

East meets Northwest in Japanese-inspired studio-residence on the Olympic Peninsula

KARO THOM



CITATION

“It has a refreshing calmness”

Should an artist's studio be a strong architectural statement, or a more neutral place that permits artistic expression within it? The jury concluded that this pseudo-Japanese building in Port Townsend, Washington, succeeds as a space conducive to producing art.

The simple, 1,200-square-foot building is divided almost in half, with the studio at the rear and the kitchen, bath, and living space in front. Shoji screens divide the two spaces and also provide curtaining for windows. Upstairs, a sleeping loft tucks under the front part of the gabled roof.

Posts on piers support an engawa-like entry deck; the house itself rests on a perimeter foundation—appearing to sit lightly on its informally planted garden site. Architects: Michael Canatsey Associates for Karo and Milner Thom.

SUNSET