



The Madison Park houses are nearly identical inside but have traditional and individual facades, both to add architectural interest and to harmonize with their older neighborhood. Each has a two-car garage off an alley.

THIN GOOD LOOKS

Madison Park Houses

Seattle's Madison Park neighborhood

Architects: Peter Stoner and Scott Vajda
of Peter Stoner Architects

Builder: Fradkin-Mittendorf Fine Construction

Construction cost: \$400,000 per unit

THE INTENT: Most new skinny houses are tall, narrow living spaces stacked over garages. On a single vacant lot in Madison Park, the architects wanted instead to design two near-identical, for-sale homes that would blend comfortably into their classic, older Seattle neighborhood and that — most definitely — wouldn't look like twins. Each is 2,850 square feet, has four bedrooms, four baths and an open kitchen/dining/living area offering Cascade Mountains views. "Even though these are skinny houses, we tried to give some modulation and create open spaces so they don't feel like a series of small rooms," says Vajda. High-quality finishes, including varied hardwoods and tiles, add character to each house. The judges gave this project high marks for street appeal — besides differing facades, the garages are tucked away in the alley — and for socially responsible use of space. Said one: "They could have done one megahouse in this neighborhood and sold it for \$2 million; it's interesting philosophically that they decided to do this instead."