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At the same time, any disadvantages can be evaluated, and if necessary attention diverted away; for instance, a particularly unattractive neighboring house (you know who you are!) or busy or unbecoming street exposure.

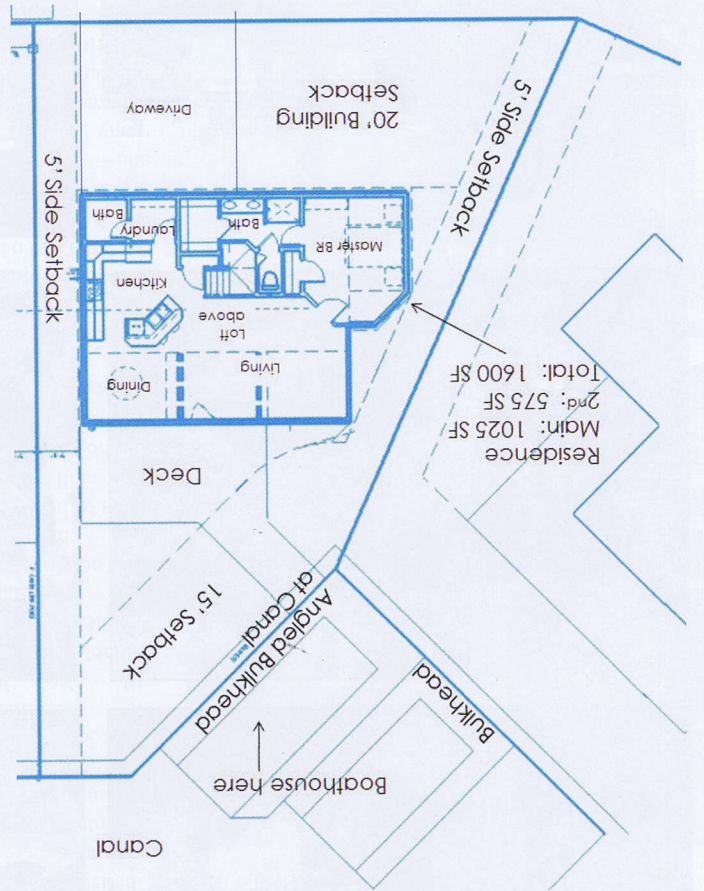
CAD 3D software adds immeasurably to the design and visualization process, though I still start most plans with pencil and paper sketches! The rooms are like building blocks that must fit into the confines of the lot as prescribed by the survey plat and defined setbacks. The design moves on into the CAD realm and then construction drawings when a satisfactory conceptual plan has been defined relative to the client's wishes.

The resulting shape may very well present a staggered building line, which can sometimes be utilized to ensure views from different angles within the home, giving it extra interest and providing more natural light. The addition of porches and decking to these offsets can incorporate

private decks for bedrooms, and tucked away spots to hide exterior air conditioning units. Covered porches add interest and style, and also shield the house and its doors and windows from the hot sun's western exposure, and provide protection from inclement weather.

Windows are so important in bringing our beautiful outside environment in, and every I offset provides yet another opportunity to frame and enjoy those views. The view is often the most important consideration; take advantage of this feature that makes your lot priceless!

Seaside Home Design, LLC endeavors to educate Islander readers regarding a full spectrum of home design and construction issues; products and materials, and construction techniques; particularly those specific to seaward construction, and also profiles interesting custom-home design projects. Carolin Santangelo is a home designer and owner of Seaside Home Design, LLC. Contact SeasideHome@windstream.net, or 409-632-0381, or visit www.SeasideHomeDesign.com.



Boothouse here