

We hope that you are enjoying a lovely summer!

Featuring: House as a System

What is "house as a system"?

The short answer: everything works together.

In the past, we thought of houses as their separate components--windows and doors here, heating systems there, bath fan in the bathroom.

As we focus more and more on healthy homes, indoor air quality and energy efficiency, we need to think of our homes as systems--that a change to one part affects the whole.

An example is insulation and air sealing. As the home is sealed more tightly and the insulation is increased, the size of a new heating system can be reduced.

Here's another example: If a new kitchen hood is installed, the amount of air it removes can affect the operation of the furnace or whole house ventilation system by taking out too much air. Thinking about how it all works together and making sure it operates in balance will help things working smoothly.

Further reading located [here](#) and [here](#)

How else does systems thinking help?



master bath with locally made cabinets

News:

Admiral New Baths project completed:

This spring we completed a lovely remodel in West Seattle. The kids' bath was completely updated, including refinishing the tub in-place and installing an energy-efficient operable window, plus lots of fun finishes and fixtures. We reconfigured the master suite, which includes an elegant new bathroom. [Ventana Construction](#) built this project with careful attention to detail.

Phased project planning.

If you are thinking of making incremental changes to your home or place of business over time, a master plan that takes the whole picture into account can help. It documents "the big picture" and organizes and strategizes your resources so they are wisely invested over time.

Live-work-play often helps people with master planning. We create a plan informed by the owner's values so they can visualize their goals effectively while paying attention to cost.



Walkable, Livable Communities

Sheri Newbold along with her Guild colleagues Jim Burton and Justin Fogle, continue their work on increasing Seattle's housing options. We took part in a Seattle Design Commission retreat this spring, and start public presentations soon.

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