Woodbluff Lane Residence  
Camano Island, Washington  
2,400 square feet

For their retirement, the Woodbluff Lane Residence clients decided to move from Hawaii to a forever home on a high bluff lot on the west side of Camano Island, Washington. While looking for property, they admired a house designed by the architect. They ended up buying a lot next door to that house and wanted a similar design aesthetic that utilized low maintenance materials. Some of the same exterior materials and design concepts were used for this house but in different ways. The result is an open and airy 2,400 sq. ft. home with spectacular west views toward Whidbey Island.

One of the couples’ most important design goals was to have a home that would allow them to age in place. Moreover, there was an immediate need for universal design elements for one of their elderly mothers who lived with them. To address this necessity, the design includes wide doors, an entry without stairs and curb-less shower stalls.

The entry is designed so that views of the water and Whidbey Island beyond can be seen through the house from the driveway. The public areas of the house are straight ahead and to the right of the entry. The private bedroom and bathroom spaces are to the left.

The roofline delineates different spaces in the house. A butterfly roof draws the eye to the front door and also defines the dining area on the entry side. It sheds up in the opposite direction in the great room/bedroom spaces on the view side. The kitchen is tucked into a corner but the open plan allows it to also enjoy the western views. A continuous row of clerestory windows extends the view up to the high ceilings in these spaces bringing in natural daylight to the interiors.

The entry canopy is framed out of mill finish steel and has a custom steel gutter system designed to accommodate the extra volume of rain water coming off the opposing shed roof systems. The steel scupper becomes a design element with a rain chain running to a washed rock drywell.

Patina copper panels are used at the entry to delineate the dining area and the connector to the garage. The verdigris color of the panels pays homage to the house next door that has a similar siding color without copying the same material. Other materials on the exterior include horizontal cedar siding and fiber cement panels.

The use of exposed steel for structure is also used inside the house where the butterfly roof systems come together between the dining area and the great room. Energy conservation is achieved by the use of an electric heat pump system, low U value windows (U-.28), R-21 walls, R-30 floors and R-49 ceilings.