

MOVATO HOME PRESENTS Vancouver HOME

DESIGN • ARCHITECTURE • LANDSCAPE • LIFESTYLE

SUMMER ISSUE

BACKYARD BLISS

A pavilion designed for family fun

COTTAGE COUNTRY

Snowbirds head for the Okanagan hills

BEACH TIME

Coastal decor in a North Shore waterfront home

CANDICE OLSON



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I VIVIDLY RECALL the day I returned home from work to see the fresh coat of varnish on the floors throughout the second storey of my house. My husband and I were in the midst of a renovation of our Edwardian home. The floors were among the last finishing touches.

My heart sank when I noticed that our renovator had applied a matte finish to the wood flooring. I had wanted a gloss surface. “Did you tell him you wanted gloss?” my husband asked me. I hadn’t. Although my husband and I had been hands-on throughout the renovation process, I had failed to express my preference for glossy wood floors to the person who most needed to know that I had a preference for glossy wood floors.

A lot can go wrong during a renovation or new build when there’s a failure to communicate, and I learned that lesson that day. While the situation was mitigated – the next coat of varnish applied was glossy – I learned that good communication ensures that we get the renovations we envisage.

In this issue, we profile several homes that are just what the homeowners wanted. Their secret? Open communication with their builders, architects and designers. Regular dialogues and site visits enabled the homeowners to tweak their plans as they discovered what they wanted.

I often think of a renovation as a work of art in progress. We fine-tune things as we proceed, and keeping an open line to the people who execute our requests makes everyone happy in the end.

Also in this issue, because it’s summer in Canada, we venture outdoors to look at some lovely landscapes. I am smitten with the pavilion that designer Negar Reihani created for a West Vancouver family. It is the ultimate backyard lifestyle space for al fresco summer living. And because we’re now thick into the gardening season, we show you an inspiring garden, which is beloved by the homeowners who commissioned it.

As with interior design and construction, great landscapes are created when communications are open between homeowners and their garden designers.

It’s important to remember open dialogue when we tackle any home – or garden – improvement project. Even if we’re just varnishing floors.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie".

STEPHANIE WHITTAKER

Editor-in-Chief

stephanie@movatohome.com

p.s. There are several ways you can stay in touch with us:

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JANE AUSTER

Contributor Jane Auster was particularly struck by the power that serendipity played in changing the life of multi-media artist Steven Nederveen. His wrong turn into a community centre full of finger-painting pre-schoolers instead of his own elementary school changed his young life forever. Jane, with some four decades of professional writing experience and an interest in design and renovation, says she is particularly drawn to Steven Nederveen's use of colour and his evocation of West Coast scenes and moods.



DIANA BECKER

Diana Becker, who styled a contemporary Capilano home for this issue, established a Vancouver design firm during the 1980s and is known for having founded a French culinary school. Recently, she has expanded her art consulting and curating. Diana says she was impressed with the home she styled for this issue. "It was meticulously renovated," she said. "It is well proportioned and fits into the quiet landscape. The furnishings are minimal and contemporary classic pieces. What I appreciated was the rapport between the builder and the client. It served them both well."



EMA PETER

Vancouver photographer Ema Peter has worked with some of the largest architectural and interior design firms in North America in the past nine years, winning international awards. She photographed three of the homes in this issue, including one "that has some of the greenest technologies." Ema also turned her lens on a beach home, designed by Janet Scagel. "I have photographed quite a few of Janet Scagel's projects and have seen her attention to detail and understanding of clients' needs. She manages to adjust her designs every time to fit with her clients' lifestyles."



NEGAR REIHANI

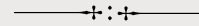
For this issue, designer Negar Reihani styled the stunning backyard pavilion she designed for a West Vancouver family. As principal designer with Space Harmony, Negar creates timeless and elegant interior design that evokes a broad range of sensibilities and reflects the tastes and lifestyles of her clients. Negar, who began her career in graphic design, has been nominated for Georgie awards and her work has been featured in many national publications.

CORRECTION

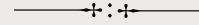
In a story on page 52 of the spring issue of Vancouver Home, Heather Ross was incorrectly credited with the photography. In fact, Heather Ross was not the photographer on the story. Vancouver Home regrets the error.

