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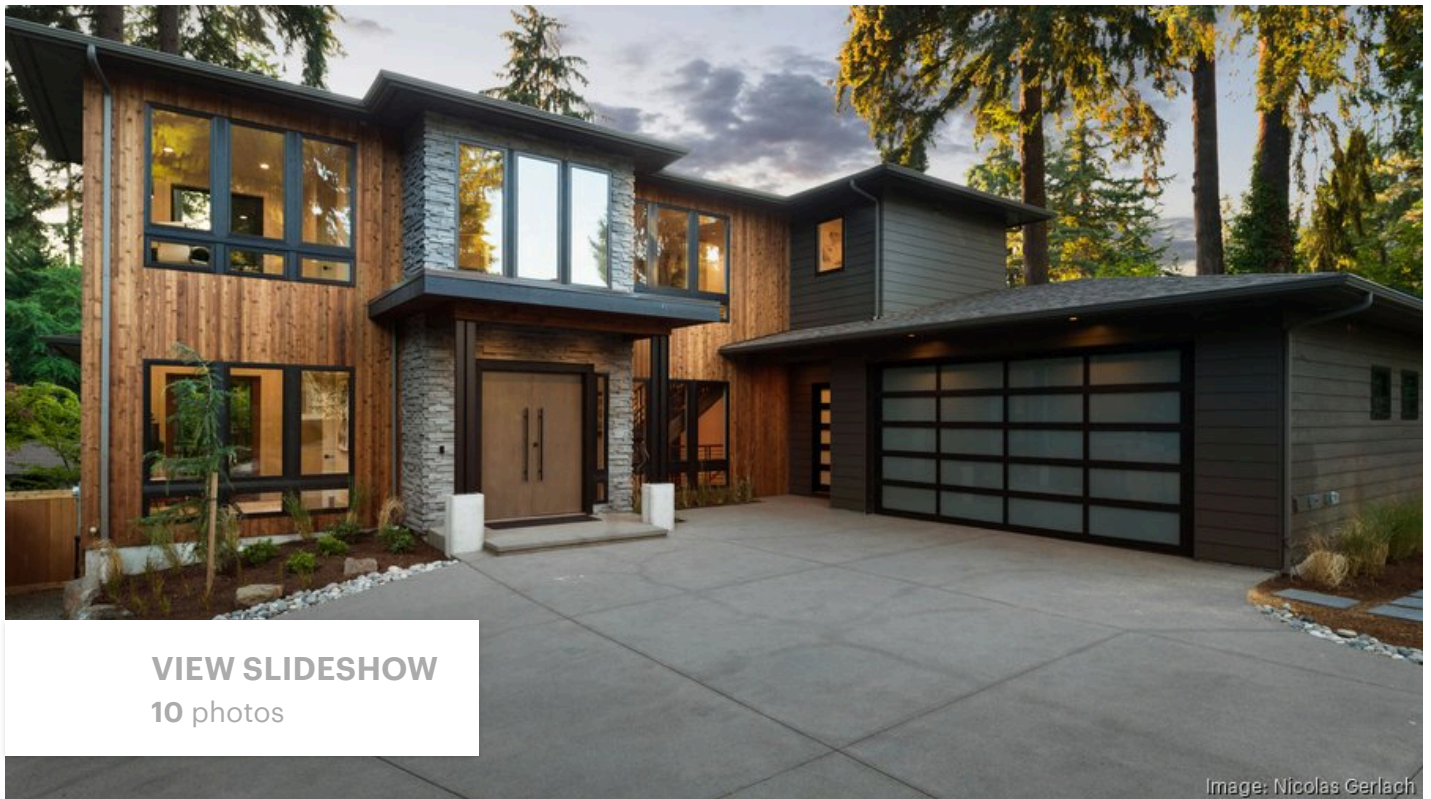
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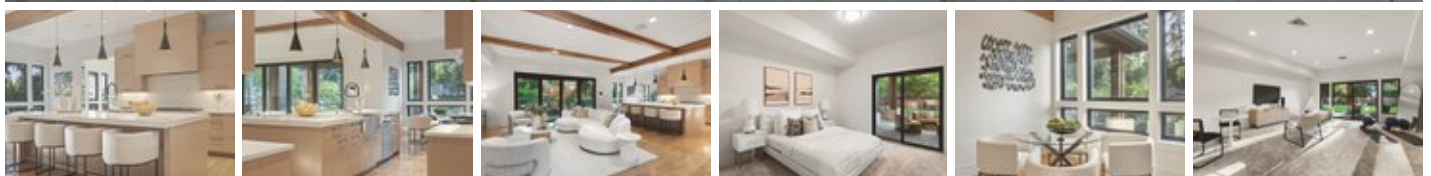
Residential Real Estate

## Microsoft engineer flips homebuilding hobby into luxury listing in Bellevue



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Image: Nicolas Gerlach



Construction on this 6,700-square-foot Bellevue home was completed earlier this year.



By [Shawna De La Rosa](#) – Reporter, Puget Sound Business Journal  
Aug 30, 2024



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A longtime [Microsoft](#) engineer has listed a new home in Bellevue's Enatai neighborhood Friday for \$7.5 million.

The 6,700-square-foot speculative development at 1643 103rd Ave. SE was named The Nest by its developer, Alex Raizman, due to the property's privacy.

Raizman, a Microsoft engineer for the past 26 years, included custom touches throughout the three-story structure. For example, an electric car charger can easily be added without ripping up the garage, he said.

"As we went through the building process, I selected details that I would want if I were building it for myself," he said. "I also made the house adaptable so that it could easily be customized to the new homeowner."

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Raizman designed enlarged hallways and doorways and put a shower in a secondary primary bedroom on the main floor. Other touches include a space for a built-in vacuum system, as well as a space that can be transitioned into a wine cellar.

"It doesn't make sense to invest in something like a wine cellar or built-in vacuum system if the buyer isn't going to use it, but by doing a little pre-planning we can set it up so the changes can be easily implemented," he said.

Raizman purchased an existing home on the property in 2022 for \$2.3 million. The construction costs for the overhaul were not disclosed.

The six-bedroom, six-and-a-half-bathroom home has a daylight basement that opens to nearly a half-acre of land.

This is the third home that Raizman has developed and his second that he specifically built to sell. In addition to his own home, he also developed a home at 989 100th Ave. SE in Bellevue, which sold for \$5.9 million in 2021.

“This all started because my wife and I were looking for a home in Bellevue in 2013, but I was frustrated with the state of real estate at the time,” he said. “It was all either too expensive to buy something new, or so old that it needed too much work.”

He decided to buy a tear-down and build his own. He enjoyed the process so much he turned the homebuilding process into a hobby that he hopes will also generate some income.

“It is a hobby at this point, but I find several aspects of the process interesting,” Raizman said. “I enjoyed learning to operate the excavator, for example. Developing homes also exposes me to the business side of things. Prior to this, as an engineer, I didn’t have much experience with that. But as the developer of these homes, I am the one who will make it or break it.”

In addition to Raizman, the development team includes architect Tim Olson, general contractor Jeff Ireland, interior designer Helen Smythe and Gerhard Ade, the listing agent with RSVP Real Estate and the team's branding expert.

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