

BELOW & RIGHT: This shore property was built to minimize maintenance and uses cement board, cellular PVC, and natural cedar on the exterior. We used the wood at steps and entrances in particular—emphasizing the visual beauty and tactile warmth that the material offers. Placements of bold white elements add a modern edge to this home set within an historic seaside community.
Photograph by Paul S. Bartholomew Photography, LLC

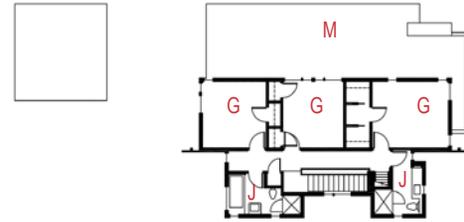


Always by Design

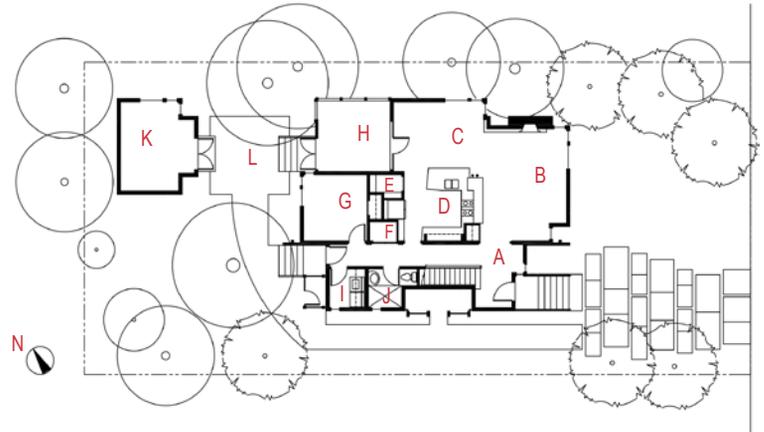


The idea of tranquil asymmetry may seem improbable, but after studying the work of Ed Barnhart, it's obvious that this is not only possible, but highly appealing. He finds a balance between calm, soothing environments and dynamic elements that will engage the imagination and sustain interest. Here, peace meets art. A wide range of inspirations also find their way into the houses of Always by Design, culled from Ed's extensive international study, work, and travel experiences. The discussion of a single feature, such as a shower, will invariably invite comparisons with Scandinavian, Japanese, and Balinese bathing traditions and aesthetic sensibilities. Ed's profound love of engaging all of one's senses is evidenced by his nuanced selections of materials and handling of natural light.

Coupled with his extensive experience and design sensibilities is a strong hands-on approach. Ed engages completely with every project. No detail is minor and every decision matters. The idea of total engagement extends itself to the homeowners as well. Ed encourages them to ask questions and stay closely involved. After having designed and renovated his own family homes over the years, Ed is empathetic to the homeowners' needs, as well as their essential role in the building process. By remaining involved, the homeowners will know their new residence intimately and bond with it even before they move in. That's the ultimate reward of Ed's architectural practice.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

- A – Foyer
- B – Living Room
- C – Dining Room
- D – Kitchen
- E – Pantry
- F – Mechanical
- G – Bedroom
- H – Screened Porch
- I – Laundry
- J – Bathroom
- K – Studio
- L – Deck
- M – Vegetative Roof



TOP: We wanted to capture a Zen-like serenity in the dining room and did so by using a limited palette, as far as materials and colors are concerned. The doors lead to a screened-in porch with a matching unfinished-cedar ceiling and pergola feel. There is a defined sense of space, even with an open plan.

BOTTOM: Curb-less and open, this Scandinavian-style shower with operable window captures the beauty of an everyday activity. I built the sliding cedar shutter to add flexibility year-round, but particularly to enhance the summer indoor showering experience—enabling daylight and natural breezes to enter—while still maintaining privacy.

FACING PAGE TOP: The white oak floors of the living room, utilize wide, solid-wood planks that naturally cup with the changes in humidity of the coastal environment. Particularly for barefoot summer users, this adds an element of naturalness and tactile engagement. The corner windows add a sense of diagonal movement and speak to the waterside feel of the home.

FACING PAGE BOTTOM: Designed for LEED Silver, the home features a harvested-water irrigation system for maintaining discrete lawn play areas and low-water vegetation for the rest of the property—gracefully balancing recreational and ecological objectives.

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“Light does more than anything to establish the character of a space and provide joy.”

—Ed Barnhart

