has no interior walls—sunlight pours in from the backyard and a skylight above the open stairway.

The centerpiece of the kitchen is a concrete island that doubles as a dining table and food-prep area. A vibrant orange-yellow wall provides a contrast with the kitchen's palette of natural bamboo. The jury praised the design as "light," "bright," and "cheerful."



Old and New

 **DAVID JAMESON**

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT YOU see an addition like the one on this house in DC's Dupont Circle neighborhood—a glass-enclosed addition affixed to the back of a classic rowhouse. The project, called Barcode and designed by David Jameson, is marked by a random pattern of black steel rods that run along both sides of the addition. A white stucco tower, which holds a set of stairs, anchors the addition to the existing house. Jameson described the project as a juxtaposition between “the heavy and the light and the old and the new.”

The jury praised the project as idea-driven and spatially complex. “It’s beautifully proportioned, carefully detailed, and it has an excellent level of craftsmanship,” said one judge.

Outdoors In

 ROBERT M. GURNEY

PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN GLEN Echo like to see their woods. On a sloping, tree-filled lot with views of the Potomac River in the distance, this modern house designed by Robert Gurney extends dramatically into the landscape.

The jury praised the transparency of the house—glass walls in many of the living spaces enable you to see right through to the other side. The first story opens onto a terrace and an infinity pool, which reinforces the idea of disappearing into the surrounding woods.

The judges also swooned over Gurney's mixture of materials: translucent glass panels, white oak millwork, white terrazzo floors, and Pompeii Scarpaletto stone. "You really appreciate the attention to every little detail," said a judge. "It's so carefully composed."





Heart of the Home

🏠 DYNERMAN ARCHITECTS

ALTHOUGH THE FRONT FACADE OF THIS rowhouse in DC's Kalorama may look the same as it did when it was built in 1904, the inside has been transformed. Architect Alan Dynerman tore down several walls on the main floor, turning it into a flowing space where the owners could entertain more frequently.

The kitchen, formerly a small, dark room in back, was moved to a more central location along the side of the house—freeing up the rear wall of the house so it could be replaced by glass. Natural light now pours in from the back. What used to be dead space taken up by the entry hall and stairway has become a dining area with an eye-catching open staircase against an exposed-brick wall.

“This now feels like the nucleus of the family where they all live and work and eat and congregate,” said a judge.

PHOTOGRAPH © BY PAUL BURK

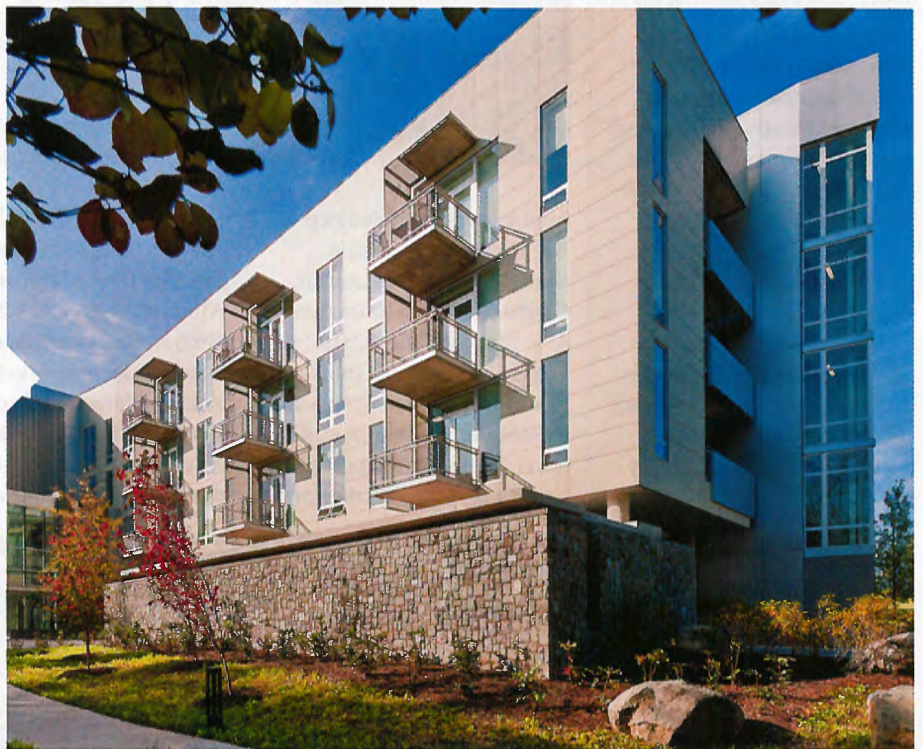
Not a Typical Dorm

🏠 WDG ARCHITECTURE

IN ASHBURN, THE HOWARD HUGHES Medical Institute's Janelia Farm Research Campus brings together scientists from around the world to conduct biomedical research. This apartment building, designed by WDG Architecture, was constructed to house visiting fellows and their families.

The four-story building, which contains 60 one- and two-bedroom apartments, has a continuous, slightly curving spine that gives it visual interest and creates short hallways and private views. Tall, narrow windows in a grid pattern are reminiscent of a gene-sequencing strip. Inside, each unit is minimalist and loft-like, with ten-foot ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows.

The jury, impressed by how the large, modern apartment building fit so well into its rural surroundings, described the units as “clean and livable.” Thanks to innovative materials and techniques, the building earned a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. **W**



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The Washingtonian Residential Design Awards are sponsored by the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects and The Washingtonian. Mary Clare Glover (mglover@washingtonian.com) is a features editor.