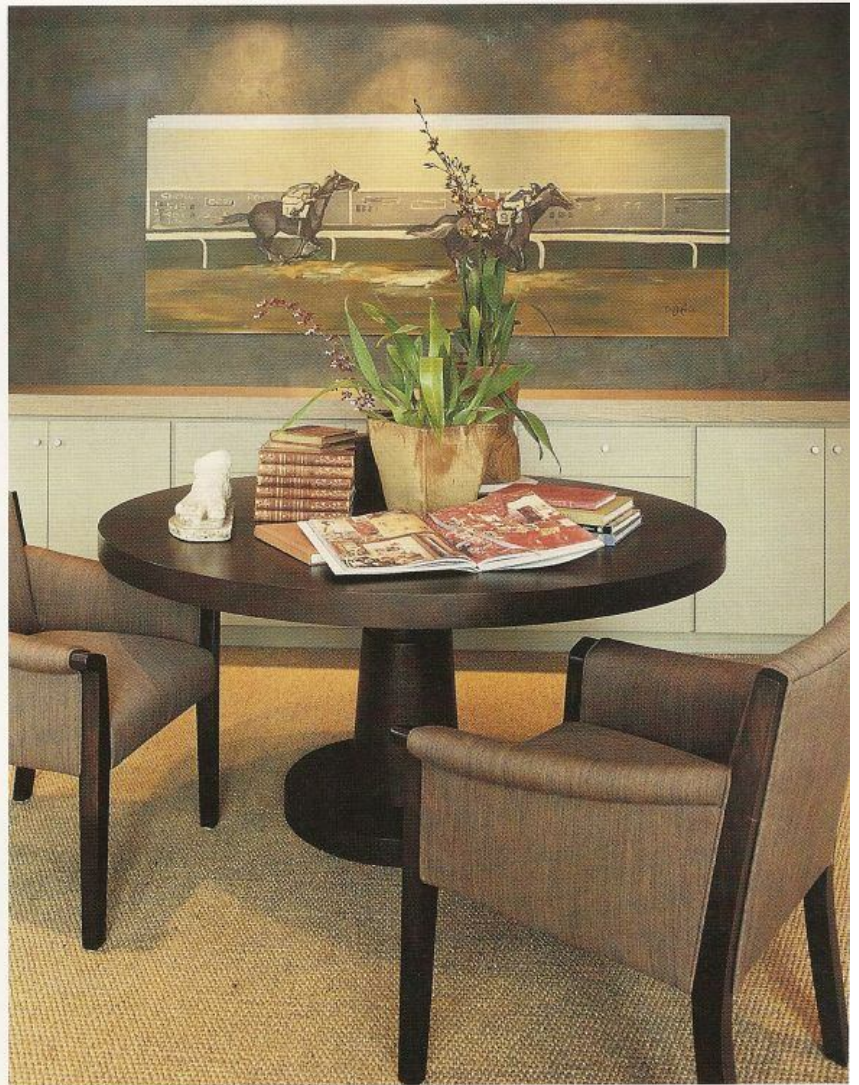
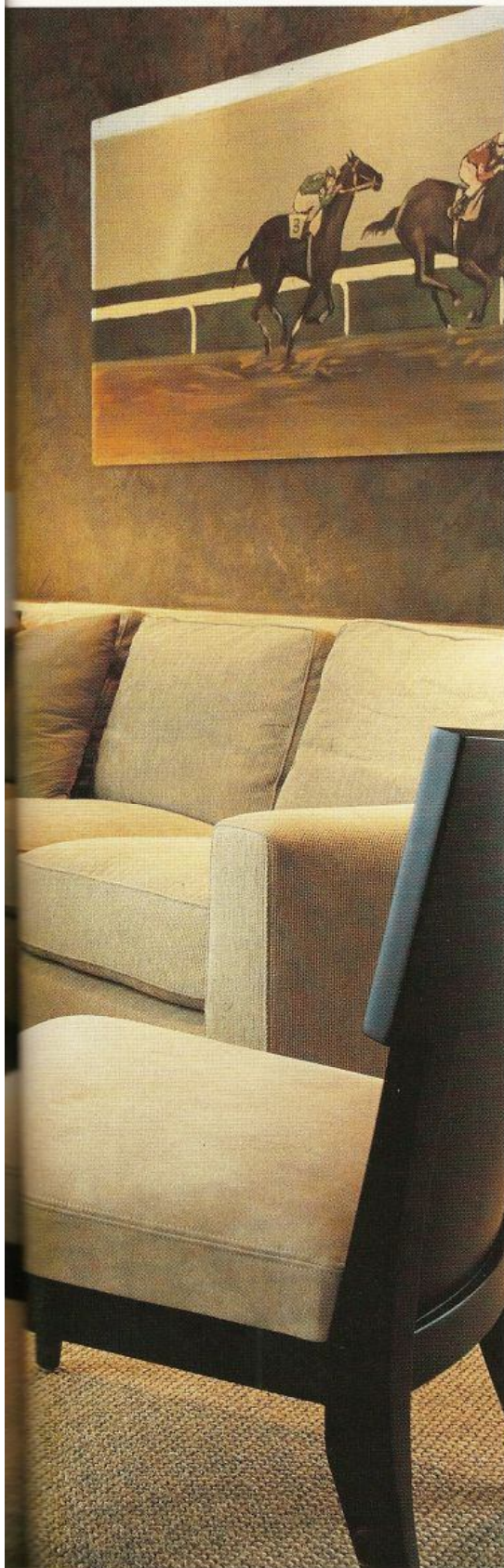


