



1 READERS' CHOICE FIRST PLACE

# Contemporary Camp in

**W**hen the home they had built 26 years ago no longer met their needs, Milford Cushman and Terri Gregory did a lot of soul-searching. Their 1300-sq.-ft. house would need extensive and time-consuming renovations. The husband-and-wife design team thought about moving but shared such a deep commitment to their



**SLIDESHOW.** For more photos of the Contemporary Camp and information about its renovation, visit [FineHomebuilding.com/houses](http://FineHomebuilding.com/houses).



# the Woods

8.5-acre Vermont pine forest and the 3500 sq. ft. of perennial and vegetable gardens they had nurtured for many years that they decided to stay.

With more than 30 years of experience designing elegant, sustainable, and sometimes very large homes for others, Cushman wanted his own house to be “just big enough.” When asked what inspired this design, Cushman said, “If I could live in anything, it would be to live in a camp full-time. Camps are about connection to the land, to the critters around us, to a quiet way of being in harmony with the place. They are also about engendering gentleness and compassion for ourselves and our families. Good food, crackling fires, and a place of sweet refuge are there, too.”

The couple was vigilant about reusing and recycling, and most of the material used for the renovation was sourced from manufacturers and suppliers within 500 miles. This includes the wood for the exterior siding, floors, ceilings, and beams, all of which came from local lumber mills. Local artisans and craftspeople were employed to create and install the home’s custom cabinets, countertops, furniture, and other components. The few materials not obtained locally were selected for durability, and in some cases, beauty. With the renovation having included a deep-energy retrofit, the house achieved a 5 Star Plus Energy Star rating. A Tula woodstove is the house’s primary source of heat. The house is so well insulated that just a little over one cord of wood keeps it warm through the winter.

**Designer** Milford Cushman and Terri Gregory, Cushman Design Group, Stowe, Vt.; [cushmandesign.com](http://cushmandesign.com)

**Project manager/intern architect** Kelley Osgood, Cushman Design Group

**Interior design** Milford Cushman and Terri Gregory, Cushman Design Group

**Builder** Tell Gregory, Gregory Construction, Morristown, Vt.

**Cabinetmaker** Whit Hartt, Whitman Hartt Cabinetry, Lake Elmore, Vt.

**Photographs** Susan Teare, [susanteare.com](http://susanteare.com)







## 2 READERS' CHOICE SECOND PLACE Old Fort Cabin

Situated in the Blue Ridge Mountains, this two-bedroom contemporary interpretation of a mountain cabin was designed as a relaxed counterpoint to the owners' full-time residence. Passionate about fly-fishing, the owners selected this site for its convenient access to a nearby trout stream, which can be seen and heard from the cabin. The site's steep and remote location required a design with an efficient footprint that would fit the land and help to minimize foundation and roof costs.

Controlling costs was important throughout the project, as was the use of low-maintenance, durable materials inside and out. A unified palette of interior materials, such as the clear-finished spruce used on the walls and ceilings and the painted no. 2 hard-maple floor, enhance the perceived spaciousness of the open main-level floor plan. These natural materials read well in the sunlight from the expanse of east-facing windows and in the up lights used at night, both of which reflect warmly off the wood surfaces.

