

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2010

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Architecture
Residential Design
New Urbanism
Green Building

LEW OLIVER CHOSEN AS DESIGNER OF COASTAL LIVING'S ULTIMATE BEACH HOUSE 2010

Coastal Living has chosen international designer and urban planner Lew Oliver as its 2010 Ultimate Beach House designer. The magazine has traditionally included multiple properties for this category, but the review committee was so impressed with Oliver's design, they made it this year's exclusive entry.

Located in the Pacific Northwest coastal town of Seabrook, Washington, the home integrates vernacular design elements of the Northwest Coast, and was designed to take full advantage of the surrounding environment. Built upon a foundation of board-formed concrete and roofed with wooden shingles, the cottage compound house is nestled within a stand of Pacific fir trees, its lines echoing the dramatic coastline it surveys. The compound is formed of a main house that takes advantage of the sweeping view, the guest cottage, and a single car garage, a deliberate departure from the multi-stalled suburban types common in the late 20th century. The front porch and upstairs balcony of the main house are cut directly into the subtly sweeping roof mass. Throughout the house, ribbon windows are oriented westward,

opening up stunning ocean vistas and maximizing the light unique to the region.

A drive-able piazza and pedestrian walkway curve toward the back of the compound. The house invites visitors inside through a subtle breezeway gate that gives way to a light and airy outdoor living room. Screened outside walls shield residents and guests from ocean winds when they gather around the outdoor fireplace. Inside, a grand kitchen island forms the social center for the composition. Open counters with ribbon windows relate the kitchen to the outdoor living room and built-in cupboards keep the area open and functional. The adjacent main dining area with its large table shares space with the living area sofa grouping arranged around a steel fireplace.

In addition to the detached guesthouse with angled windows situated at the rear of the property are guest accommodations on the ground floor of the main house, including a spa with a steam shower, sauna, and sunken hot tub. The upstairs opens onto a generous hallway with a secondary-stack laundry area, a bedroom with a private bath, and a deluxe master suite attached to a wide, west-facing balcony. The restful master bathroom is edged with ribbons of windows across the lavatory and shower edges.

The beach house is located in Seabrook on the Washington coast. Cottages are designed in the West Coast Arts and Crafts vernacular, updating Prairie and Craftsmen bungalow design elements found everywhere from Pasadena to Portland and Seattle. Bucking the national downward trend in the real estate market, Seabrook has experienced record sales despite the current economic downturn.

About the Designer

Lew Oliver, founder and CEO of Whole Town Solutions, is an award-winning designer and urban planner who has helped pioneer sustainable design in the U.S. and abroad, in particular, the usage of green space in constructed environments, including green streets and green alleys; alternate energy sources; and native plant stewardship. His latest projects include Lew Oliver NEST, a design framework for residential architecture in which small-footprint, sustainably-built vernacular structures support tightly-knit intentional communities. The designs feature advanced framing techniques, geothermal energy, edible landscaping, and other innovative design elements, all with the eventual goal of net-zero total consumption. The venture was recently designated as a part of the Department of Energy's "Build America" program and also adopted as a special project by the Southface Energy Institute. Oliver's work can be found in towns and communities across the U.S., including Rosemary Beach, Vickery, Clark's Grove, Lost Rabbit, and I'on. Current international projects include towns in Scotland, Ecuador, Canada, Panama, and Spain. He is the recipient of numerous national and international awards, including Designer of the New American Home for the National Association of Homebuilders (first Earthcraft national show house); projects that won two CNU Charter Awards, Designer of the Southern Accents Show House; nine Obie Awards; twenty-two gold and silver awards from the Greater Atlanta Homebuilders Association; and three Best in American Living (BALA) Awards, the most prestigious residential design awards in the U.S. His interior design work for the Grand Bohemian Hotel helped win the hotel the title of Westin's Best in Brand worldwide for five consecutive years, while his design work at

The Mansion on Forsyth Park, another one of his design collaborations with Gray Reese and The Kessler Enterprise, is a five-diamond hotel. He is Town Urbanist of Serenbe, a thousand-acre hamlet that is part of the nation's largest eco-community, which was named by *Cottage Living* as one of the top ten cottage communities in the U.S. His work has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *New Urban News*, *Architecture Week*, and many others.