

— HOME —



Summit Sky *Sophistication*

Urban-industrial home fits nicely in
the Southwest Hills

BY PAUL OMUNDSON • PHOTOS BY MORGAN SMITH

A CONTEMPORARY, URBAN-MODERN industrial look was Ethan and Heidi Nelson's goal for their new home in Eugene's Southwest Hills. Who better to make that vision happen than designer/builder Dan Cooper of DC Fine Homes? Cooper graduated from Churchill High just down the block from the recently built home, and he's lived most of his life in the Southwest Hills.





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The floating steel staircase with a frosted glass landing adds an industrial edge to the space.

Cooper listens closely to clients' dreams and interests and creates unique homes to fit their vision. It's a family affair for Cooper. He does concept, design, and front-end work; his dad serves as foreman; and his mom, Mary, weighs in with her considerable experience on decor.

The three-level, 3,750-square-foot gleaming gray gem in the Summit Terrace neighborhood, showcased in last summer's 2011 Tour of Homes, is a slam dunk, according to Ethan Nelson.

"See how it has a modern Northwest Portland/Seattle urban feel to it," says Nelson, pointing to the distinctive, graceful symmetry of his house. "Open, expansive, large windows, lots of natural light throughout the entire home, great use of use of brick, wood, steel, and stone to give it a special contemporary look."



The kitchen features European-style Sapele cabinets with quartzite countertops, and a mosaic backsplash.

During the seven-month construction process, the Nelsons worked closely with Cooper. “While we couldn’t get everything we wanted, he came up with very creative ideas and compromises to match our tastes,” Nelson adds.

The Red Cork room is a perfect example. Knowing his clients’ love of red wine and desire to have a chic, personalized space for entertaining, Cooper created a cozy setting with a wet bar, booth seating, spiral ducting, cable lighting, and intriguing wall candles, all of which showcase the main wine cellar, where each bottle (600-bottle capacity) is backlit for mood and charm equal to any hip urban bar around. Cooper loves to customize any chance he gets, and he created a custom Red Cork logo, prominently displayed in its namesake room, along with a captivating red cork wall decoration

assembled out of the owners’ vast collection of wine corks. The Nelsons featured the logo on their housewarming invitations and continue to use it with correspondence in relation to the activities they host downstairs in Red Cork.

“This is their own personal living art piece,” Cooper explains, and it’s a great example of why he delights so much in carrying out those extra personal touches.

One key feature of the property is the sleight of hand Cooper came up with to give the structure and grounds a sense of modesty when viewed from the street—there’s no hint of the size and majesty waiting inside this sleek gray home. “That’s so it could blend in with the surroundings and not stick out as some ostentatious modern creation,” Cooper chuckles.

The Red Cork Room was designed around the client's love of red wine and entertaining.



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The bathroom features a digital, remote-controlled shower with two showerheads and body sprays.

“We wanted the exterior from the front to be deceptive, to look like just another house on Summit Sky that matches the scale of the neighborhood,” Cooper explains. “But from the back of the home you can see the expanded scale and just how big the place really is,” thanks to elements like the towering 30-foot-high, 8x8 cedar laminated deck posts.

Once the front door opens and you step down into the grand room, modesty transforms to magnificence. Straight ahead are 14-foot-high commercial storefront windows illuminating

backyard greenery, and a graceful floating staircase made of polished steel leading to upper-level lofts. Those two elements anchor the majesty of the grand room. Typical of a Cooper enterprise, Dan, his wife, Theron, and his dad did the finishing touches on the wooden steps, “to make it a little warmer” in the midst of all the elegant shiny steel, he says.

“The surprise is how large and open it is inside,” Cooper adds. “Since the design is patterned after an urban loft, the idea is to make you feel you’re

The master bedroom includes French doors that lead to a private covered deck.





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entering into your own special space that is bright, open, and spacious without being overwhelming.”

Another special addition to the grand room is a Red 60 gas flame fireplace, the first of its kind installed on the West Coast. It features crushed glass that changes colors on command with an LED lighting kit, set in sparkling porcelain blocks with a cantilevered slab hearth. No matter if the flame is on or not, you can play with the dials to create marvelous light combinations that mingle with natural light to create fantastic Northwesterly moods

as you sit on the luxuriant great-room couches.

Upon entering, a glance to the left reveals a contemporary kitchen smartly styled in European ribbon-cut Sapele cabinets with stainless awning uppers and stainless-and-glass mosaic backsplash.

Up the gleaming staircase, things are just as open and airy on the second and third levels. At the top is the Owners’ Suite, perched on its own floor with an adjoining office loft and private deck. The suite’s bathroom includes a free-



The exterior of the front home was deceptively designed to make it appear smaller than it really is.

standing chromatherapy tub and temperature controls. The experience is ethereal and surreal, just what the owners wanted.

This Summit Sky home has a renovated-downtown-loft feel with its floating steel staircase, oversized windows, and suite loft. It is a marvelous addition to the Southwest Hills. ■

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