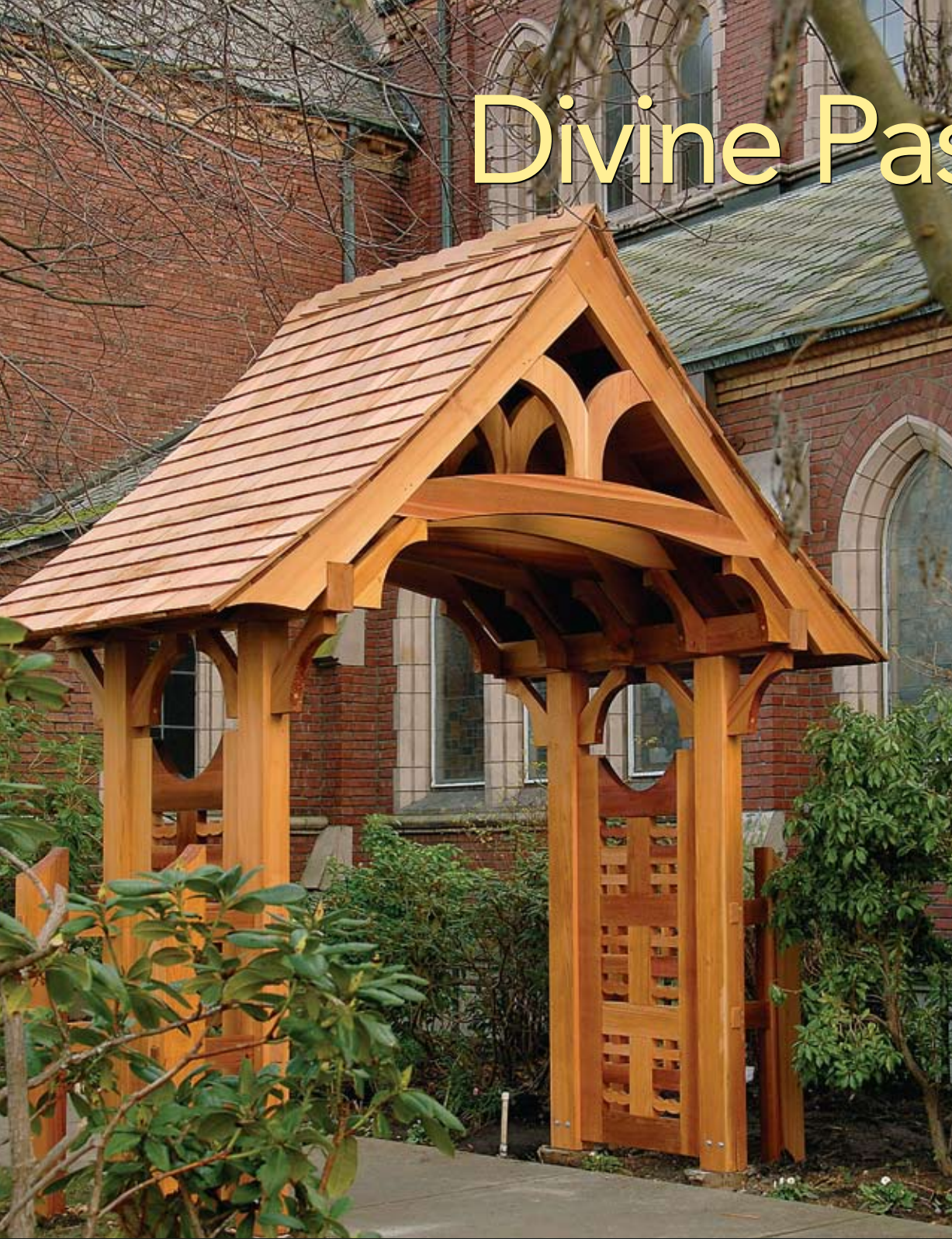


Divine Passage



Seven years ago, Dieuwertje (Dita) von Aesch combined her artistic abilities and her love of wood to begin a journey from chef to fine-furniture maker. It was her passion for nature, however, that inspired her to begin designing and constructing outdoor structures, gates, and passageways.

In 2008, von Aesch won the Silver CARE Award for excellence in design/build from the Canadian Home Builders' Association for the Epiphany passageway she created and installed for St. John the Divine Anglican Church in Victoria, B.C.

Believing that transitions need to be marked by structures of beauty and substance, von Aesch built this passageway to the church's courtyard using traditional mortise-and-tenon joinery. The slight curves incorporated into the structure's side panels, rooflines, and each of the five rafters soften the welcome and reflect the shape of the neo-Gothic church's windows. After planing and sanding clear western red cedar, von Aesch applied Naturhaus (www.naturhaus.net/en), an environmentally safe oil-based finish that protects the cedar but allows its natural beauty to shine through.

—Maureen Friedman

To learn more about the Epiphany passageway and Dieuwertje von Aesch, visit her Web site at www.victoriawoodstudio.com.

Design and construction: Dieuwertje von Aesch, Victoria Wood Studio, Victoria, B.C.

Photographs: Spicer Photographics