VancouverHOME

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56

ON THE COVER

A renovation that modernizes a house changes and grows as homeowners see the possibilities

BACHELOR PAD

A condo is designed to recall the classic look of a gentlemen's club

124



EARLY START

Artist Steven Nederveen discovered his metier at a young age

48



THIS JUST IN

A selection of new items for your home

20



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CONTENTS

VancouverHOME
DESIGN • ARCHITECTURE • LANDSCAPE • LIFESTYLE

- 10 EDITOR'S LETTER
- 34 BEACH DECOR
A North Shore home's design is reminiscent of a classic waterfront look
- 56 LOFTY AMBITIONS
A redesign and renovation give a Sunset Garden Estates home a loft vibe
- 64 CHEF STYLE
Company showroom features professional-quality kitchen appliances
- 68 WIDE OPEN SPACES
Glass folding doors can create a sense of spaciousness in a room
- 96 A LOVE OF LEATHER
Advice on how to buy leather-upholstered furnishings
- 98 MITIGATE DAMAGE THROUGH DRAINAGE
New systems allow homeowners to prevent water problems
- 100 FOR THE BIRDS
Snowbirds flocking to a new cottage community in the Okanagan
- 106 SURFACE SAVVY
Showroom is a coveted destination for homeowners who want beautiful counters
- 108 OFF THE WALL
Murphy beds are enjoying a resurgence of popularity
- 116 SUMMER FUN
A backyard pavilion is a joyful summer hangout for a West Vancouver family
- 130 OPEN FOR BUSINESS
Formerly for the trades, this bath and kitchen company is now accessible to public
- 132 DIVINE DESIGN
Candice Olson's own home is designed for a busy family lifestyle

110

A FAMILY GARDEN

A Dunbar home gets a landscape that is perfect for all family members



88

OPEN DIALOGUE

Clear communication between homeowners and builder results in spectacular home



MADE TO MEASURE

A home is designed with the future in mind

74



livingspace outdoor



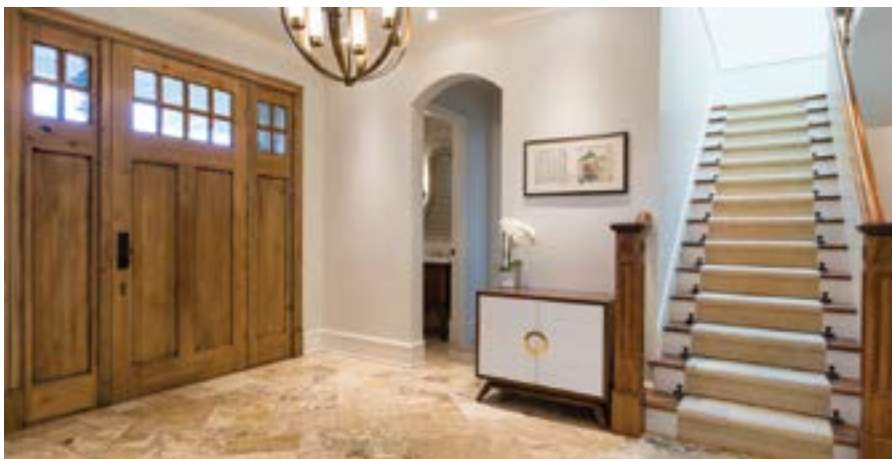
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1. EVENING GLOW

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www.bau-xi.com
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3. CIRCLE OF STYLE

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1. LOCAL LANDSCAPE

Vancouver-based artist Cori Creed is known for her rugged West Coast landscape paintings. Shore Wash is an oil on canvas work, 48 by 48 inches, and is part of a new series of Creed's paintings.

Bau-Xi Gallery
3045 Granville St.,
Vancouver
www.bau-xi.com
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2. DAZZLING DUO

The tourmaline is said to be the gemstone of love and friendship. In this ring, a 5.43-ct Munsteiner-cut pink tourmaline is in perfect harmony with its accent of diamond pavé, the two sharing a contemporary-style setting in platinum and textured 18-kt yellow gold.

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3. GO UP A RUNG

The Bukto free-standing towel ladder adds a contemporary touch and practical convenience to the bathroom. It's available with a black or white structure, and the top bar can have a polished finish or come in copper or gold. 580 mm W x 1515 mm H.

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4. BOFFO BUFFET

Striking elegance is what defines this buffet from the Hugues Chevalier Paris new Haussmann collection. Available in oak with eight different stains and two finishes: matte or high gloss. Handle and base in bronze or chrome. Optional marble or leather top.

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www.inspirationfurniture.ca
604-730-1275



2. BULLSEYE!

The Athos dartboard is a fine finishing touch for the ultimate games room. It includes a handcrafted cabinet with a sleek, contemporary design in a striking brown finish. Inside the cabinet, there is a tournament-quality bristle board, two scoring chalkboards, and two sets of three weighted steel-tipped darts.

