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# FEATURES



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## Perfect Fit

To create a Seattle abode, a residential designer looks to the East Coast—and closer to home—for inspiration.

Written by Mary Jo Bowling  
Photography by Aaron Leitz

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## Object Lesson

Nods to a family's Scottish heritage and exquisite craftsmanship define a Snohomish County house.

Written by Abigail Stone  
Photography by Miranda Estes



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## Unfurling Ideas

A move to Southern Oregon takes an expat artist's creative practice in a naturalistic new direction.

Written by Maile Pingel  
Photography by Betsy Tomasello

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## All the Right Moves

Paying homage to its storied predecessor, a stunning contemporary dwelling rises on a hillside Seattle lot.

Written by Christine DeOrio  
Photography by Andrew Giammarco

**ON THE COVER:** For this Washington Park home, residential designer Katie LeClercq selected a color palette inspired by nature, choosing Benjamin Moore's *Spring Has Sprung* for the built-in bookshelves. She arranged a Gretchen sofa and Georgia chair by Jayson Home and a vintage Eames chair around a checked Cisco Home ottoman. **Page 224**



# Unfurling Ideas

Woodland walks around Ashland, Oregon, prove fertile ground for a British expat artist.

WRITTEN BY MAILE PINGEL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BETSY TOMASELLO









I spent 18 years in London, and all of my work was based on dancers and music," recalls Ashland, Oregon-based artist Claire Burbridge. "When I moved here about a decade ago, I wanted to understand the environment, so, over the first year, I walked and collected and spent a lot of time looking at mushrooms, seeds and bark." As Burbridge returned to her creative practice, she realized that time spent outside had "recalibrated" her work. "There wasn't a figure in sight," she says.

Surrounded by art books, vintage dresses in her favorite palettes and objects brought home from walks (colorful lichens, sticks carved by beetles, a red-banded polypore found at Waldo Lake), Burbridge creates almost pointillistic explorations of her environment. "Nature adheres to a matrix, or spirals or circles, and I love being surrounded by things that reflect that," she explains. "I integrate those forms into my works, but it's not an illustration of them—that's not my métier." Her mixed-media pieces, some of which can be large scale, often require that she work on the floor, sitting at the center of the image in a series of changing postures. "I start with a graphite grid of interlocking circles or spiral formations, then I do an impressionistic pattern with watercolors, and then I go in with pen and pencils for detail," notes the graduate of Magdalen College Oxford, who got her masters in printmaking from what became the University of the Arts London. "But one's process is always changing."

In the spirit of change, Burbridge has used her background in printmaking to launch an initial collection of 10 wallpapers inspired by her fine art. (The latter is represented by Nancy Toomey Fine Art in San Francisco and will be exhibited at Ashland's Schneider Museum of Art this coming April.) "Repeat wallpaper was the natural way to achieve what I wanted," she says of her desire to create a more immersive experience. Plus, it's the chance for more people to have access to her work. Perhaps understandably, the eco-friendly papers, currently sold through her website, are finding particular favor with urban clients whose doors don't open to quite the same splendor as she has just outside hers. "They get me into a good place," Burbridge says of those auspicious morning walks, which she still tries to regularly take. "There's no point in just putting work out there that's not consciously done." ■





"I go into nature, absorb it and produce an artwork that is, hopefully, imbued with the essence of the experience I've had," says artist Claire Burbridge (left), whose home studio in Ashland, Oregon, offers easy access to trails that lead into the Siskiyou Mountains. Her impressionistic yet detailed pieces incorporate graphite, watercolor and pen (below and opposite).

