LOTS TO THINK ABOUT

SITES THAT ARE EITHER VERY NARROW OR VERY WIDE REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO GET THE HOME DESIGN JUST RIGHT

By Susan Bady, Senior Editor

Home builders who focus on infill construction are likely to encounter lots that are either narrower or wider than the norm. The parameters that apply to designing for conventional lots—contextual scale, views, privacy, natural light, garage placement, outdoor space—become more critical when a site is 40 feet wide or less, or as wide as 95 feet. We asked a group of top architects and designers for solutions that maximize curb appeal and livability.

WIDE AND SHALLOW, NO. 1

Troy Clymer, VP of Architects Northwest, in Woodinville, Wash., designs about 20 houses a year for Merit Homes, an infill builder that's based in Kirkland, Wash. The builder

On the shallow side of this 3,922-square-foot home, small, narrow first-floor windows provide natural light and privacy. The master suite is at the rear facing a 30-foot backyard. A short flight of steps provides a sense of separation from the children's bedrooms. Architects Northwest designed the home for Merit Homes, Seattle.