

# Assembly Required



*The wraparound porch adds more than 400 square feet to this 1,015-square-foot home. Turning the house plan 180 degrees gave the Brumenschenkels what they wanted - living rooms and a porch facing the view.*

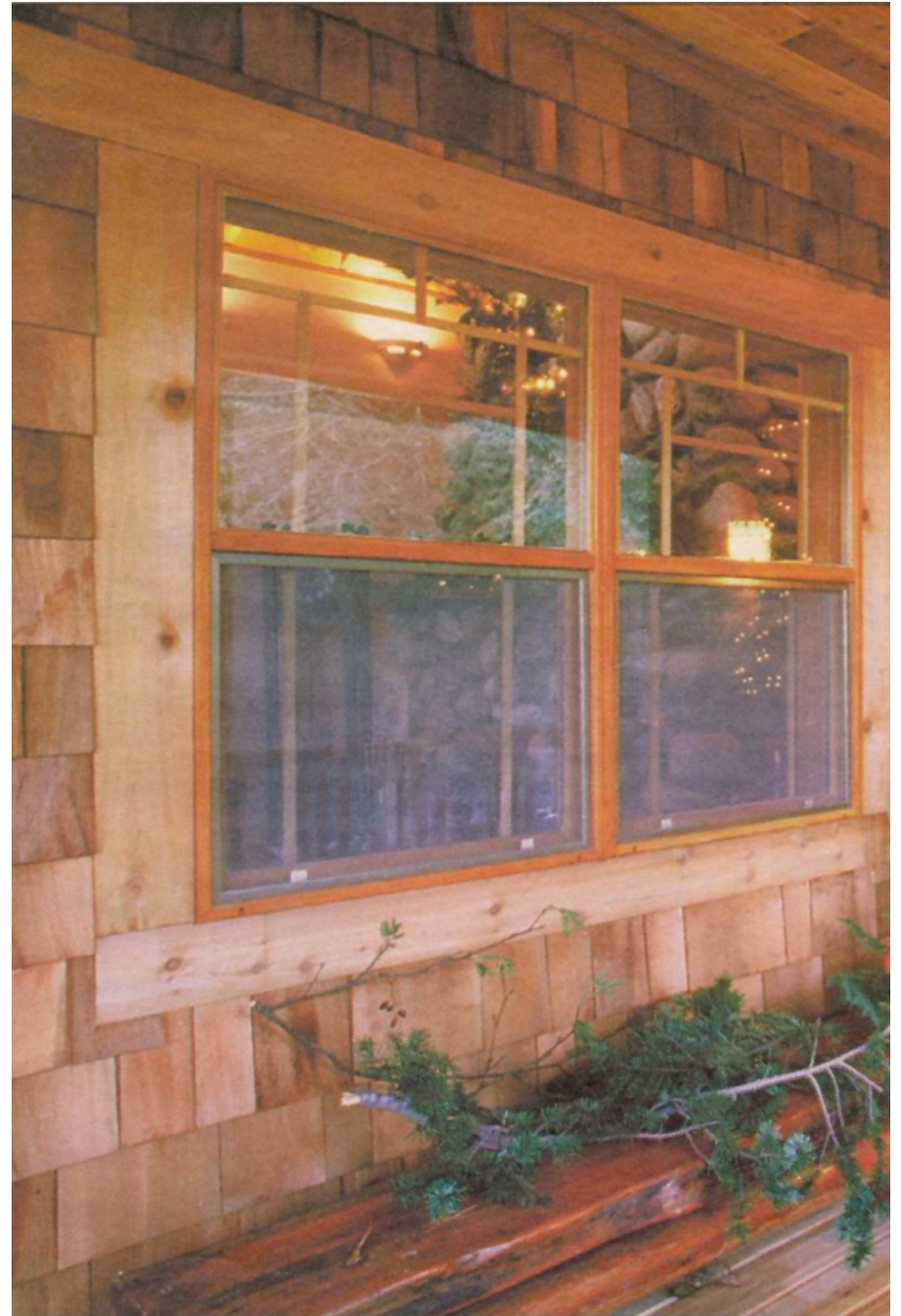
**R**ICHARD AND DIANE BRUMENSCHENKEL SIMPLIFIED their lives in a big way, moving from a 3,600-square-foot house on Lake Whatcom near Bellingham where they had raised three sons, to a 1,015-square-foot house they built themselves on Marrowstone Island near Port Townsend.

The time seemed right to step out of the fast lane. As a consultant in hospital and health-care project management, Richard oversaw projects from concept through construction. When work on a new hospital took him to Port Townsend, he and Diane, an emergency-room nurse, decided they liked the area and would move. They found a waterfront parcel just under an acre on nearby Marrowstone Island and purchased it in May 1995.

Then began the search for what to build. They had already narrowed their field with the decision to downsize, a desire for compatibility with the environment and the concept of using materials naturally occurring in the area. Richard briefly toyed with the idea of designing it himself. Diane started buying homebuilding magazines and catalogs for ideas. After a while, Richard recalls, "We got more and more comfortable with something from a catalog."

The advertisement that won them over was in the Dream Homes 1995 annual issue of Country Living. A perspective sketch and a floor plan of a house designed by Steven Duarte were accompanied by the following description: "The Fenwick, 1,015 sq. ft, 36' x 42' with 400 sq. ft. of deckspace.

"Based on turn-of-the-century arts-and-crafts homes, the compact cottage features a dramatically designed living room. Separated from the dining area by a freestanding fieldstone fireplace, the sunken living room is topped by a vaulted and beamed ceiling and is embraced by a breezy wraparound front porch. French doors in this room and in the adjacent master bedroom lead out to the porch. The kitchen is just steps ➤



*Cedar, salal, fir and pine cones frame the front entry door of the Brumenschenkel home.*