Jordans Home
www.jordanshome.ca



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Terminal City Club
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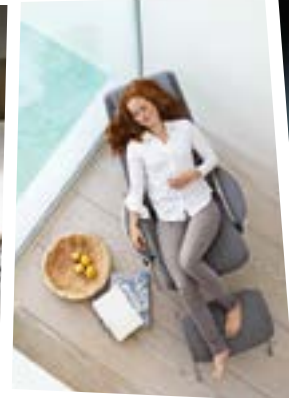
4. STYLE AND COMFORT

The Ergo sofa by Natuzzi Italia is a happy union of form and function. It's available in many choices of leather and fabric (including microfibre) and various finishes on the wooden feet. Ergo also has an optional recline function controlled by Natuzzi's Soft Touch mechanism.

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1. SLEEK STYLE

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3. RACK 'EM UP!

The subtle curve of the apron and the claw legs inspired the name of this billiards table: Crescent. The table features leather pockets that seamlessly blend with the diamond-sighted top rail around the perimeter. The eight-foot-long Crescent comes finished in a hand-rubbed Riverbank stain for years of reliable family fun.

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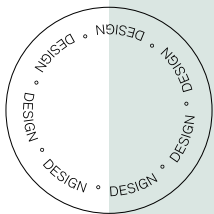
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WARM BEACH VIBE

A North Vancouver home is designed to reflect the beautiful waterscape outside

BY SUSAN KELLY // PHOTOGRAPHY: EMA PETER // STYLING: JANET SCAGEL



COTTAGE STYLE IS AS MUCH A STATE OF MIND AS an approach to decorating. It tends to be unpretentious and full of heart – exactly the effect sought by the owners of this 15-room newly built home on Vancouver’s North Shore. “My husband, Ward, and I love the sea and were born on opposite coasts,” says homeowner Catherine Branch. “And we spend summers on Chaleur Bay in New Brunswick.”

To Catherine, cottage style also evokes that easy summer feeling, relaxed and happy. The intent in the new home was to maintain it year-round for the family, which includes three teenage daughters, a Shetland sheepdog and Maltese-poodle mix. And, since the home, built by Boa Construction, overlooks the Indian Arm fjord, to create a strong connection to the water.

Catherine is quick to point out that her family members are “not formal people.” She and her husband are both lawyers, but when they’re at home, they prefer life on the casual side. ☞

The harvest dining table serves as the centrepiece of the main floor. Custom-crafted of distressed pine, its extensions can be added to seat as many as 30 people. Table and ladderback chairs: Olde Tyme Builders; lighting fixture: Hudson Valley Lighting.





The kitchen's sea-blue island punctuates the all-white quartz countertops and Shaker-style cabinetry with its delicate hue. The European handcrafted backsplash tiles provide a striking feature; they were arranged in a diagonal pattern by designer Janet Scagel. Tiles: Toorak Tile & Design; pendant lights: Hudson Valley Lighting; appliances: KitchenAid; countertops: Caesarstone.

The main-floor family room, open to the dining area and kitchen, has plenty of deep seating from which to watch television or just enjoy the fireplace and view. The living room on the same level has a huge comfy ottoman and a telescope that is not just a decor item. Ward uses a phone app that tells him what ships are in the vicinity, and he and the children enjoy identifying them.

This is also a home for entertaining – and in a big way. “Between both sides of the family plus guests, we seat about 35 people on average for Easter and Thanksgiving,” says Catherine, who does most of the cooking. Her number-one must-have was a dining table that could be used by the family but stretch to accommodate a crowd. A local cabinetmaker was commissioned to craft the perfect table

of distressed pine – and with plenty of leaf additions. He also made the ladderback dining chairs that have a heritage look.


It was just one of the solutions devised by designer Janet Scagel of Janet Scagel Design for the three-level home, the third she has designed for the family. “One challenge was to make a newly built structure appear to have some history, like it’s always been there,”



Scagal says. Working from the ground up, she chose seven-inch-wide planks of oiled rustic oak for the floors on the main storey. They anchor the soft, airy colour palette. Soft sand, pale blue and crisp white reflect the family's love of summer and the ocean. These shades also accentuate the water views, seeming to carry the sea into the home, says the designer.

And Scagal put a fresh twist on beadboard, the grooved wood panelling so intrinsic to

coastal decor. Specially milled wood, which covers the ceilings, gives the look but in a less refined way. The wood was repeated on walls in the front foyer and upstairs bedrooms, including the master. And a great deal of craftsmanship was put into the living room fireplace. The designer decided it should be of the same natural granite used on the home's exterior. A skilled stonemason painstakingly cut each rock to fit, after which a driftwood

insert was installed. "It was a risk, but it paid off," she says. "The look is both modern and traditional in a way that suits the home." 

In the family room, everyone has a comfy seat from which to enjoy a view of the sea. A mix of patterns and textures in crisp white and nautical blue help create the laid-back Nantucket-cottage look favoured by the homeowners. Sofa and chairs: Lee Industries; coffee table: Country Furniture.





