

What's Hot in the Pacific Northwest

IN A PLACE WHERE SUNSHINE COMES AT A PREMIUM, BIG WALLS OF WINDOWS ARE POPULAR. SO IS SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE, PRACTICAL SURFACES, HOME OFFICES AND FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP.

In the Pacific Northwest there is a strong trend toward protecting our environment [and] “green” building. Clients almost always ask, “What are our options relative to sustainability?” One is recycled material. There are a lot of tired waterfront structures here made from big, old growth wood. There is a lot of interest in reusing these. We are also starting to see new types of wood being used. Central American ipe from the mahogany family is being used more, as is a wood called andiroba. Bamboo floors are popular too.

There are very strong regional considerations here. Rain is frequent, so we see large overhangs. Natural light is important, and you’ll see large windows up high in walls here. And there is a long tradition of boat building, so craftsmanship is very important.

People look at three things when they make a decision [about building a house]. What is the first-time installation cost? What is the maintenance, long and short term? And what is the appropriateness of the aesthetics? Some materials meet one criteria but fall short in others.

More people are remodeling

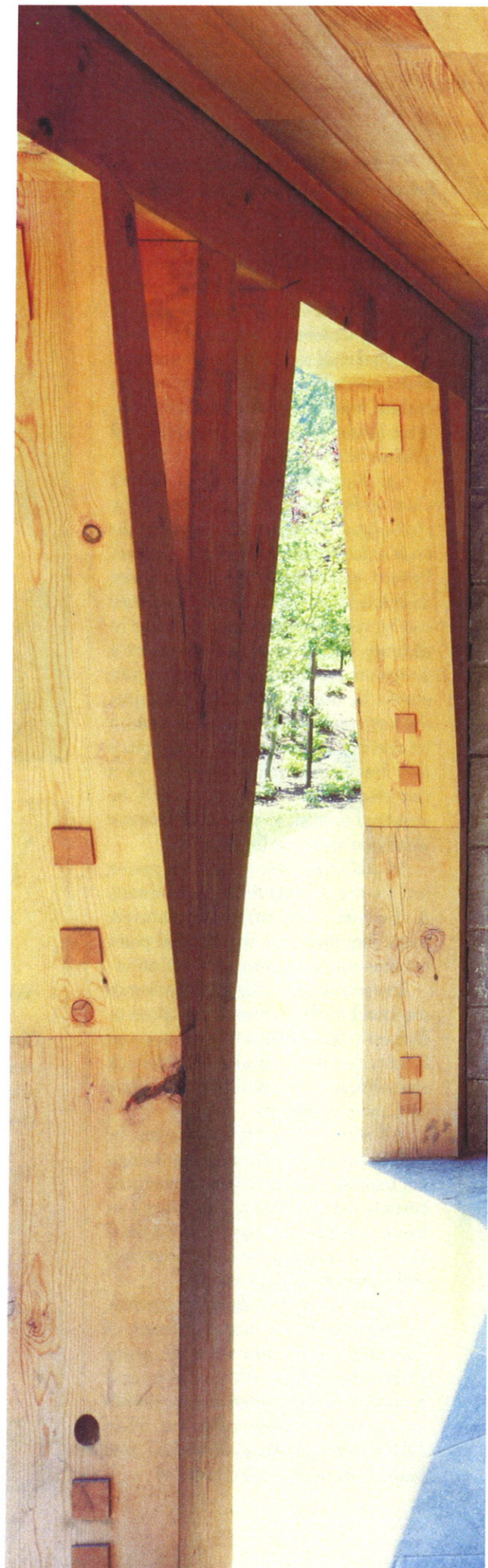
rather than scrapping the existing building and starting new.

We are building less square footage but with more attention to better windows and finishes.

Sometimes we don’t need to be trendy with design. We can go back and look at the classic things such as national park architecture.

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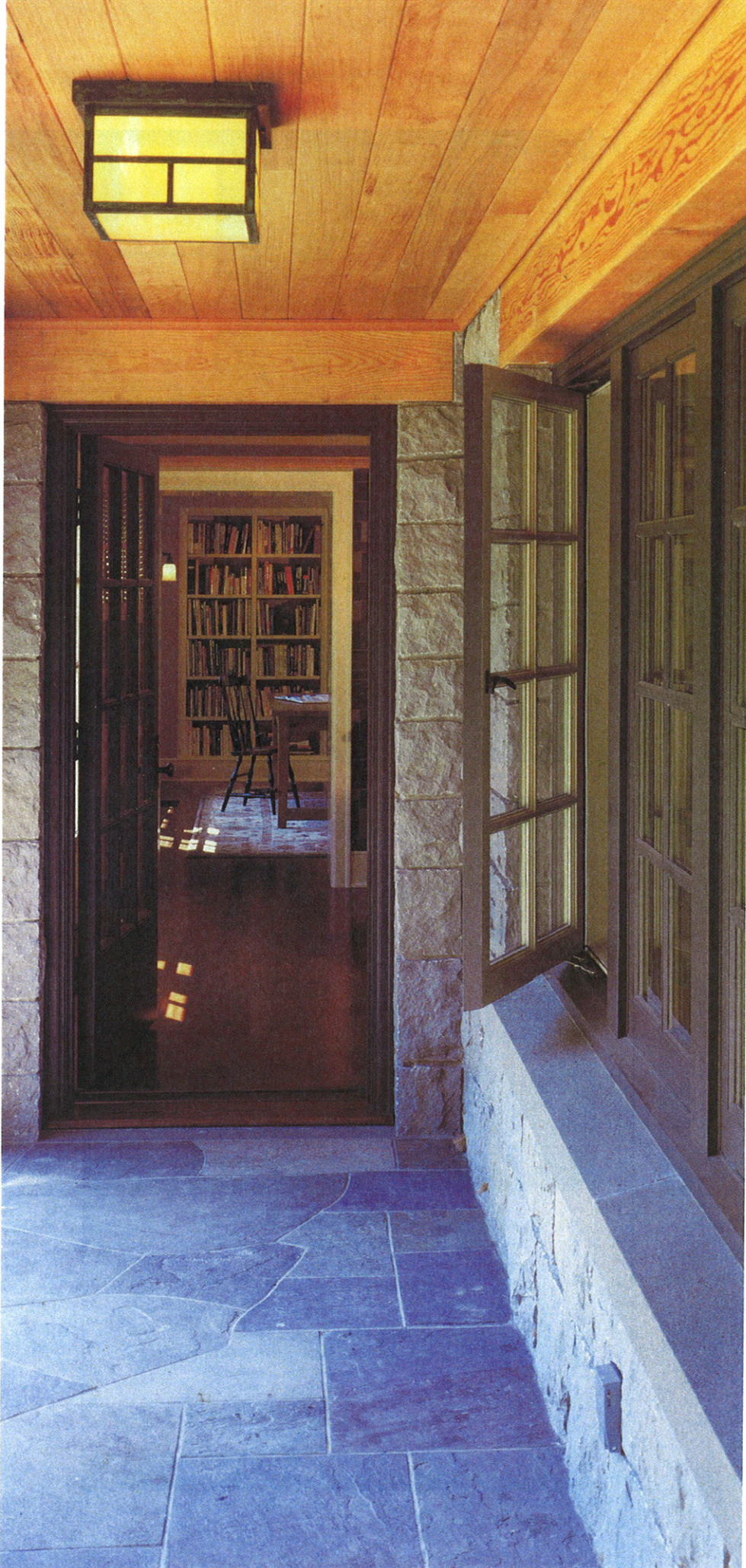


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