

overlooking ASTORIA



a classical house with an outstanding view



The first thing to admire is the view.
The second thing is the elegant wood crafting.

But those features in the Astoria house listed by broker Debra Bowe, of Windermere/Pacific Land Company, are just the beginning. Although the three-bedroom, three-bath home on .34 acre is 3,039 square feet large, it abounds in coziness. Poised on a hill overlooking the Columbia River, the home's breathtaking view sweeps from Rice Island and Tongue Point on the east to the Astoria Bridge on the west, with nothing to obstruct the scene.

"It's one of the finest views in Astoria," Bowe said.

Built in 1973, the mid-century modern home at 1550 Lexington Ave. was thoughtfully expanded and remodeled seven years ago by the owners, Astoria photographer Bill Lind and artist Gin Laughery. Local woodcrafter Ed Overbay, of Overbay Houseworks, supervised the project, constructed the built-in cabinets of clear and vertical fir and hand-fashioned a fireplace mantel and walnut breakfast bar so that the edges resemble the river's waves.

"They had a real vision in mind and a good captain to oversee the project," Bowe said.

From the double front door framed in quarter-sawn white oak with black walnut insets to the curved deck overlooking the river, Overbay's touch gives the home a classic Frank Lloyd Wright look that combines the comfort of the Pacific Northwest with a hint of Asian influence.

The open floor plan allows the cook in the kitchen to talk with guests chatting near the fireplace, sitting at the breakfast nook or enjoying a meal at the dining room table, all the while taking in the river view.

There's plenty of room to entertain on the deck, which wraps partially around the house and leads to stairs that descend to a Japanese garden. A fence with balusters of copper tubing borders the entire deck, which is built of lpe, a type of ironwood. Part of the deck is covered, providing protection on moist or windy days for cooking on the gas barbecue grill. At the end of the deck, next to the master suite, a hot tub awaits romantic evenings.

A Japanese tansu chest, which sits at the kitchen's entrance, acted as the inspiration for the Asian-flavored custom-designed kitchen cabinets and the dark green backsplash tile. Soapstone and marble counters provide ample room for cooking on the gas range.

Down the hall, the master suite includes a huge walk-in closet and a large bathroom with a roll-in shower featuring a river rock floor. The double-sink counters are limestone.

In the bedroom, skylights add a sense of height to the space, and a wall of windows and double glass doors opening to the deck provide more river scenery.

"You don't even have to get out of bed to enjoy the view," Bowe said.

A second bedroom, with a wall of built-in bookshelves, and a full bathroom are in the hall in the east wing, as well as a laundry room with a sink and built-in cabinets.

Downstairs, what once was a partially finished basement with a 1970s rumpus room has been turned into comfortable guest quarters and studio.

A sitting room with a double glass door opening out to the Japanese garden takes up the central area of the daylight basement. Adjacent to that is an office space used by Lind to process his large color prints, and down the hall, Laughery's printmaking studio overlooks the river. A bedroom – also with a river view – bathroom, wine storage area and sauna are on the same floor.

While the house would be comfortable for an individual or a couple, it also would fit a family, Bowe said. But the master suite, the oversized two-car garage and the artistic and craftsman-style details add a special quality to the home.

"It's a classic house," Bowe added. "These classical houses were very practical. But the owners remodeled it and added an addition that gives buyers what they expect in 2015."

...Tongue Point on the east to the Astoria Bridge on the west, with nothing to obstruct the scene. "It's one of the finest views in Astoria."