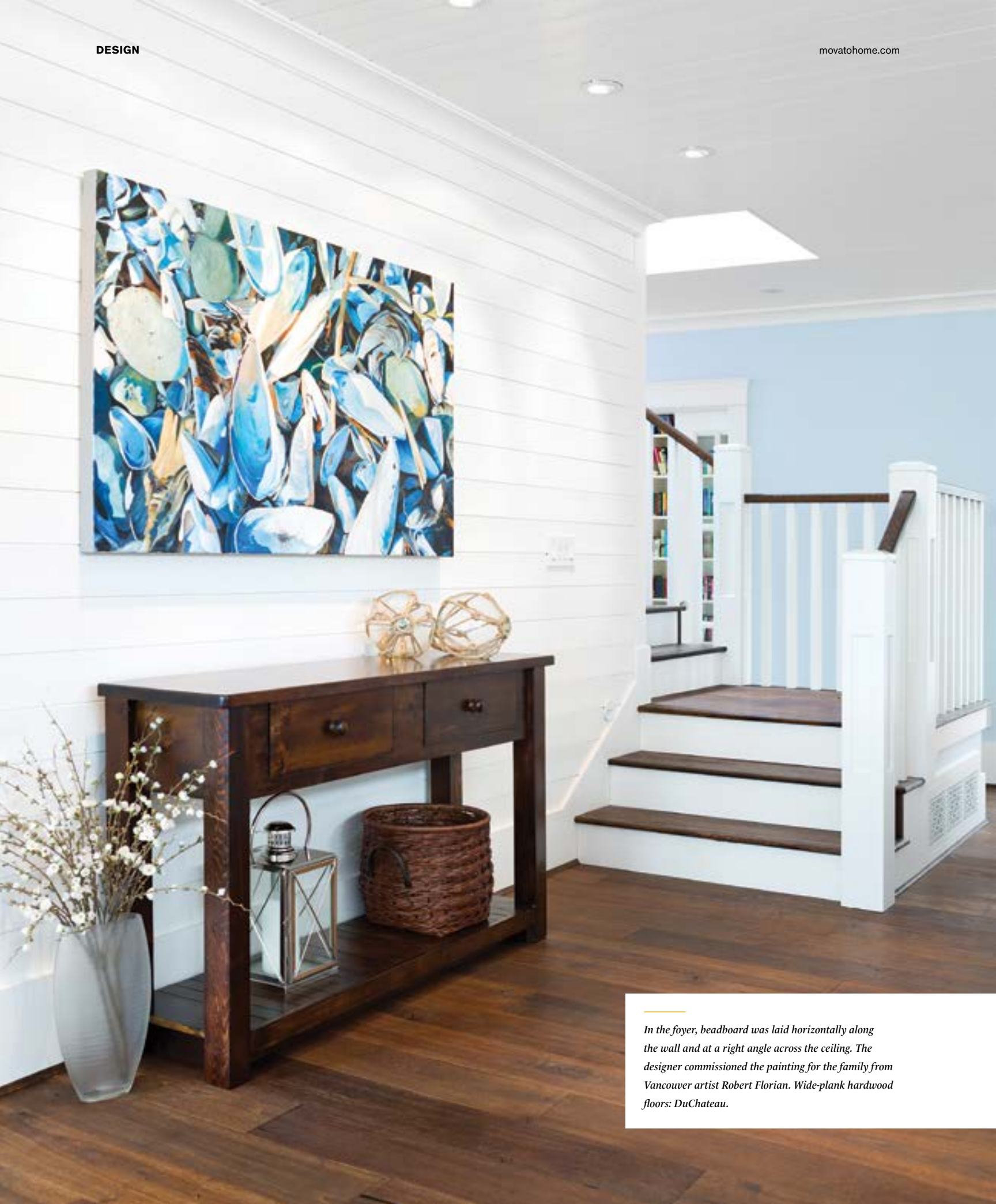
The easy ambience continues in the living room, which offers sea views, all the more enjoyable thanks to a telescope. Ottoman custom designed by Janet Scagel Design. Fireplace surround crafted by Tonis Tutti of 2T Construction.



(Opposite page) One of the daughters was assigned the bedroom that has a view of the backyard rather than the ocean. As a consolation, the family's biggest bookworm requested this custom-crafted feature: a door that doubles as a bookshelf.



(This page) A view of the bedroom of one of the three teenagers. Each girl was able to make individual design choices to reflect her style, such as the vibrant turquoise colour seen here. Custom upholstered bed, side tables, desk and capiz shell chandelier: Pottery Barn



In the foyer, beadboard was laid horizontally along the wall and at a right angle across the ceiling. The designer commissioned the painting for the family from Vancouver artist Robert Florian. Wide-plank hardwood floors: DuChateau.

