

# The Seattle Times

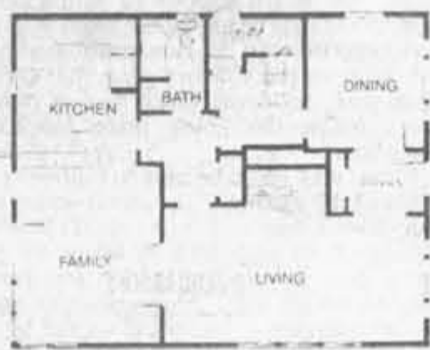
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## TIMES/AIA Home of the Month

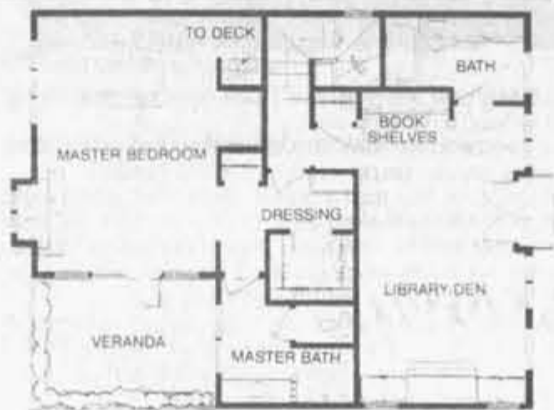
For information on the Times/AIA program, telephone the AIA, Seattle chapter, at 448-4938.



Richard A. Fisher  
AIA Architect



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

### GETTING THERE

■ From Seattle, take the West Seattle Freeway and follow the signs to Fauntleroy Way Southwest. Go south on Fauntleroy (toward the Vashon Ferry and Lincoln Park) to S.W. Othello St. (after the 7100 block of Fauntleroy.) Turn right onto S.W. Othello and go approx. two blocks (you'll cross 47th Ave. S.W.) to Wright Ave. S.W. or the next street, LeDroit Ct. S.W., and turn right again. LeDroit is a short U-shaped residential street. The Open House is in the yellow, two-story house at 4828, near where LeDroit Ct. turns into LeDroit Pl.

### DETAILS

- Address: 4828 S.W. LeDroit Pl. (in West Seattle).
- Project cost: \$105,000.
- Open house today: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Square feet: Approx. 2,200, plus basement.
- Architect: Richard A. Fisher AIA; Kerner Fisher Architects, Seattle.
- Contractor: R.W. Cook Associates, Seattle.

## Home stays in character

by Charles E. Brown  
Times business reporter

The 75-year-old, shingled West Seattle cottage with the white picket fence around the front was almost exactly what the recently transplanted Silicon Valley couple had in mind.

"It was a real cute house, plus the neighborhood was great. It's not on a busy street, and it had a view. So it fit all my criteria," said Erik Rodts, who, along with his wife, Deanna Daniels, had sold two homes in California to take new jobs in the Northwest.

Daniels, an engineer in her early 30s, found the cottage, at 4828 S.W. LeDroit Place, near West Seattle's Lowman Beach and Lincoln Park, during a solo house-hunting trip before the move. Her confidence that Rodts, an aerospace planner in his mid-30s, would share her enthusiasm about the house was right on target.

"We lucked out," Rodts said. "It had been on the market for a while, then it was off and back on again."

The next step after the purchase 15 months ago was to make some changes to add more living space and another bathroom, seek the best advantage of available views and, Rodts added, invest some of the equity from the California home sales.

With the help of Seattle archi-

tect Richard Fisher of Kerner Fisher Architects, the couple's cottage now has a new second-story addition devoted primarily to a master bedroom suite and library-den. The home also has an all-new kitchen, a roof deck, and more open space oriented toward the new deck and views.

The home is today's Times Open House, and it has been selected by members of the Home of the Month Committee of the Seattle chapter, American Institute of Architects, as the AIA Home of the Month. It will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today, but it is not for sale.

Rodts and Daniels profess to a love for older homes, "and West Seattle seems great for that, in addition to all the views the area has," he said.

Fisher, a 1980 University of Washington architectural graduate, said the remodeled home — a \$105,000 project — retains much of its original character, but the revamped floor plan gives it a contemporary feel.

The project's cost would have been significantly less had it not been for an existing weak foundation that had to be shored up, Fisher said. He said 26 steel pipe pilings were driven into the sloping hillside site to bolster the foundation.

"The house was shifting and starting to crack at its midpoint on both walls," he said. "This was

definitely a steep slope."

The owners found the home's original front door stored in the basement and decided it better suited the entry than a newer door installed by previous owners. The home now has a new concrete front porch with a wooden column on each side.

Inside, most of the home's original inlaid hardwood floors and many of the original windows on the main floor have been retained. But the owners have replaced sheetrock, and installed new wiring and a new gas furnace to replace the electric baseboard units installed by a previous owner.

The living room is at the front of the home to the left of the entry, and the dining room to the right. A masonry fireplace set into a cove in the living room has been given a tile facade and new wooden mantle. The windows face northwest toward the water.

What formerly was the den, adjoining the living room, is now the family room, which is separated from the living room by French doors and from the new kitchen by a marble-topped breakfast bar.

The owners selected traditional painted wood cabinets for the kitchen, and some cabinet doors have glass inserts. Marble back-splashes bordering the tile counters match the breakfast bar top.

An existing main-floor bathroom and the dining room have been given a makeover.

The second-floor addition takes advantage of enhanced views of Puget Sound and Bainbridge Island to the west.

The master bedroom suite includes an elevated fireplace with a marble base and a 3/4-bath area. A door from the bedroom leads to an outdoor veranda bordered by built-in planter boxes.

A private stairway from the bedroom leads to a small sun deck cut into the roofline.

The library/den also is upstairs and can double as a guest room. The room has its own bathroom,

and double doors that open to an outside balcony overlooking the front of the home. It has a cathedral ceiling and another fireplace, also elevated on a marble base, with a window seat on each side.

The owners selected yellow-based exterior and interior colors, subdued in most areas. But the dining room is an intense coral, and the upstairs library-den is a bright green. "They're expressing themselves in color schemes," Fisher said.

Stephen Bobbitt, AIA Home of the Month Committee chairman, gave the project high marks for exterior appearance, use of space,

floor plan, overall design and how the home fits into its environment.

"This project is a good example of how an architect can adapt an existing structure to contemporary space standards without disrupting the scale of an established neighborhood," Bobbitt said.

"Today's market rewards added space which maximizes amenities such as views and privacy screening," said committee member Marty Koenigs. "This remodel appeals to me because it fully responds to these value enhancements while maintaining a scale and appearance consistent with its neighbors."