



Building from Memory

by **CHRISTINE COLLINS** photography by Shybeast, LLC

If given the opportunity to build your own home, where would you start? The location? What about the materials? Might you just start hunting for potential architects and contractors? These questions, along with countless other concerns, had to be addressed by the owners of this newly constructed 12,000-square-foot waterfront home. Wanting to return to their roots and family here in the Inland Northwest after a long absence, Ed and Naomi recently relocated from California, where they'd spent their working careers. It took much planning and patience, but now this particular piece of paradise is part of a full-circle journey that technically began with a memory.



Back when Naomi was a young girl, her father would often take her duck hunting along this lake. It wasn't until they broke ground on their new home—long after they'd purchased the lot, designed the plans, picked a builder—that Naomi realized she and her father had often come to this very spot all those years ago. Sadly, a month later, her father passed away. While he wasn't there to witness her and Ed move in, it's interesting and beautiful that they were

drawn to this piece of land even before they realized its historical significance. The notion of moving back north and near nature resonates with many. Few are so fortunate to follow through with that dream. Ed and Naomi consider themselves very fortunate in this regard, and they hope by sharing their story, others might think about beginning the process of building from idea to reality their forever home. The design process began with identify-

ing rooms, features, and design elements they wanted in their house, which they then arranged into a "wish list." Looking at the myriad options in house designs and floor-plans helped with the brainstorming process and in deciding what kind of location would be the best fit for their ideas. For example, Naomi wanted to make sure her mother would have a bedroom on the main floor, one that had 'accessibility' features such as wide doorways and



a "roll-in shower" to accommodate her wheelchair, as well as laundry on the same floor. It meant taking a four-story house and ensuring that one portion provided complete self-sufficiency without stairs, from the front entrance on through. The concept of 'universal design' isn't new, but figuring out the logistics in a house such as theirs took some architectural troubleshooting. Pragmatics aside, Naomi also envisioned a home where every room would have a view of the breathtaking scenery. From the surrounding cedar forest and private lagoon

to the lake and nearby hills, the whole of the great outdoors should become part of the interior by incorporating floor-to-ceiling picture windows and multiple balconies. There are five in total. What else was on their wish list? Home movie theater, walk-in wine cellar, yoga studio, space for entertaining, and all the 'toys' that lakefront living requires. It was an impressive wish list. But wishing and doing are entirely different matters. This is where contractor Lonnie Edwards and architect Amanda Atwood stepped

in. They were essential to making Ed and Naomi's vision a reality. After securing the plot of land, Edwards and Atwood were able to take these details and piece them together into the perfect home. Naomi reflects on the whole experience as feeling "guided." The timing, both with regards to their return home to be with their families (both Ed and Naomi's fathers were very ill and hospitalized at Sacred Heart when they returned) and with the time it took to design and build their home lined up very well. They moved back to the area in





July 2020, purchased the property a month later, hired their architect and builder in September, and moved into the newly built home in late January 2022. It was a 14-month project from start to finish.

This can seem like a long time to the uninitiated, but with many fully custom-built houses taking between 10 months and 2 years, it's impressive that a home of this size and detail on such challenging terrain didn't take long to complete. With a 26-foot elevation difference from water to street, excavation alone—in November of all times—was literally an uphill battle.

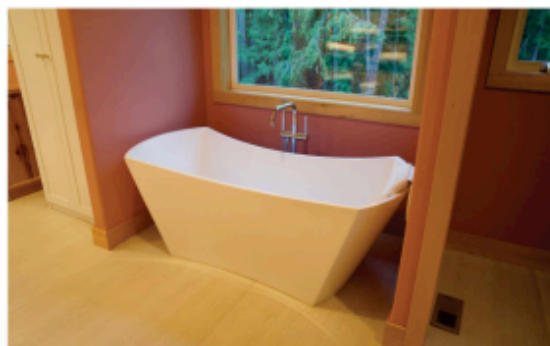
Lonnie Edwards, President of Built on Trust, a small general contracting company based out of Spokane, Washington, took on the task of building their dream home. Edwards company builds new homes as well as remodels existing ones. His philosophy as a builder is that if you earn people's trust, you will earn their busi-

ness.

"I want my clients to be able to always come to me with open communication because I am responsible for building their biggest investment, one of tremendous monetary and emotional value," he says. "From our first meeting to handing them the keys, open communication is the number one priority to get to completion, within budget and on time."

"As a builder, I have not raised my prices since 2010 because I believe in keeping housing as affordable as I can and getting my customers what they want. That is what Built on Trust is all about."

