Little Colt Lane Residence  
Winthrop, Washington  
1,665 square feet

The Little Colt Lane Residence was designed for a newly retired couple looking to downsize and simplify their lifestyle. The residence is located near the town of Winthrop in North Central Washington. The home is nestled into the crest of a hillside with wide sweeping views of the river valley below. This siting strategy was used to shelter the house and outdoor sitting areas from the prevailing winds. It also allows the living spaces to be accessed on grade. The design uses a linear arrangement of spaces to take maximum advantage of the views while keeping the overall square footage low. The main living area features a low sloped vaulted ceiling with a large window wall that opens up to the valley to the south. The window headers are recessed into the ceiling structure allowing the glass to progress from floor to ceiling. The master suite is located in the southeast corner of the residence and has large windows that wrap around the corner capturing views to the east. The couple requested that all of the spaces be on one level for aging-in-place and exterior materials be low maintenance.

The design utilizes low slope shed roof forms inspired by historical architecture seen in the region which consists of mining, logging and farm structures. Materials used include weathered barn wood, corrugated steel siding, large structural steel beams and concrete floors. These materials further reinforce the vernacular aesthetic and help to give the residence a sense of timelessness. The decision was made to include a screened carport rather than a traditional garage in order to reduce the visual impact as the house is approached from the west. The carport adds to the rural aesthetic and can to be used for outdoor entertaining when shelter from the wind is necessary. The main entry is approached via a sheltered walkway bounded by the house on the right and a six foot tall architectural concrete retaining wall on the left. The roof extends over the walkway creating a dramatic entry sequence which squeezes the approach before opening up into the airy entry courtyard.

The dry nature of the area makes the region susceptible to wild fire. Designed for resiliency, special care was taken to incorporate Firewise design strategies when designing Little Colt Lane Residence. Some of these strategies include the use of fire rated metal roofing, non-combustible steel support beams, slab-on-grade construction to prevent flames from moving through a crawl space, and open soffits. The landscape strategy incorporates rockeries and drought resistant plantings. It was specifically designed to limit the use of combustible vegetation and large trees while utilizing a sprinkler-system designed to activate in case of fire.

Energy conservation measures include hydronic heated concrete floors supported with a ductless heat pump system for cooling, R-21 walls, R-30 floors, R-49 ceilings, and windows at a U value of .28.
SITE PLAN

1. Architectural Concrete Retaining Wall
2. Breezeway
3. Entry Walkway
4. Main House
5. Terrace
6. Car Port
7. Driveway
Building Section A

1. Breezeway
2. Bedroom
3. Laundry

Building Section B

1. Covered Porch
2. Entry
3. Dining Room
4. Patio