

PNW

BAINBRIDGE

SPRING ISSUE 2025

yesterday, today, tomorrow

Painted *in Petals*

Soul Music

Silver Lining

Precious Peepers



Perfectly Pleasant

A Family Home for All Seasons

It's just three days before Christmas and the decorated tree is up. Indy and Toby, a couple of cats with backstories, wander in and out of the family room, while Cece, a characteristically lovely golden, cozies up on the couch to be near the conversation. The hush of low-hanging clouds, steaming cups of mint tea and the occasional nudge from Cece's muzzle, set the peaceful backdrop as Sue Entress recounts how she and her husband, Jeff, (and their three kids, Emma, Nick and Eva) found their way to their home on Pleasant Beach.

Sue said that getting to Bainbridge all began with her brother, Frank Renna. "He had already made the jump from New Jersey to the West Coast, saying something like, 'I'm burning rubber away from all of you.' And then one by one, my whole family followed suit," she said.

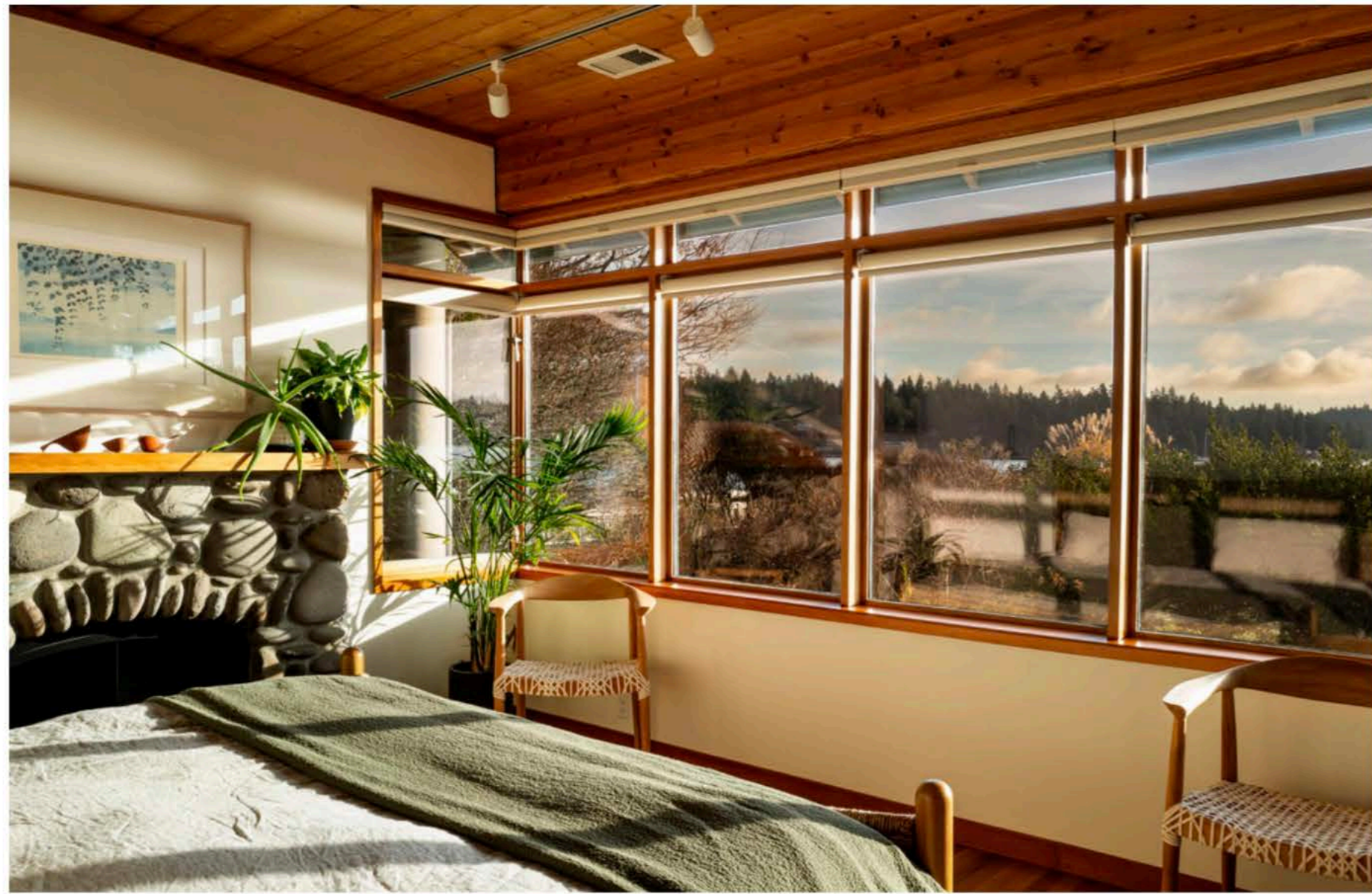
"I came out to visit Frank, and something clicked," she recalled.

