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Boldly upholstered seating in this Portland living room is an extension of interior design firm Penny Black's audacious style.

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Photographed by
CHRISTOPHER DIBBLE



ABOVE: The communal buildings at the Camps at Coos Bay Lagoon, designed by R&A Architecture + Design with associate architect McSwain & Woods Architects, are inspired by their surroundings: the roofs not only aid in rain dispersal and wind protection but also mimic the slopes of nearby sand dunes. **OPPOSITE:** Situated between the camping area and waterfront, each new wood-and-glass structure has large windows that take advantage of sweeping natural views.

MODERN GLAMPING

Written by **RACHEL GALLAHER**

THE TERM “RV PARK” LIKELY BRINGS TO MIND ROWS OF TRAILERS LINED UP ON CONCRETE PADS, NOT STREAMLINED MODERN STRUCTURES AND SWEEPING COASTAL VIEWS. But architect Christian Robert, principal and co-founder of R&A Architecture + Design (with offices in Portland and Culver City, California), has flipped the script on that preconceived notion with the Camps at Coos Bay Lagoon. Positioned on a 103-acre wedge of seaside land in southern Oregon, the project is on track to become a luxury vacation compound with 188 traditional RV campsites, 14 cabins, a communal pavilion containing a dining hall, mercantile, a clubhouse, and posh amenities such as a heated pool and a bar.

“There’s a very outdated stereotype of RV parks,” Robert says, “that they’re very utilitarian and spare. Maybe there’s a little patch of grass or some picnic tables, but you wouldn’t call them beautiful or well designed.” »

“The sloping roofs of the communal buildings have a very functional purpose—they provide wind protection and shed rain quickly—but we also chose angles because they suggest the topography of the sand dunes in the area.”

—CHRISTIAN ROBERT, ARCHITECT





The Camps at Coos Bay aims to model a new kind of recreational space. Slated to open in July (with work by Nishkian Dean Structural Engineers and Path Construction), the compound is located on property that served as a lumberyard and mill until the 1970s. Rather than gloss over the site's history, Robert purposefully drew upon it when designing the communal pavilion. Conceived as four rectangular blocks pulled apart and angled to take advantage of beach views (and provide wind protection), the pavilion buildings are wrapped in charred cedar skin, while the interior ceilings are exposed two-ply decking with glulam beams—both material choices nod to the local timber industry. Eschewing the grid-like arrangement standard at most RV parks, Robert took inspiration from the surrounding lagoon as he created clusters of cabins and campsites set in an archipelago that flows organically toward the beach. “Across the campus, we wanted to create places where people could easily meet and interact—those are draws in traditional RV parks, too. But we wanted them to feel elevated, modern, and smartly designed.” ✱

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Inside the communal dining room, blonde-toned ceilings and floors add lightness to the interior palette, and wood-framed doors slide open for a seamless indoor-outdoor experience. Smaller structures around the central pavilion are reminiscent of historic seaside cabins. The Camps at Coos Bay is located on a wedge of waterfront land in southern Oregon. Modeled after an archipelago, the campsites are linked by numerous walking trails that lead to a private beach.