

Chico Beach Cottages

A New Concept Enhances a Waterfront Lifestyle

Located just south of Old Town Silverdale's colorful historic downtown, yacht basin and active waterfront park, Chico Beach Cottages overlooks salmon inhabited Dyes Inlet with a stunning backdrop of the Cascade Mountains and ever present Mount Rainier. The one-of-a-kind design concept for this intimate community of seven homes has its roots in the historic bungalow courts, treasured for their cozy scale and friendly sense of community. However, The Cottage Company and Wenzlau Architects have sensitively created the Chico Beach pocket neighborhood community with a new twist - a waterfront lifestyle experience.

A Lifestyle Neighborhood with Colorful Gardens

Chico Beach Cottages has been designed to enhance a small scaled, pedestrian oriented, beach resort lifestyle. The clustered garages are placed off to the side, out of sight and out of mind, thereby allowing a richly landscaped garden courtyard to share center stage with the beach and Dyes Inlet waters. The colorful courtyard, filled with coastal golden and variegated grasses and aromatic flowering perennials, opens to the panoramic view of the blue water, sparkling waves and Cascades beyond. A weaving path through the grasses leads to an open lawn with a shared fire circle "hearth" and sun-bathing gazebo overlooking the ever-changing beachfront.

At the heart of the community is the Commons Building – the shared "living room" for personal interest gatherings, extended family stays or fun community events. Each cottage is surrounded by its own private garden, allowing residents to engage nature, smell the earth and get a little dirt under their fingernails. Within the front yard is a generous covered patio off the living area for year-round outdoor living. Each home's private gardens take on a delightful exuberance to express the personality of each resident, while adding color, fragrance and variety to the community.

The Re-Invented Cottage

Each cottage is an architectural gem - unique as the waterfront site itself – offering all the modern amenities of an open-plan detached residence, with the added benefits of shared community living. Each modestly-sized home lives large yet insures privacy because of the careful placement of windows and light, space and volume, making the most of each room. Each home's floor plan is oriented with large windows to provide views to the water from all floors without any compromise of privacy.

The charming character of the homes recalls older mid-century beachfront retreats with their low-slung pitched roof lines, expansive horizontal windows, and indoor-outdoor covered porches with Adirondack chairs and gin rummy card games. The warm, light-colored interiors have vaulted wood-panel ceilings drawing in abundant natural light and the sun's glowing warmth. The aesthetic style is casual elegance with dark-stained wood floors and abundant white painted cabinets and built-ins with panel doors and custom millwork throughout. Each cottage has a special "quiet getaway" study loft or tower reminiscent of a ranger station fire tower with 360 degree views establishing a sense of place.

Great Collaboration and "Going the Extra Mile" Sustainability

The Chico Beach pocket neighborhood carries on the tradition of the environmentally sound, well-crafted designs that are the hallmark of The Cottage Company, and is the second collaborative effort with Wenzlau Architects. Together, the Cottage Company and Wenzlau Architects developed the first cottage community on Bainbridge Island, the Ericksen Cottages, in 2003.

Chico Beach Cottages will be certified with a BuiltGreen – 4 Star and Energy Star rated. The third-party-verified ratings offer beyond-code-minimum energy conserving features, special attention to indoor air quality and responsible environmental stewardship. A life at Chico Beach Cottages offers homeowners the chance to reduce their footprint on the environment and make some new ones of your own in the sand.

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