"Bainbridge felt like the perfect place to raise kids—a small, tight-knit community that still had access to culture and the arts. As a graphic designer, that was important to me. I loved the idea of being close to art museums, but also able to be out on the trails and just breathe. Bainbridge had that balance."

So, after years living and working in New York City—and after Jeff completed law school in Michigan—Sue and Jeff decided to set down roots on the island, too.

Today, Entress' sister, Pam, lives in Seattle with her daughter, and Sue's parents live on the north end of Bainbridge. Frank, who notably holds the world record for the poorest job ever getting away from his family, lives on the south end with his wife, artist Ellen Wixted, and their three kids.

By Alli Schuchman
Photos by David Cohen



open up. You're surrounded by nature in a way I hadn't expected. I started to see its magic"

Sue said that slowly but surely, she fell increasingly in love with the home. "The way the light changed throughout the day, how the breeze moved through the rooms, how everything seemed to be perfectly placed to show off the landscape. It was a combination of the house, the view and the way life just felt more settled here. Now I can't imagine living anywhere else."

The home's more discreet aesthetic was also a departure for the Entresses. "I'd brought all my little English antiques from our old farmhouse," said Sue. "But they didn't quite fit the vibe of this place. They're still sitting out in the garage. But this house didn't need any of that; it had its own character."

Sue said that although they were able to afford the home, that

When the young Entress family first moved to Bainbridge, they lived in a little yellow farmhouse by Rolling Bay on Valley Road. Sue explained that Jeff dived headfirst into his career, working what seemed like endless hours. "There I was, with a baby and a toddler, feeling pretty lonely," she said. Soon though, she found a group for moms of young kids where she said she found human connection more than anything else.

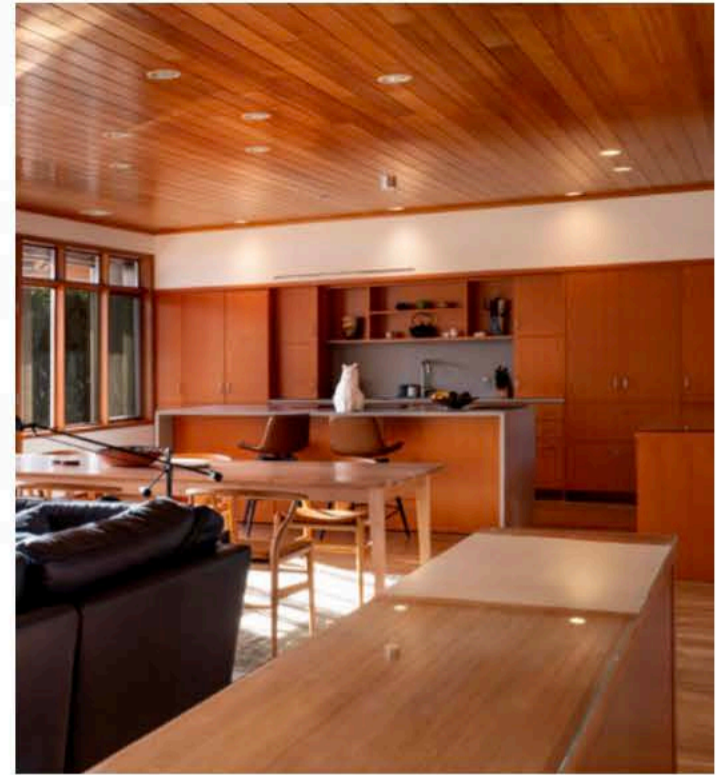
Sue began volunteering her graphic design skills for local nonprofits "just to get out and interact," she said. "I couldn't really commit to a regular job, but I ended up working with the Bainbridge Schools Trust (which later became the Bainbridge Schools Foundation) and did their annual reports for nearly a decade." Sue went on to work with BIMA, the Public Art Committee and the Bainbridge Arts and Crafts board, slowly becoming part of the fabric of the island's vibrant arts and humanities community. She also became heavily involved with BI Rowing, first as the mother of a rower, then as its marketing arm, then as a rower herself. "That's how I found my tribe, little by little," she said. "Bainbridge, with all its quirks, was exactly where we were meant to be."