New finishes and furnishings
invigorate a San Juan Island retreat

WARMING TREND

WRITTEN BY FRED ALBERT PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL SKOTT

INTERIOR DESIGNER TEBBY HUNZIKER WARMED UP THE HOME'S COLOR PALETTE, BUT CHOSE LIVING ROOM FURNISHINGS THAT ECHOED ITS CONTEMPORARY LINES. ACCENT WALL'S COVERED IN MOODY VENETIAN PLASTER ADD ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST HERE AND IN THE DINING AREA (OPPOSITE), WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO LOOK LIKE A LIBRARY WHEN NOT IN USE. THE ROUND TABLE ALLOWS TRAFFIC TO FLOW DIAGONALLY THROUGH THE ROOM, BUT CAN EXPAND TO SEAT 10. THE PAINTINGS ONCE GRACED A KENTUCKY BAR.



While sailing along the eastern shore of San Juan Island 14 years ago, Sharon Powell paused to admire a waterfront house under construction. "What a wonderful property!" the Kirkland resident exclaimed to her husband, Lloyd. "It's so refreshing to see a home that seems to blend in with the landscape."

Fast forward a decade. While on one of her by-now ritual San Juan Island house-hunting excursions, Sharon stepped out onto the deck of the home she was touring and realized she was back at the property she had admired all those years earlier.

Unfortunately, her original perspective proved deceptive. "When you drove up, it was very stark and almost looked like a funeral home," she says. The interiors were just as inviting: a monotonous dirge of gray walls, gray industrial carpeting and gray vinyl, relieved only by a clinical white kitchen.

Any misgivings Sharon might have felt about the house, however, were vanquished by the setting: 10 sunny acres boasting 750 feet of

THE LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE WAS DRESSED UP IN A NEW STEEL FRAME, AS WAS THE CONVEX MIRROR SHARON POWELL PURCHASED AT AN AUTO PARTS STORE. THE MIRROR REFLECTS THE FRONT DOOR. THE KITCHEN WAS EXPANDED TO ACCOMMODATE A FAMILY ROOM (OPPOSITE), WHOSE HEARTH DOUBLES AS EXTRA SEATING. SHARON MADE THE SCULPTURE OVER THE FIREPLACE USING CHICKEN WIRE, GROCERY BAGS AND GOLD LEAF.





saltwater shoreline. She and Lloyd purchased the property, then hired architect David DiMarco and interior designer Terry Hunziker to stoke some warmth into the home's chilly reserve.

