



3 READERS' CHOICE THIRD PLACE The Lichtenstein Studio

This compact 560-sq.-ft. backyard cottage in Seattle was designed with flexibility in mind. The structure is presently used as an art studio and guest house, but it also could be a stand-alone rental. In keeping with the owners' deep commitment to building green, the house features extensive use of reclaimed, recycled, and sustainable building materials. The exterior, installed over a 2-in. layer of rigid-foam insulation, is clear-cedar siding with fiber-cement panels at the base. The wall cavities are filled with insulation made from recycled cotton blue jeans. The cottage is set on a concrete slab with radiant-floor heating and is topped with a Galvalume standing-seam metal roof.

Reclaimed 3-in.-thick tongue-and-groove cedar decking salvaged from a Seattle warehouse was used for the ceiling above the kitchen and dining area and for the second-level loft floor. The ceiling side was left unfinished in its naturally weathered state, while the loft floor was finished with Osmo's nontoxic wood wax. The custom-made kitchen cabinets and island countertop are reclaimed fir; the perimeter countertops are marble. The island is on casters to increase the flexibility of the kitchen space. Simpson 10-lite Shaker-style fir doors close off the kitchen and dining areas from the living room so that this room can be used as a second sleeping area.

Floor-to-ceiling walls of matte etched glass allow as much natural light as possible to come into the studio, but they also maintain privacy between the studio and the main house. Whether open or closed, the large Sierra Pacific aluminum-clad patio doors enhance the connection between the inside and outside of the studio. The white subway-tiled bathroom also features a wall of matte etched glass.

Architect Tim Hammer, CAST Architecture, Seattle, castarchitecture.com

Builder Kate Lichtenstein, Seattle

Custom cabinetry, island, and stairs Gabe Strand, Strand Woodworks, Seattle, strandwoodworks.com

Finish carpentry Patrick Moran, Patrick Moran Construction, Olympia, Wash.

Photographs Stefan Hampden, CAST Architecture