



MARK ANDERSON
MARK OLASON
DENNIS MARSH
MARK ELSTER

AOME Architects AIA



Above: The kitchen fulfilled the owner's desire for a grand and sophisticated room outfitted with furniture quality cabinets with abundant architectural detail, and time-seasoned character.
Photograph by Mike Jenson Photography

Facing Page: After ten years of biding their time, the owners knew what they wanted in a lakeshore home—lots of glass and European-inspired sophistication. The result is a beacon of light in the evening.
Photograph by Mike Jenson Photography

A careful balance of traditional yet modern, sheltering but open, technically inventive yet artistically creative, the work of AOME Architects is a study in contrasts and dualities. Natural materials contrast with manmade. Simplicity and complexity coexist along with the open and the private. Pragmatic needs are balanced against aesthetic delight. The ancient shares space with the ultra-contemporary. AOME Architects successfully creates this harmonious disparity by combining cues from the natural environmental, physical and cultural context, architectural heritage and their clients' own dreams and aspirations with thoughtful manipulation of basic architectural elements: light and space, color, pattern, texture, and proportion.



Like so many of their clients who have traveled the world and felt the aura and serenity of aged buildings and the warm, tactile nature of materials from generations past, each of the principals at AOME appreciate the lessons history has to offer. They understand that this fast-paced, ever-changing world spawns clients' profound yearning to capture some of that older, quieter world within their homes. While this desire often correlates to an interest in traditional styles of architecture, many clients search for ways to incorporate the same underlying elements of age-graced structures into modern architectural styles as well. No matter the aesthetic preference, the principals of AOME enjoy exploring the many ways in which patrons express their meaning of home. Whether neo-traditional or modern, a home must convey a sense of sanctuary, timelessness, happiness, beauty, pragmatism, and perhaps most importantly, their clients' identities.

While some firms reject the stigma of "living in the past," AOME Architects welcomes the give and take between past and present and pursues the challenge of blending the two. While an adobe hacienda is an unlikely candidate for the Pacific Northwest, it is worth exploring how and why that particular vernacular struck a chord for a client and further, how a more appropriate architectural response to the region might resonate in the same manner. Similarly, the firm understands a client who is drawn to a more modern aesthetic and can articulate that style in a manner that makes the home appear 100 years old. AOME Architects relishes the challenge of timeless modernism that acknowledges its relationship to its forebears just as they find neo-traditional designs stimulating and rewarding expressions of modern lifestyles within historical forms.



Top Left: This contemporary remodel of a rambler on a horse acreage boasts new lines and forms that echo the majestic forest setting that surrounds.
Photograph by Mike Jenson Photography

Bottom Left: An upturned roof opens the living room to the sky and the tree canopy, with glimpses of the horse paddocks beyond.
Photograph by Mike Jenson Photography

Facing Page Left: A sensitive remodel redeemed a classic craftsman home previously targeted to be torn down. By cleaning up several previous haphazard remodeling projects and adding a wraparound veranda with a new trussed-gable entry porch, the home's character was restored and its unrealized potential was finally fulfilled.
Photograph by Northlight Photography Inc.

Facing Page Right: The arrangement of architectural details and interior appointments manages to engage guests in an intimate way that is surprising in such a large entry foyer. The soaring space is capped with a dramatic skylight and flanked by a split stair, adorned with custom metal railings and richly paneled wainscoting.
Photograph by Mike Jenson Photography





Mark Anderson, Mark Olason, Dennis Marsh and Mark Elster all trained in architecture at the University of Washington and are all AIA members. They met in the 1980s while working in the office of a prominent Northwest architect and soon discovered they had a mutual affinity for residential architecture. They so enjoyed collaborating that they started their own firm in 1986, adopting its current form in 1991 when Mark Elster was licensed and became the fourth partner. Beginning with multimillion-dollar projects in Hawaii and the Northwest, the firm rapidly developed a reputation for creating high-end residential architecture in a wide variety of styles with unusual attention to detail and extraordinary service. They also became known for their ability to foster highly effective and collaborative relationships with contractors, consultants, artisans and their clients.