As the Entresses settled into island life, Jeff quickly gave up practicing law and transitioned into venture capital, while Sue leaned into her nonprofit work. Despite many of the pieces falling into place, the couple always hoped to find a home on the water. "Every time something came on the market, we'd take a look," said Sue, "but it was always out of reach. The prices kept climbing and it felt like no matter how hard we tried, we could never quite afford it."

Then, in 2011, during a brief dip in the market, a Pleasant Beach house came up for sale. "Honestly, I wasn't sure. The property was breathtaking, but the house itself? The space didn't quite feel like home," said Sue. But the price was right, which was reason enough. And just like that, they were moving in.

Renowned Pacific Northwest architect James Cutler had designed the home, but his perspective was new to the couple. "When I first stepped into this house, I wasn't totally in love with it," Sue said. "At the time, I didn't appreciate it." For example, she explained that the window height felt low. "But when you sit down, the views just





was about it in the beginning. “We couldn’t even afford furniture in the house, so we just made do.” But after their kids made it through college, they had enough wiggle room and bandwidth to finally renovate the house.

Although Sue and Jeff wanted to make some changes, she said they loved and appreciated Cutler’s work and wanted to honor its design and the home’s exceptional and intricate craftsmanship. “We spent a lot of time going through books about him and making sure that what we did was what he would have done,” she said.

With a healthy idea of what they wanted, next was finding someone to do the work. The Entresses decided on Craden Henderson, owner and project manager at Zatera, to bring their long-awaited updates to life. Sue said Henderson was key in finding ways to execute the new design while balancing Cutler’s inspiration, plus bringing suggestions—and minimalist sensibilities of his own—to the project.

A major part of the redo included opening up the main living area that houses the kitchen, dining room and family room. “There were all these partitions,” explained Sue. “There was just a big wall across the front, and the back of it was a kind of a long pantry. The middle section was the kitchen, and then there was a little dining area, but you couldn’t see across at all.” Now a continuous room, the kitchen got relocated to one end and looks onto the big dining room table, (an important feature for hosting big gatherings of friends and Sue’s big Italian family) and beyond to

the stone fireplace at the other end.

For years after coming home from coaching and rowing in the frigid waters of Eagle Harbor, Sue would sit on the kitchen counter, soak her feet in hot water and gaze at the view onto Rich Passage. But since the home’s transformation meant the kitchen would be relocated, she requested a nook be built in its place in the middle of the sea-facing wall. Her daughter Emma, an architect, pointed out the window seat’s odd height, but Sue’s fond memories of the ritual won out. “It was a quirk, but the sun streams in right there,” she said, “and it’s such a nice spot.”

One challenge with the new and improved living area was working around the home’s wooden ceiling. It was vital that the runs of wood matched up from one end of the room to the other sans the partitions. Harris Fine Cabinetry took on much of the extensive woodwork—including the trim and doors—and the Entresses used Chris Mills of MillsWork to tackle the wood flooring, which, like the ceiling, had to dovetail together to painstakingly match Cutler’s work. “Even the guys working on the house said they’d never seen that level of carpentry,” said Sue.

The Entresses also reconfigured the end of the house where their bedroom is, taking over and enlarging the space that was previously a small office—which had also doubled as a bedroom—on the water side of the home, keeping the handcrafted stone fireplace intact.

Their former bedroom—which Sue described as having “a lovely view of the

garage”—became a study and now has a Murphy bed for when their kids are home or guests stay over. The bathroom was updated with modern finishes—a walk-in shower replaced the old bathtub—and the door to the closet was moved from their old bedroom into the hallway. On the opposite end of the home, the two other bedrooms got new finishes, as did the bathroom they share.

On the front side of the house is the freestanding garage as well as a little cottage from which Sue believes the original owner once ran a flyfishing shop. “It now has a bathroom and a little bedroom upstairs, so when my sister comes with her dog and her daughter, that’s where they stay,” she said.

From the back of the home, Puget Sound unfolds at the end of a long wooden walkway elevated on piers. “I just really became smitten with the idea of the house being a glass shelter, and the sense of being able to see right through it,” said Sue.

The entire home is right around 2,100 square feet, but since its renovation can easily host 20 or more people, which Sue said isn’t uncommon. Eva moved back after college, and Emma and Nick are often home too, with their significant others. Pam and her daughter are headed over later in the week and Sue’s parents and her brother and his family will convene there for Christmas.

It’s clear, that for the Entress home, the more the merrier isn’t just a theme reserved for the holidays.