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## Seattle studio designs Japanese-inspired home

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

Naho Ueda of Seattle-based Ueda Design Studio has designed a striking family home atop the Eola Hills near Salem, Oregon.

The goal was to create a comfortable home that takes advantage of the site's views and that serves as a refuge from work life with a balance of functionality and durability.

The result is a 8,000-square foot, two-level mountain home, for a family with two young children and two German Shepherds, with five bedrooms, seven bathrooms, a wine room, sauna, media room, outside deck and an expansive living, dining, and kitchen area.

The home's design takes inspiration from Japan and emphasizes the relationship between inside and outside with a focus on framed views. To the back of the property there are views of vineyards and to the front mountains. The home is laid out in a mix of spaces that shift from intimate to large open rooms.

The property's focal point is a combined living, dining, and kitchen area on the main level. The dining area is topped with a 26-foot-high ceiling and window walls on three sides emphasizing inside/outside connections. A concrete floor extends to an outside patio, covered by a roof overhang. The west side of the main level includes a lounge with lift-and-slide corner pocket patio doors. Once these doors open they disappear into the wall and the boundary between the inside and the outside also dissolves. The lounge features a six-foot-long fireplace and dark walnut cabinets. High ceilings and expansive glass define the main level.

A suspended open-tread stair leads from this space to the upper level which houses the property's bedrooms. The bedrooms face west and have vineyard views. Unlike the main level, the bedrooms have relatively low ceilings to create more cozy private-feeling spaces.

The home also has a roof deck with a fireplace and a basement level that holds a wine room, sauna, media room, fitness, and children's play room.



Photos by Kevin Scott [\[enlarge\]](#)

**The building adds a modern spin to traditional Japanese architecture.**



[\[enlarge\]](#)

**A combined living, dining and kitchen area is the home's focal point.**

Earthy hued materials and wood and metal dominate throughout the project. Dark walnut is ubiquitous on the main level and in the bedrooms. Lighter woods are more prominent in the basement level.

Sustainability was another driving force for the design. The goal was to create a high-performance, energy-efficient building which can last for the next 100 years. Outside, the material palette relies on simple and durable materials including cedar siding, fiber cement board, concrete, and steel, which require little to no maintenance.

The house is wrapped with continuous exterior insulation and has high performance aluminum windows and doors. It is fitted with a state-of-the-art HVAC system with high-efficiency heat pumps and a hydraulic radiant heat system. Awning windows atop the dining window wall open to cool down the space minimizing the need for air conditioning. Automatic exterior sunshades reduce solar heat gain.

The property is accessed via a mile-long ascending and winding driveway. Upon arrival there is a garden featuring a water fountain made of local boulders. “When low clouds descend over the valley in the morning, the house appears to be on top of the world,” the architect said.

Cellar Ridge Construction built the project. Bykonen Carter Quinn was the structural engineer.

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