



Urban Infill

Eager to move into the city, the clients wanted a home with sweeping views of Casco Bay, copious amounts of natural light, and easy access to nearby restaurants and cultural venues. After locating one of the few remaining vacant lots in the area, the clients hired Briburn to design their dream home. Working with the limitations of a small urban infill lot, the city's strict zoning ordinance and design standards, and a historic neighborhood concerned about losing its identity, Briburn worked to develop a home that blended modern living with traditional aesthetics.

The new four-story, energy-efficient, single-family home includes some unique features: a two-car garage located on the first floor, three bedrooms and a laundry room on the second floor, a large open-concept kitchen/dining/living area on the third, and a fourth floor that includes a mezzanine and a large outdoor rooftop deck for entertaining. Raising the public spaces to the third and fourth floors created an opportunity to capitalize on views of Portland's harbor and increase natural lighting. A staircase located in the middle of the north side of the home creates a vertical light shaft, bringing natural light into the center of the home. An elevator provides easy access to all floors.

The home is energy efficient, low maintenance, and extremely comfortable. Its walls are filled with dense-packed cellulose and insulated sheathing outside, with triple-glazed windows. The shifted volumes are purposeful, recessing the garage to reduce its visibility from the street, and opening the southwest corner to allow views and natural daylighting from the neighboring homes.



Architect: Briburn
Principal in Charge: Harry Hepburn
Project Manager: Lucas Greco
Builder: Rainbow Construction
Photographer: Irvin Serrano
Location: Portland
Completed: 2019