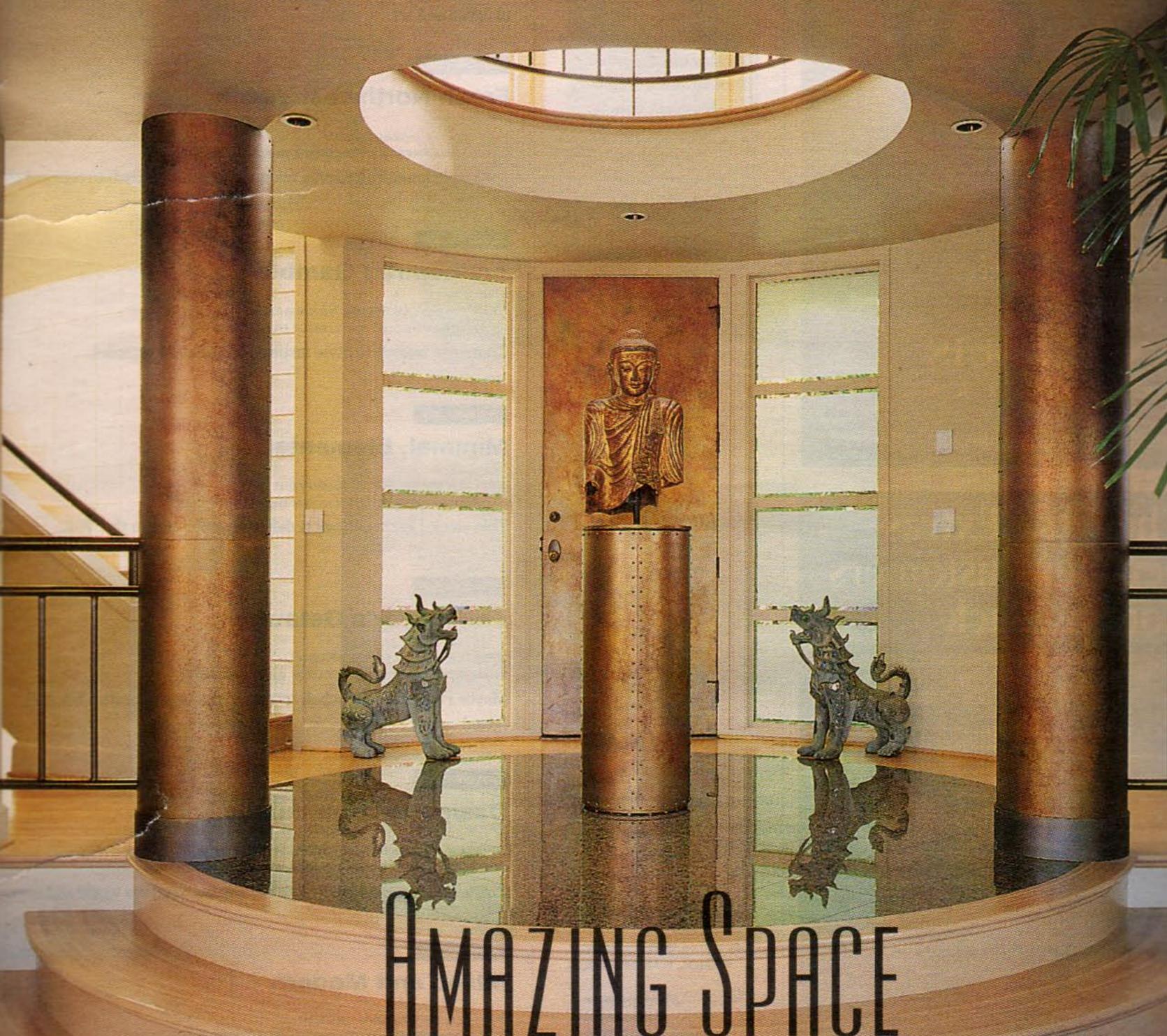
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NEWPORT SHORES: For art and children • BELLEVUE: Northwest style redefined • LESCHI: Modern