Edwards' devotion to his trade is immediately apparent. While walking through the house and discussing its details, he scanned the property for even the slightest faults, little corners or crevices where he felt he could've done more; though it's equally as apparent how



enraptured Ed and Naomi are with every inch of their finished home.

Edwards says that Ed and Naomi were wonderful visionaries who put in a tremendous amount of time and work towards creating their masterpiece at the water's edge. They had never built a home but felt it was the only option after so many existing homes proved lovely but not the right fit for their needs. Being on the water was paramount, and their close family friend Lana Kay Hanson, a real estate broker in Sandpoint, ensured with diligence that this property could be secured.

As one pulls into the driveway, the exterior teases and foreshadows the beautiful, unique, and wholly personal vision within. A "Cougs" red front door entices the eye to recognize the countless shades of red that can be found in the most unlikely places around the property. From the locally sourced red and golds of the Selkirk stone that encircle the base of the exterior to the tinge of red in the exterior's brown paint, there is a promise of warmth and life, even in the dead of winter when gray pervades the horizon for months at a time. Even the Montana rose quartz, which blankets the front yard, shimmers with natural silica in the moonlight. While sometimes

living in an HOA community can mean the owners' vision will be limited, for Ed and Naomi, there were no limits on the square footage of their home, and they liked that their design would work in tandem with the rest of their neighbors' homes, creating a beautiful community and not just a beautiful home.

The backyard, which faces the water, houses a cedar grove, including a round tribe of grand cedar trees intentionally designed as part of Naomi's Celtic vision. Celtic spirals are among the oldest of symbols, with those found on the entrance stone to Newgrange in Ireland dating back to 3200 B.C. Often associated with the balance of inner and outer consciousness, they represent the journey from materialism and external awareness to enlightenment and cosmic awareness. While the home is a material object, the entirety of the land and the home are infused with thoughtful symbolism that always circles back to the values of the people who live within. They love their family, and they love the natural world; their vision reflects these loves.

The home's interior is consistent in its building materials, color schemes, and design elements. No one room or even a single fixture or element feels disjointed from the rest of

the house. All of the cabinetry throughout the house is made from rustic hickory with a natural finish that echoes the wooded surroundings without giving cabin fever vibes. They feel warm and alive and ground the feeling of togetherness that connects each room to the next. Similarly, many of the interior walls are painted in a shade by Sherwin Williams called "Pressed Flower," which Naomi chose because it was the color that most complimented the cabinetry and has a versatility to it because it can appear slightly different throughout the day depending on the hour and light. Instead of the walls appearing flat, they appear almost like clouds at dusk; soft and calm while also vibrant and marvelous.

The floors throughout are laid with thick porcelain imported from Italy. The planks are wide and long and look like whitewashed wood. They are stunning, but through the neutral color, humbly serve to accent the cabinets and countertops, the two most unique and challenging to acquire materials for the home. The Volga Blue granite used for the countertops comes directly from Ukraine and upon closer examination, mother of pearl can be seen glittering like a natural treasure amidst oceanic waters on its surface. Naomi

says that this design choice was made to complement the beautiful views of the water visible from most of the windows in the home. Many of the light fixtures in the home also complement the water, with some embodying bubbles or raindrops with their shape. Even the bay window seats found throughout the home, in addition to the sofa in the main living room, are upholstered in velvety dark blue fabric that contrasts perfectly with warmer walls and embodies the radiance and cool beauty of the waterfront horizon at sunset.

When climbing the whimsical spiral staircase that leads up to the yoga loft, which overlooks the main living room, the walls that cradle the staircase hold photographs from their family trip to Italy with their daughter. The carefully curated photos and artwork of the home all circle back to love of family, reminding Eddie and Naomi of where they have been, where they are going, and most importantly, where they are. It's as though the home was designed to be a place to preserve memories with friends and family and be a place that enables the creation of more beautiful memories in the future. Even an unassuming, handmade cabinet

made of cherry wood from Naomi's mother, which houses china dishware and a pair of family photos, circles back into the theme of warm, reddish tones that honor the natural wonder of sunrise and sunset and the joy of getting to share such wonders with their loved ones.



Lornie Edwards

The team that built this stunning home from the ground up includes:

- Lornie Edwards, President of Built on Trust (general contractor)
- Amanda Knight, Owner of Gallery Home Designs (designer and architect)
- Geoff Slye, Mountain West Bank (financial institution)

And their sub-contractors:

- John Niska, Big Swede's Electric
- Richard Baker, Edge Plumbing
- Jerry Inch, Inch Excavating
- Chad Hancy, HLM Trucking
- Donovan Williams, Williams Pro Coatings
- Nate Carpenter, Carpenter's Custom Cabinets
- Nate Weller, Zaybor Construction
- Jacdon Crouch, Compass Homes
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