All agreed the basic design was well conceived: floor-to-ceiling windows drew the outdoors in and offered views from every room. A covered pergola across the back afforded shelter from the elements and eased the transition between interior and exterior. Working with Ravenhill Construction, DiMarco added a similar shelter over the front door to help define the entry and extended the kitchen to create a cozy family room.

The master bedroom was originally split into two sleeping areas. DiMarco replaced the wall with a partition, creating an office area for Lloyd, a veteran of the commercial construction and real estate business. The architect also reconfigured the master bath to accommodate a dramatic free-standing tub.

Most of the changes in the house focused on the finishes. "The whole house was very flat and cool," notes Hunziker, who also worked with the Powells on their Kirkland residence. "We were trying to give it some lights and darks, some depth, some architectural interest and some variation."

To warm things up, Hunziker painted the walls khaki and introduced

oak floors and casual sisal carpeting. The kitchen's plastic-laminate cabinets were traded for clean, serene quartersawn oak.

The living and dining areas shared a common room and a common problem: circulation paths that cut diagonally through both spaces, making furniture placement a challenge. Hunziker proposed turning the dining area into a library, with a round table that hosts books and plants by day and can expand to accommodate parties of 10 at night. A smoky expanse of Venetian plaster accents one wall here and in the living area, providing much-needed depth to the otherwise-unarticulated spaces.

The concrete-block fireplace was treated to a coat of plaster and its prosaic firebox was wrapped in a steel frame. Uncertain what to place above it, Sharon brought home a convex surveillance mirror from an auto parts store and showed it to Hunziker, who wrapped the piece in a steel collar—a sort of 21st-century update of the classic bull's-eye mirror. Sharon's solution for the family room fireplace was equally inventive: a rusticated ring that she crafted from chicken wire covered with grocery bags and gold leaf.

But the homeowner was stymied by the entry hall, whose symmetrical expanses of drywall proved resistant to any art or furnishings that were proposed. Then, while visiting an artist's home in Texas, she



and Lloyd were taken by an installation created out of bits of flotsam and jetsam and decided to make one of their own. They purchased a used pickup and filled it with old culverts, rusted cans and several dozen muskrat traps they found lying around their Oregon ranch.

"I got a book about Louise Nevelson, and that became my bible," says Sharon, who spent the summer cleaning the discards, painting them black and arranging them into two 10-foot-long collages.

When the Powells aren't creating art, they can be found on the beach, scavenging for clams or crabs. "We're basically hunters and

gatherers at heart," chuckles Lloyd, who often walks down to the water's edge with a knife in one hand and a bottle of wine in the other to dine on oysters fresh from the beach.

Much as they love their seafood, the Powells concede it's not the best thing about their vacation home. "The house is wonderful and everything," Lloyd says, "but the friendships that we've come to enjoy up there—that's been a really pleasant surprise." ■



For tips on warming up a home, visit seattlehomesmag.com.



GLASS-COVERED PERGOLAS BEHIND THE HOUSE (ABOVE) PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM THE ELEMENTS AND SOFTEN DIVISIONS BETWEEN INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR. THE CLEAN-LINED KITCHEN (RIGHT) WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A NEUTRAL BACKDROP FOR SEASONAL DÉCOR. THE MASTER BEDROOM (BELOW) IS SIMILARLY RESERVED, DOWN TO THE FLOATING NIGHTSTANDS. THE MASTER BATH (OPPOSITE) WAS DESIGNED AROUND THE TUB, WHICH LOOKS OUT ON A PRIVATE COURTYARD. CROSSES BY SAN JUAN ISLAND ARTIST JANE KITCHELL. TUB FROM INFORM INTERIORS, (206) 622-1608.