Floor-to-ceiling bookshelves cover two walls of one main-floor room. And every inch of shelving contains books, divided into sections and alphabetized by one of the daughters. “The library is phenomenal; it fulfills everyone’s dream in our house, because we are all such bookworms,” says Catherine. Overlooking the landscaped back garden, it’s a wonderful place to curl up and enjoy reading as well. One daughter gets to house more prized tomes on

a custom bookcase door. When shut it looks like a bookcase and her room is completely concealed, a touch that seems plucked from a castle or a Harry Potter novel.

It took a little more than 13 months to build and design the home. And when they took up residence in September 2014, Catherine and the rest of the family found they had no trouble settling in to their beach-inspired retreat. The house didn’t need to be “broken in” like

most new houses do. “It was comfortable and liveable right away,” she says. “From the first time I turned into the driveway, I’ve felt this sense of belonging, that this is our home.”

The homeowner describes her brood as “a family of bookworms.” Each family member has shelf space for his or her choices, and can enjoy reading in the light-filled space overlooking the back garden.



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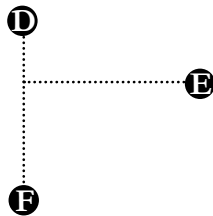
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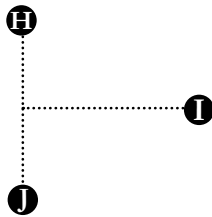
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GETTING AN EARLY START



Artist Steven Nederveen began his art career
as a young child

BY JANE AUSTER

TAKING A WRONG TURN EARLY IN LIFE proved to be the right turn for mixed-media artist Steven Nederveen.

“Starting from Grade 1, my sister would walk me partly to school and I’d have to walk the rest myself across a bunch of fields, where on one side there was a community centre and on the other side the elementary school,” says the Edmonton-born Nederveen. “One day I saw a bunch of pre-schoolers and started playing in the playground with them, and when they went into the community centre, I followed them.”

When challenged by officials, Nederveen said he knew some of the children and was allowed to be with them. The pre-schoolers spent their days doing finger-painting and clay-molding. Since little Steven came home every day with his arms laden with paintings, his mother never questioned whether he was actually attending school and doing his homework—until a call and visit from the principal.

Instead of chastising her son, Mrs. Nederveen recognized budding talent and encouraged Steven to open his mind to art. It helped greatly

that she herself was a florist and hobbyist artist, with a vivid appreciation of colour, texture and varied media, and Steven’s father was an avid sailor with a love of West Coast wilderness.

Nederveen, who comes from a Dutch background, visited the Rijksmuseum when he was 12 and it stimulated his desire to become an artist. “Before the trip to the Rijksmuseum, my main exposure to art was looking at the prints at Woodward’s (the store),” he recalls. “But I was just blown away by what I saw at the Rijksmuseum.”

“I’m the artist for odd places in your house.”





Nederveen concentrated on his art, creating at least two drawings a night in school and focusing on his artwork to the detriment of other subjects. His favourite themes—wild animals, prairie scenes, western forests and still waters are, to this day, his signature subjects.


In 1995, he received a bachelor of design degree from the University of Alberta.

He specializes in mixed media, combining photography and acrylics. “Painting is abstract work, and I leave a hole in the composition

where I drop in the photographic work, so there is an abstractness around the edges, with a sharpness in the centre,” he says. “My work is realistic and photographic to some degree, but what interests me is creating the feeling and mood, and nesting a photograph into this mood.”

Unlike many other painters, Nederveen often creates canvases in unusual sizes, such as long verticals of one foot by six feet; they feature a single image and are reminiscent of Japanese scrolls. “I’m the artist for odd places in your house,” he jokes.

His creations are also suffused with vibrant hues of blues and greens, yellows and oranges, hot pinks and reds. In his early 20s, Nederveen discovered Mark Rothko and recognized the power of colour. Recently, he says, his palette has changed, from subdued to punchy tones. For him, the colours seem to vibrate against each other.

At 45, the Toronto-based Nederveen is deeply influenced by his travels, not necessarily to exotic climes, but to Vancouver, where he discovered the joy of meditation; New York, where he lived 



“Gradually, the abstract element in my landscapes has been overtaking the photographic element.”



in a bohemian artists' squat; and London and Europe, where he studied opulent estates and gardens and contrasted them with the rawness of the Canadian landscape. He always returns to his spiritual home though: Vancouver.

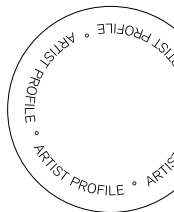
“Even though I’ve spent the most time in Alberta, I go back to Vancouver every year,” says Nederveen. “I grew up sailing in the Gulf Islands, so every summer my father and I go sailing there. He’s 83 and is still sailing. One of my favourite themes is water, and especially waves.”