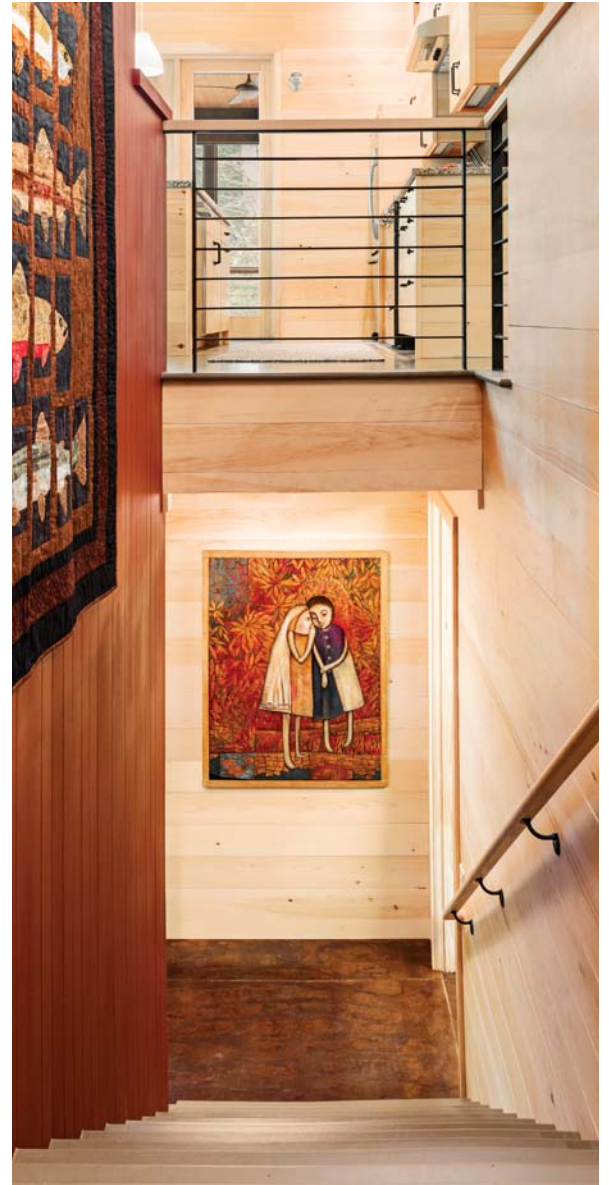
This project incorporated the requirements for Energy Star version 3. Efficient space planning of the 1550-sq.-ft. cabin, combined with an effective thermal envelope and right-size mechanical systems, resulted in cost-effective initial expenditures and projected low long-term operating costs. The cabin's lower level features a humidistat-controlled bath fan and in-slab bath-floor heating, which reduce demand on the full HVAC system. Exterior materials, selected for durability and lower maintenance, include prestained cedar shingles, a Kynar-coated steel roof, aluminum-clad windows, and heat-treated Appalachian-ash porch flooring.

**Architect** Duncan McPherson, Samsel Architects, Asheville, N.C.; [samselarchitects.com](http://samselarchitects.com)

**Builder** Anthony Roberts, AR Construction, Alexander, N.C.; [arconstructioninc.com](http://arconstructioninc.com)

**Photographs** Todd Crawford, [linespaceobject.com](http://linespaceobject.com); courtesy of Samsel Architects







### 3 READERS' CHOICE THIRD PLACE

## The Lichtenstein Studio

This compact 560-sq.-ft. backyard cottage in Seattle was designed with flexibility in mind. The structure is presently used as an art studio and guest house, but it also could be a stand-alone rental. In keeping with the owners' deep commitment to building green, the house features extensive use of reclaimed, recycled, and sustainable building materials. The exterior, installed over a 2-in. layer of rigid-foam insulation, is clear-cedar siding with fiber-cement panels at the base. The wall cavities are filled with insulation made from recycled cotton blue jeans. The cottage is set on a concrete slab with radiant-floor heating and is topped with a Galvalume standing-seam metal roof.

Reclaimed 3-in.-thick tongue-and-groove cedar decking salvaged from a Seattle warehouse was used for the ceiling above the kitchen and dining area and for the second-level loft floor. The ceiling side was left unfinished in its naturally weathered state, while the loft floor was finished with Osmo's nontoxic wood wax. The custom-made kitchen cabinets and island countertop are reclaimed fir; the perimeter countertops are marble. The island is on casters to increase the flexibility of the kitchen space. Simpson 10-lite Shaker-style fir doors close off the kitchen and dining areas from the living room so that this room can be used as a second sleeping area.

Floor-to-ceiling walls of matte etched glass allow as much natural light as possible to come into the studio, but they also maintain privacy between the studio and the main house. Whether open or closed, the large Sierra Pacific aluminum-clad patio doors enhance the connection between the inside and outside of the studio. The white subway-tiled bathroom also features a wall of matte etched glass.

**Architect** Tim Hammer, CAST Architecture, Seattle, [castarchitecture.com](http://castarchitecture.com)

**Builder** Kate Lichtenstein, Seattle

**Custom cabinetry, island, and stairs** Gabe Strand, Strand Woodworks, Seattle, [strandwoodworks.com](http://strandwoodworks.com)

**Finish carpentry** Patrick Moran, Patrick Moran Construction, Olympia, Wash.

**Photographs** Stefan Hampden, CAST Architecture

