

WOOD DESIGN & BUILDING®

SUMMER 2006 — NUMBER 35

Excellence in Wood

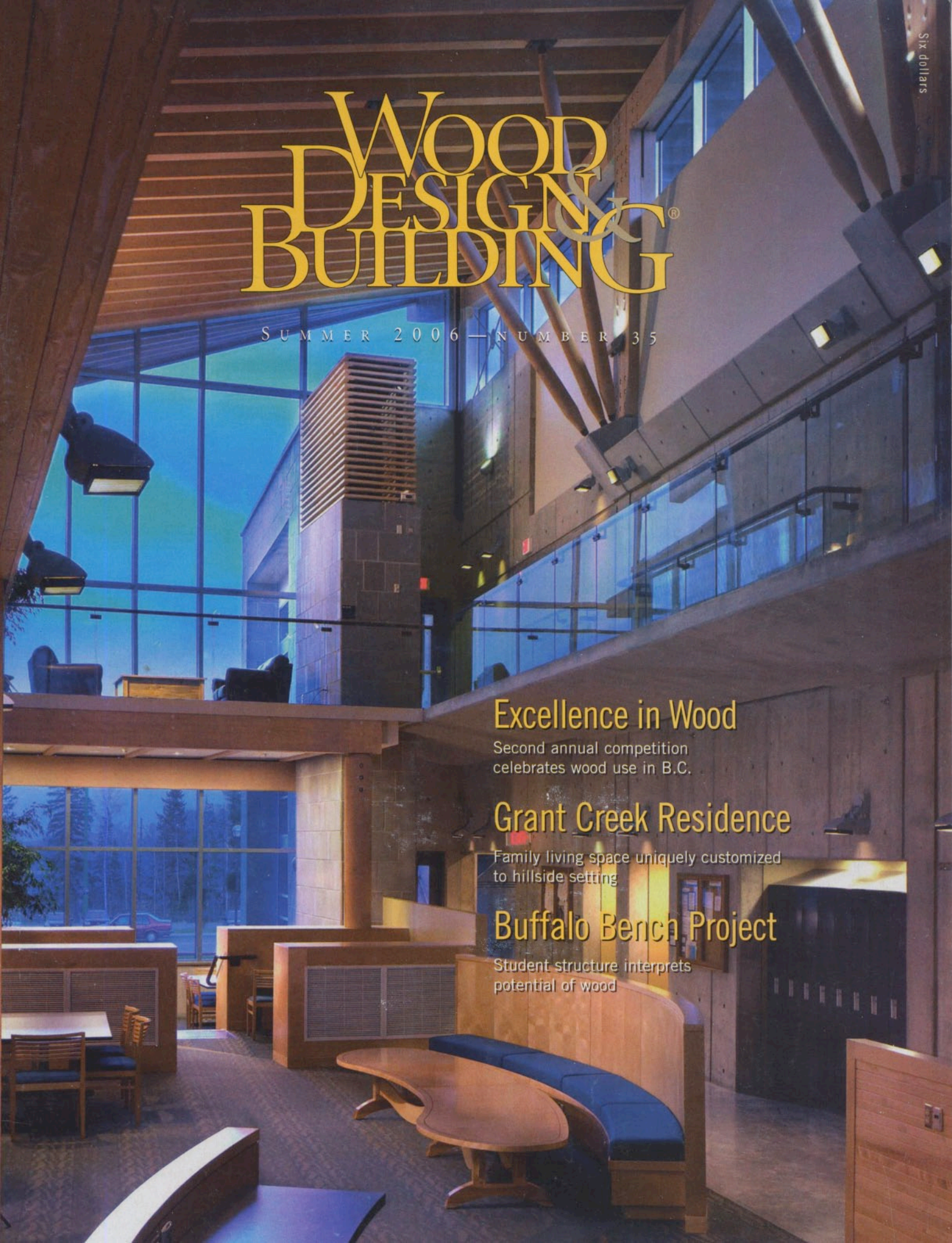
Second annual competition celebrates wood use in B.C.