Despite the fact that he now lives in relatively landlocked Toronto with his wife, an acting and voice coach, and two small children, he still takes inspiration from water. His home, with an impeccably organized 1,200-square-foot studio in the basement, is just two houses from the beach, where he can run barefoot on the sand.

Nederveen will return to Vancouver for a new show in June at the Bau-Xi Gallery. “This show reveals for the first time a new series of paintings, which I’ve been working on for the past six months,” he says. “Gradually, the abstract element in my landscapes has been overtaking the photographic element. It was a natural evolution into these abstracts. My mixed-media landscapes draw heavily on images of Canadian wilderness and they reflect our shared Canadian identity in relation to them. Despite the cosmopolitan personality of our cities, Canada is still a largely wild place. My own identity and inspiration are tied to that.”

After the exhibition, Nederveen says, he’ll take a long break to sail with his father. No doubt he’ll return to his studio brimming with new inspiration. ☛

A solo exhibition of Steven Nederveen’s art, titled A Temperate Nature, will be held at Bau-Xi Gallery (3045 Granville St., 604-733-7011), June 11 through June 25, 2016. His artwork can also be viewed online at www.bau-xi.com.



“My work is realistic and photographic to some degree, but what interests me is creating the feeling and mood, and nesting a photograph into this mood.”



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LOFTY AMBITIONS

A renovation that modernizes a house changes and grows as homeowners see the possibilities

BY PHILLIPA RISPIN
PHOTOGRAPHY: COLIN PERRY
STYLING: DIANA BECKER





WARM, COZY, CHARMING. That's how one of the homeowners describes this house before the renovation, and what's not to like about that? Well, how about the closed-in and small rooms, the narrow winding stairway, the limited light, the isolated kitchen, and an overall feeling of disconnection among the various parts of the house?

Despite its drawbacks, the place beckoned when Georgia Dahle and Brent Cuthbertson saw it. It's situated in Sunset Garden Estates, nestled into a treed slope at the end of a cul-de-sac. "It's like a tree house," says Georgia. "That was one of the obvious attractions when we considered purchasing it: its unique lot in the city, and the way that it was designed in both being quite private but also being quite convenient to all of the amenities in North Vancouver."

The couple decided to renovate the place before moving in. The initial plan was to renovate the kitchen and add a master suite. But "as we started working with our architect and our contractor, it became very clear that the project was going to increase dramatically," Georgia says.

Adds Brent, "If we were going to do that much and really modernize the house but not touch the remaining half, it made no sense. We went from there to the decision to do a complete gut and reno of the whole house to make sure that it all harmonized... That came to be when we started looking at all the windows to redo: do you to replace 70 or 80 per cent of them and leave a few in the bottom level we didn't need to replace? It was a case of 'Let's do it once and do it right,' and we made the decision to go much bigger in the scope of the work than we had originally anticipated." 📧


Georgia, who likes to cook, appreciates how the open concept enables everyone to stay involved. "I feel a sense of energy and communication," she says. "When we have guests over and are entertaining, it feels like there's a sense of community."



But contractor Barrett Group Custom Builders could not start work on the house until a geotechnical survey of the grounds had been done. “There were severe structural issues,” says Joel Barrett, president of the company. “We had to support the house and the bank, which were both failing.” The job involved stabilizing the bank with a shotcrete system that used anchors some 20 feet longer than usual, and helical piles to support the house, which had

begun to settle and was out of plumb. “The main floor was out of level four inches in one corner,” says Barrett.

Once the ground was stabilized and the foundation levelled, building began. Because of the lot characteristics and zoning regulations, architect Ed Burwick produced a plan for a 2,800-square-foot home that expanded mostly up, not out. It called for an open-concept main floor and a dramatic staircase joining

the three floors. The lower floor is below grade at the front but on grade at the back, with a walkout to a deck. The upper floor includes a new master suite, joined by a bridge to the loft on the opposite side of the soaring space over the kitchen-living-dining area. 

(Opposite) With the kitchen ceiling at a cozy height, the loft stops five feet short of the back wall, over the living-dining area. The wooden front door was painted at an automotive body shop for a high-gloss finish.





The house is surrounded by trees but is not dark, thanks to abundant windows and skylights. The pale floorboards are seven-inch engineered oak.

“It’s like a tree house. That was one of the obvious attractions when we considered purchasing it.”



Although these changes were dramatic in opening up the previously divided main floor, the biggest feat of interior engineering was perhaps the loft over what is now the kitchen and part of the living area. It's completely open on two of its four sides. Three corners abut walls; the fourth "floats" free above the space below, ingeniously hanging by an unobtrusive steel post from its free corner up to an I-beam in the ceiling. This floating

aspect is a large part of how open and airy the place seems.