minimalism • CARNATION: Designing with wood • WHIDBEY ISLAND: The Schell garden

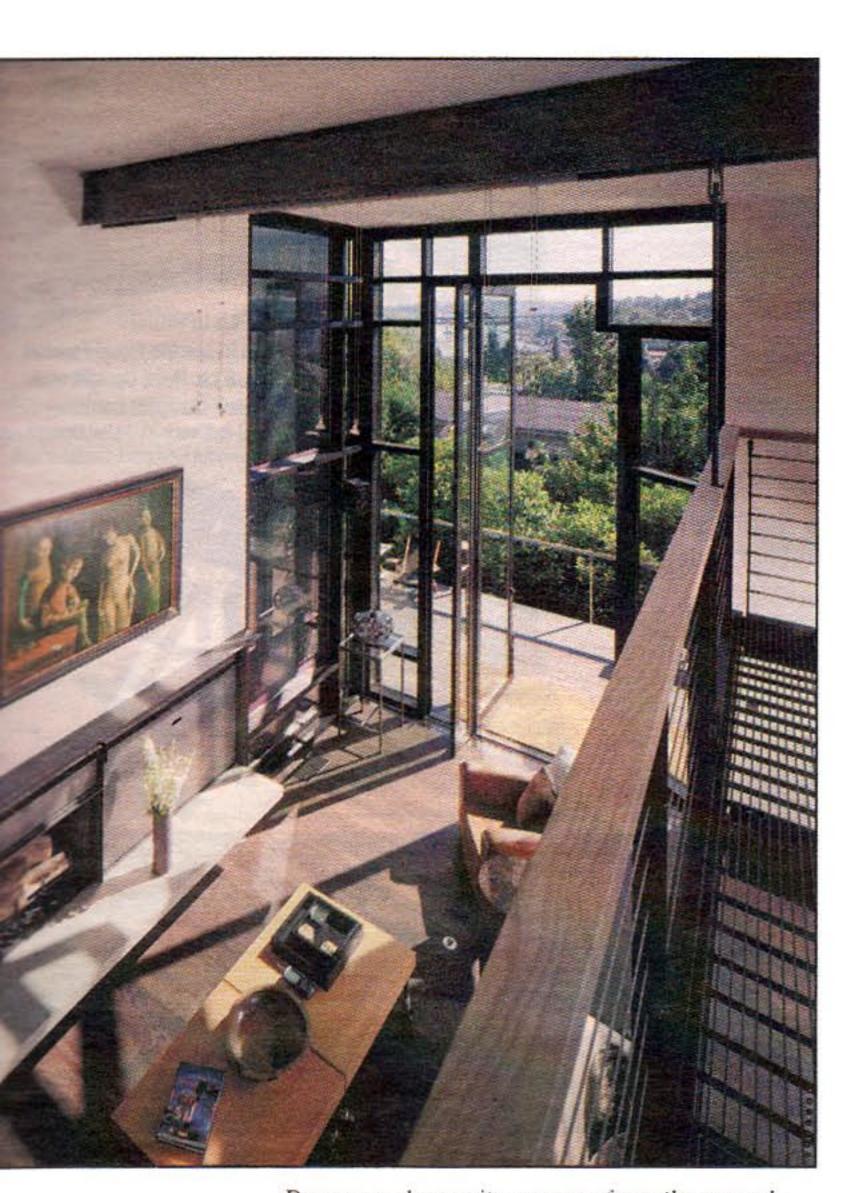
PLUS: Great home gyms and a striking Woodinville garden

'99 FALL
HOME
DESIGN

HOTOGRAPHED BY BENJAMIN BENSCHN

VINIMAL. ELEMENTAL.

A sleek Leschi hideaway sheds its '70s style



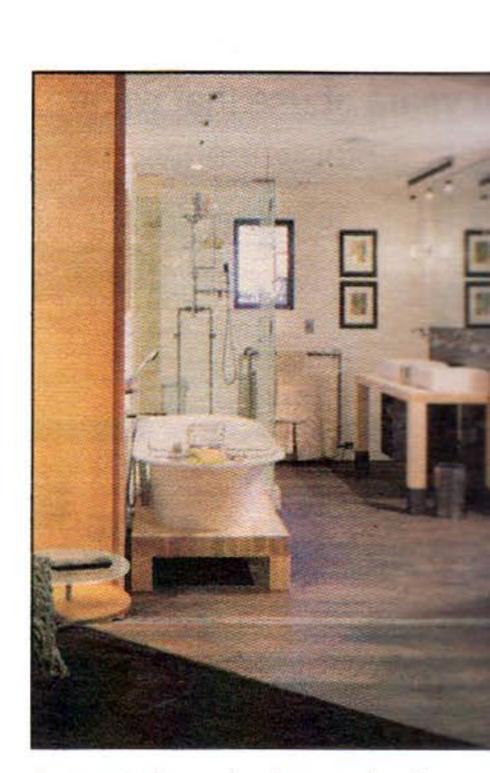
Drama and serenity, as seen from the secondlevel catwalk perch. Over the concrete hearth (fabricated by Dog Paw of Seattle), a provocative painting by Romanian Artist Georges Mazilu titled "Lise et Ses Copains" (or "Lise and Her Friends"). All is protected by exterior-mounted sunshades from EGE Systems, which are connected to the home's custom computer system. When the sun is intense, the black mesh screens lower automatically; when the wind whips, up they go. OMEN UNDERSTAND the power of restraint: Bold stain the lip, but refrain from doing both lest one creating imalist line. The same with jewels: a bold band of pread al, a diamond only if it's perfect and very, very lar run to black, white, constructed, few.

In such an ordered world, clutter — be it on the body or in the home — is thought to be best left elsewhere. It's a way of seeing the world and the things in it that requires a constant paring away of the extraneous. When done well, such style shines. When it's not, the result is pretentious.

Fortunately, three years spent thinking about how to transform a boxy, 1970s Leschi home into a stripped-to-thebones work of art paid off for one thirtysomething couple. Sleek and handsome, today the 1,800 square feet of main living space seems to reach out and embrace the sky. Inside, all is similarly elemental: raw concrete, raw steel, fine ash woods and metal-clad doors.

Open, connected, primitive, sensuous, extreme. A minimalist manor to lust for.

"We didn't want a bigger house, but the walls were getting in the way," said the female half of the couple, a compulsive reader of design mag-



In an act of everyday bravery, the clients of to have the main bathroom completely open to the second-level bedroom. The bath also to the 10-foot span of sliding floor-to-ceiled in the view corner of the bedroom. The sharectangular sinks are from Villeroy & Board as is the free-standing tub (both ordered all from a wholesaler in France). The maple tables are by Neu Woodworking. (The bath have a sliding door that disappears into the although the owners say they seldom use in