None of the lofty goals AOME aspires to can be achieved alone. A cast of numerous dedicated individuals and companies contribute expertise, creativity, artistry, craft and hard work to each of their successful projects. The collaboration begins within—the principals, architects and designers work side by side throughout the design process. The same collaborative environment is extended to the contractors and craftsmen, the consultants, and ultimately, the client—the firm's most important partner. The client's desires and energy are the seeds that begin the process. While the Architect contributes new concepts and solutions, much of the time they simply guide and interpret. Discussions center on the nature of the project in the context of the neighborhood and community. Project systems are considered from

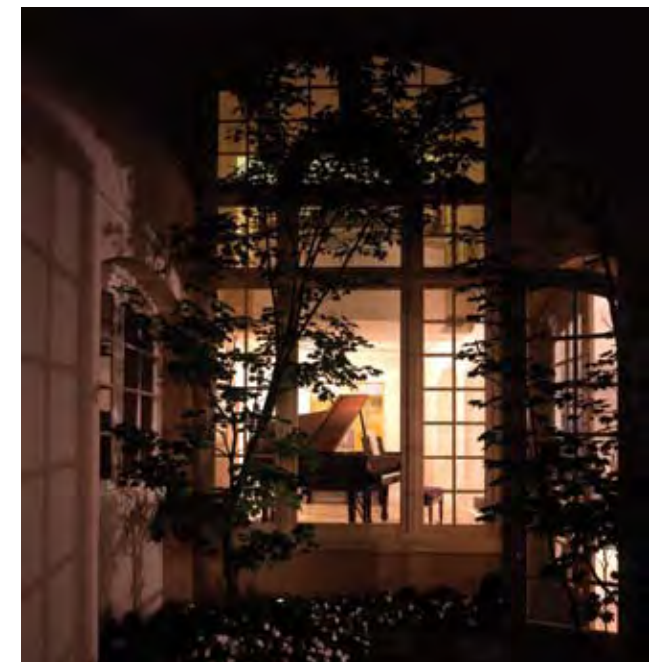


Top Right: Limestone and brick veneer combine with wood and limestone trim elements and a slate roof to lend this lakefront residence a traditional flair that suits the estate setting.
Photograph by Northlight Photography Inc.

Bottom Left: Simple forms, bold color and symmetry make this striking entry quite inviting.
Photograph by Mike Jenson Photography

Bottom Right: A quiet, secluded courtyard off the piano alcove produces a music all its own.
Photograph by Michael Shopenn Photography

Facing Page: In the Pacific Northwest, a mild climate and lots of gray days interspersed with idyllic sunny days demands an abundance of glass and accommodations for outdoor living. The carefully arranged terraces of this home extend the living areas out toward the shore of the lakefront setting.
Photograph by Mike Jenson Photography





an environmental and sustainability standpoint. Spaces are conceived and created with purpose and intent and material and finish choices, either ancient or new, are blended to reinforce the nature of the space. Details are considered that reflect the underlying premises of the design so that, upon completion, a unity is produced in the whole of the project, imbuing it with a sense of "rightness" that permeates throughout.

Just as each of AOME's clients is unique, so too is each project. There is no underlying belief that clientele should conform to the latest design trends or predilections of the architect. Indeed, the home will be the clients' to enjoy, to occupy, and to experience on a daily basis and must thus truly reflect their personalities, lifestyles and beliefs. Yet ultimately, AOME's projects are constructed to be enjoyed, admired and respected and to remain long after the client, and architect, are gone.

Above: East Coast architectural forms were carefully adapted to the setting of this Pacific Northwest farm estate.
Photograph by Northlight Photography Inc.

Left: Casually sophisticated interior spaces are suffused with light and warmth year round.
Photograph by Phillip Clayton Thomas

Facing Page: A sweeping veranda takes in the full breadth of the stunning territorial view beyond the pool.
Photograph by Northlight Photography Inc.