Berwick, Barrett, interior designer Denise Ashmore of Project 22 Design, and the homeowners were in frequent communication throughout the job, as decisions were made and amended to accommodate the increasing scope of the project. Because of the end of the lease where they had been living, Georgia, Brent and family moved in before the house

was completely finished—a somewhat daunting situation (only one bathroom!) but offering its own advantages. Because of their collaboration with the architect and builder, the couple was able to tweak small aspects of the design and to decide on various finishings as they were needed. "We kind of experienced the kitchen as they were building it," Georgia says.

"We'd be making almost every day the decisions needed," Brent says. ☞



For example, “The tall skinny window in our master bedroom wasn’t in the original plans. Standing at the other side of the space, we wanted the eye to [move] through the house and never get stopped at a hard surface...go right through the side and back into the forest again....

There’s less of that ‘Oh, I wish we had done that’ at the end.”

This approach has its drawbacks, but it can also produce exactly what the homeowners

want. “As we got further and further into it, the owners were under the mindset ‘We’ve gone this far, why not just do this, this, and this,’” Barrett says. “Some projects, we have more of a straightforward scope of work. This one was constantly changing as we were there, so that was trickier to handle than most of them. A lot of that is to do with the renovation aspect but a lot is to do with added wishes and wants from the clients. We never say no to anyone; we are

the yes guys. It’s just a matter of doing it in such a way where everyone’s educated on the costs and the time implications of things. It creates a gorgeous house when all is said and done.”

Georgia and Brent now have the modern open family home that they wanted. Georgia says that she loves “how we actually use the house. Our former house was the same square footage but it felt like we weren’t using its space. It felt like a lot of the house was empty.



Here, the space feels like it's being fully utilized, and we're part of the house as opposed to kind of just visiting within it."

Brent loves "the space itself, how all the rooflines come together, when you go in the grand entrance and you look up and it's probably 35 feet to the top. We've got this unique skylight where all the rooflines came together and create a natural triangle. Your eye is constantly looking around. It's very interesting,

and I haven't grown tired yet of just sitting back and having a coffee and looking at how interesting and open it feels." ☛

The bridge from the loft leads to the master bedroom in the new part of the house. (Opposite) The slim steel post that supports the "floating" corner of the loft disappears into a cased I-beam.

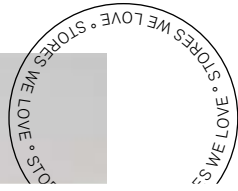
"As we started working with our architect and our contractor, it became very clear that the project was going to increase dramatically."



OUTFITTING A DREAM KITCHEN

Company stocks professional-grade kitchen appliances and demonstrates how to use them





“We want our customers to fall in love with the appliances. But we also want them to get excited about the act of cooking.”

“We appreciate that cooking is a way of providing nourishment, but also a time for family and friends to connect.”

While some of Bradlee’s customers are newcomers to the kitchen, others are passionate and accomplished home cooks. Both groups love having the opportunity to see how some of the world’s finest kitchen appliances work and how they will fit into their own kitchens. The brands Bradlee has partnered with are innovators in kitchen equipment that is engineered for precision, power, and energy and water efficiency. Sub-Zero, for instance, provides two separate cooling systems, which maintain cool, moist air in the fridge and cold, dry air in the freezer. The company also uses NASA technology to offer an air purification filter that rids the air of bacteria and off-gases to preserve food quality.

Both gas and dual-fuel Wolf ranges, which are available in various sizes and configurations, are legendary for their precise control and professional-grade power.

“Often, customers venture in to take a look while their project is still in the design and planning stages,” Page says. “They may need help determining if a built-in fridge is what they want, or if a modular, integrated refrigeration configuration fits their needs better.” Should they choose a cooktop and wall ovens or a two-door, six-burner Wolf range?

“We see people come in wondering what they need,” she says. “But they always leave feeling confident about what they’ve chosen.”

IN ERIN PAGE’S DREAM KITCHEN, she’s chilling a bottle of Sauvignon blanc in her Sub-Zero wine fridge while a roast chicken browns to perfection in the Wolf convection steam oven.

As marketing manager at Bradlee Distributors, she gets plenty of opportunity to see and touch what’s new in high-end kitchen appliances in the company’s showrooms in Vancouver, Calgary and Seattle. The 30-year-old company has partnered with the manufacturers of the world’s best professional-grade kitchen appliance brands: American-made Sub-Zero refrigeration, Wolf cooking products and the Asko dishwasher collection from Sweden.

Unlike conventional appliance stores, Bradlee Distributors’ showrooms are not retail outlets. They are places to visit for kitchen design inspiration. And to discover joy in cooking.

