



# TOM KUNDIG:HOUSES

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# HOT ROD HOUSE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
2001-2006

The Hot Rod House was designed by Tom and Jeannie Kundig for themselves. Their original house was a turn-of-the-century bungalow purchased years ago for its views and affordable price in the then working class neighborhood of Queen Anne with the idea of eventually "hot rodding" it: to build a new house on top of the existing foundations and structural walls, leaving many parts of the original house intact, and in the process turning an old jalopy into the envy of the neighborhood.

In many instances, experiments in new or seldom-used construction methods that were safely tested in previous projects are pushed to the limits at the Hot Rod House. The prefab parts and assemble-on-site idea employed at the Delta Shelter, because of its remote location, were used here because of the difficult, steep site. Another instance is the stairs, a daring experiment in the folding and welding of steel plates to gain structural integrity. Although this was first tested with the loft at The Brain Studio, The Hot Rod stairs goes much further in size and scope, rising three stories and becoming a structural component of the new house. The biggest coup, however, was to get approval for the stairs from the city's building department, which was wary from the drawings that the stairs could even stand on its own.

In 2006 Tom and Jeannie moved into the rebuilt house; however, the house continues to be a living laboratory, with new additions made and old parts tinkered with periodically, as inspiration strikes and budget allows.

