

# OLSON KUNDIG ARCHITECTS

For Immediate Release:

## Olson Kundig Architects wins World Architecture News' 2010 House of the Year Award

Olson Kundig Architects defined by judges as  
“masters of their craft”



**The Pierre**

© Dwight Eschliman (left); Benjamin Benschneider (right)

**Seattle, WA: February 17, 2011** - **Olson Kundig Architects** is excited to announce that the Pierre has won the World Architecture News' 2010 House of the Year Award. Designed by Tom Kundig, FAIA the Pierre was selected from over 135 residential projects from around the world. “We could not be more excited and, frankly, humbled that the Pierre received this award. The design and construction of this project was a deeply memorable and important experience in all of our careers,” said Kundig.

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The Tom Kundig-designed Shadowboxx was also one of the five shortlisted projects for the House of the Year award. WAN News reported, “for a practice to have one project win and another added to the shortlist in the same category, let alone the same region is highly unusual, leading Olson Kundig Architects to be defined by the judges as ‘masters of their craft’.”

World Architecture News (WAN) is the world's leading supplier of news to the global architectural community, receiving over 9 million page impressions a month. The WAN Awards are their international award program celebrating excellence in design, receiving around 750 submissions spread over six categories. The longlist for House of the Year is one of the most commented upon pages on WAN. The Pierre, which was featured as a Project of the Week on the WAN website, received positive remarks from users even before the panel met. WAN News reported that “readers doted on The Pierre by Olson Kundig Architects, calling it ‘an absolute delight’ and ‘magnificent work’, comments that were echoed by our experts who found the design to have ‘a kind of timelessness’. Juror Alison Brooks elaborated: “The response of the architect to the context transcends style and becomes a type of exercise, kind of like writing an essay or a novel.... The project reads as a whole and that intensity and clarity come through very strongly.”

Conceived as a retreat nestled into the rock, the Pierre (the French word for stone) celebrates the materiality of the site, located in the San Juan Islands. From certain angles, the house—with its rough materials, encompassing stone, green roof, and surrounding foliage—almost disappears into nature.

Tom Kundig, FAIA an owner and principal of Olson Kundig Architects, led the design of the project. “The Pierre is a modern house exploring traditional site and building strategies,” said Kundig. “In the spirit of using available materials on the site, like a log or sod home, we took a natural object from the site – the rock – and repurposed in the building of this home.” Excavated rock from the construction was used in the concrete, terrazzo floor, road bed to the house and a carport, as well as shaping the remaining rock into walls, ceilings, hearths and sinks.

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In addition to the architecture, Olson Kundig Architects' Interiors Studio collaborated with the client on the interior design of the home. Schuchart/Dow Construction was the contractor.

## **About Olson Kundig Architects:**

Olson Kundig Architects is an architecture firm based in Seattle, Washington, and led by four owners: Jim Olson, Tom Kundig, Kirsten R. Murray, and Alan Maskin. The 85-person office specializes in a range of projects both nationally and internationally, including new and renovated residential projects, particularly for art collectors; mixed-use buildings; academic and civic projects; museums and exhibit design; cultural centers; places of worship; urban design; and interior design. The firm received the 2009 Architecture Firm Award, awarded by the American Institute of Architects.

For additional information, please visit [olsonkundigarchitects.com](http://olsonkundigarchitects.com)

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