Grant Creek Residence

Family living space uniquely customized to hillside setting

Buffalo Bench Project

Student structure interprets potential of wood







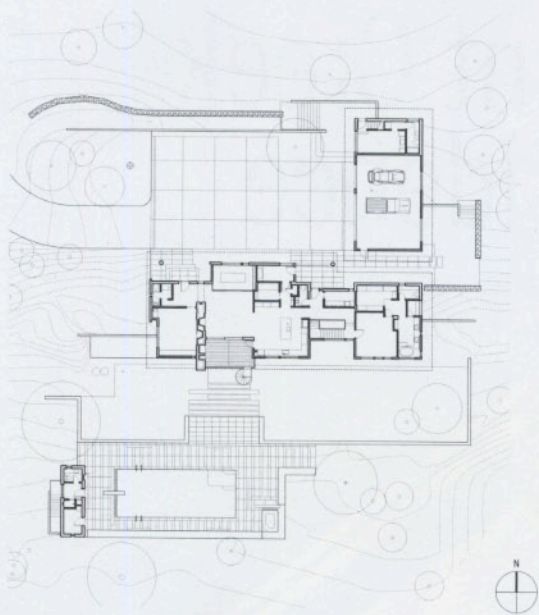
Grant Creek Residence

Living space customized
for hillside setting

Nestled into a wooded hillside on a 7-acre property bordering Grant Creek in the foothills above Missoula, Montana, the Grant Creek Residence was designed for a young family and is oriented to minimize its exposure to inclement weather from the north and maximize views and sunlight south towards the creek and adjacent hillside.

Cedar covers most of the exterior of the Grant Creek Residence. This view of the south- and west-facing sides of the house highlights the architects' fit of structure to landscape.

Photo by Lara Swimmer



Site plan



(Above) The maximum use of windows on the south side of the house gives optimum sunlight to the interior. The placement of the adjacent patio and pool allows the residents to take advantage of the sun's natural light and heat.

(Above left and right) The use of wood paneling and slats in the ceilings, walls and cabinetry adds a distinctive touch to the living room and kitchen.

Photos by Lara Swimmer

The house is entered on the upper level into the main living spaces and master suite. Additional bedrooms and recreation and service spaces are on the lower level, partly submerged below grade, and open towards the creek.

A single, continuous copper shed roof shelters the cedar clad building. Major interior finishes include concrete, leather, bamboo and Plynyl floors; walnut paneling; bamboo, walnut and mahogany cabinetry and millwork; and a tight-grain fir slat ceiling system extending the length of the upper level. The dining room is conceived as a wood "tatami box" inserted into the main living space – an homage to the owner's past residence in Japan.

Custom steel railings, fireplace doors, and miscellaneous fixtures fabricated by Company K in Seattle highlight the residence.

A heated auto court provides a flat, paved, outdoor space for additional parking, skateboarding and basketball in an area otherwise defined by dirt roads. A pool and spa sit between the house and the creek with maximum exposure to the sun. A green roof and stone clad poolhouse sits adjacent.

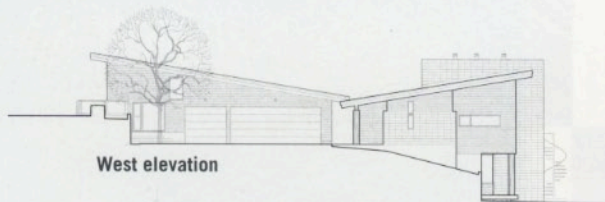
The house is heated with an in-floor radiant system and ventilated naturally with operable windows and "trickle-vents". The construction type is wood frame. ❧



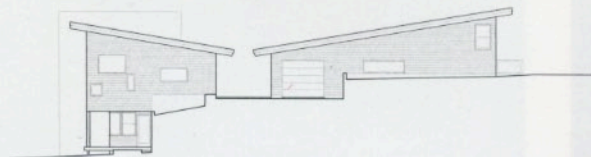
North elevation



South elevation



West elevation



East elevation

ARCHITECT: HELIOTROPE ARCHITECTS

PROJECT MANAGEMENT: AN URBAN COMPANY

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: BEAUDETTE CONSULTING ENGINEERS

MECHANICAL ENGINEER: ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

AUDIO/VIDEO CONSULTANT: PREMIER HOME THEATER

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: CHRIS MORITZ

CUSTOM STEEL FABRICATION: COMPANY K

CONSTRUCTION: SHARKEY CONSTRUCTION

AREA: 6,200SF

PHOTOS: LARA SWIMMER