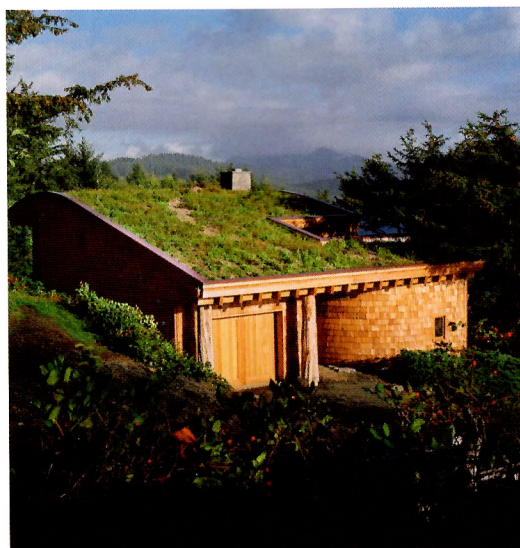


Designer Spotlight: Nathan Good

interview by Melissa Dalton
photos by Nathan Good



NATHAN GOOD, a Salem-based architect and former green building consultant, credits his passion for designing healthy homes to his roots on an Oklahoma farm, where resources were carefully managed. Today, his role as an architect doesn't stop with a building's design. "It also has to do with how the home is occupied," Good said. He shared his thoughts on the makings of a healthy home.



» What's a healthy home?

I have four key areas of interest—building materials, ventilation, radon and natural light. That's just scratching the surface. There are so many other things such as emergency preparedness and aging in place. It's a broad topic.

» Why is radon significant?

We have a risk for radon in the Northwest. Radon is an invisible, odorless [radioactive] gas that seeps out of the ground. Whether it's an existing home, an apartment, or a new home—it's all the same risk. It's extremely important for people to have their homes tested. If there is a high incidence, they need to mitigate it.

» What about ventilation?

We've learned how to create very energy ef-

ficient homes by sealing them up tightly. As a result, we're trapping pollutants inside. We have to ventilate our homes to get those pollutants out. Sometimes pollutants come about through furniture. Sometimes it's radon. And sometimes they come from things like dust mites.

» Did you say dust mites?

Yes. Dust mites can be a huge cause of respiratory problems. It's important that people wash their bedding once a week at 130 degrees Fahrenheit.

» Tell me about a healthy home that you designed.

Part of a healthy home is beauty and connection with nature. The Cannon Beach residence remains one of my favorite examples. Early on [in the design process], I look at images with

my client, and they tell me what they like. This couple had one image of a sand dune and they just loved that curve. That became one of the guiding metaphors for the design of the roof.

» Is there a story about the tree trunks?

They had six tree trunks that they had purchased before they hired me. They had them cut so there was a flare at the base, so they don't feel like logs, but have the feel of trees. They really like the feeling that their home is designed around trees.

» Why is connection to nature important?

There have been a lot of studies done on hospital patients. Those with a view to nature have much higher recovery rates. I believe it also applies to people in their homes. ■