Bradlee offers a series of culinary workshops in the showroom with its own corporate chef, and one-on-one private sessions in which customers can have hands-on opportunities to try out the appliances. The Summer Sizzle series, for instance, showcases seasonal menus with local produce, taking its cue from the farm-to-table movement that is sweeping restaurant menus. “We want to get people fired up,” Page says. “We want our customers to fall in love with the appliances. But we also want them to get excited about the act of cooking.”



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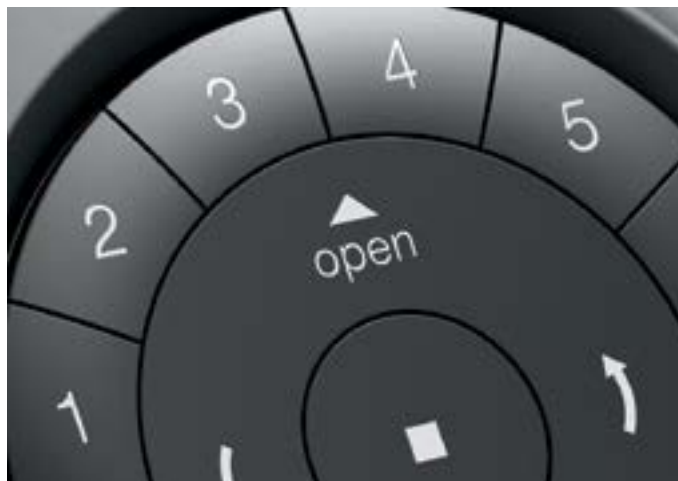
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WELCOME THE SCENERY INTO YOUR HOME

Moving wall systems allow Vancouverites to enjoy the natural light and views outdoors

VANCOUVERITES LOVE HAVING ACCESS to the great outdoors. And a recent design development that has facilitated their ability to enjoy their city's scenery is the moving wall system – large glass folding doors that create a transparent wall. Vancouver Home asked Mike Cairns, general manager and builder/contractor liaison at Modern Classic Building Solutions for his take on this design phenomenon.

Q: Mike, let's begin with a definition. What is a moving wall system?

A: Moving wall systems are a general name for multiple moving glass panels that allow you to open a large section of wall. You may have heard of such brands as Eclipse Folding Doors, Centor Integrated Doors, or Milgard Moving Glass Wall Systems, among others. They come in a variety of materials, finishes, and styles, so you can match the look to the architecture of your home. The most common type is folding sliding doors, followed by multi-slide doors. Some can be made as window systems; combinations of doors and windows can make for intriguing home designs.

Q: Why have Vancouverites taken so eagerly to this design development?

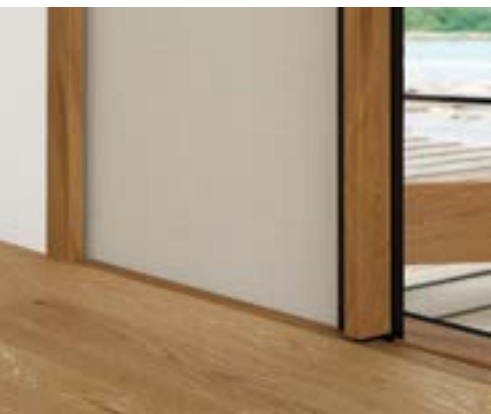
A: Vancouver is unique: hemmed in by the ocean, mountains, Fraser river, and the U.S. border, we have limited space but are surrounded by magnificent natural scenery. Large sections of glass allow us to take advantage of the scenery, and to bring in the light on those (all-too-frequent) rainy days. Having the ability to open glass panels lets us combine the interior and exterior space, maximizing our limited indoor space by expanding it outwards.

Q: Is it possible to retrofit an existing home with a moving wall system or must it be installed exclusively in new builds?

A: If the home already has a window or door opening that is large enough, then it's no problem. If not, most homes can accept a moving wall system with some minor structural modifications that add a support header to the opening. The construction of the home, the desired location, and the size of the unit will be the determining factors for the scope of work.

Q: What is the advantage of having them?

A: The single greatest advantage is the ability to combine the interior and exterior space, increasing that limited interior space, and granting the ability to host large groups of people comfortably. Of course, allowing light into a home makes everyone feel better.



“The single greatest advantage is the ability to combine the interior and exterior space, increasing that limited interior space.”



Q: How much can homeowners expect to pay for such a system?

A: You should budget about \$1,000 per linear foot for an average folding door unit. In this case, average means the most commonly chosen options, as opposed to a compromise on lesser quality. There are more expensive options, up to the top of the line at around \$2,700 per linear foot. That sounds like a lot, but once you factor in the insect screens, solar shades, custom-coloured aluminum exterior and exotic hardwood interior with concealed hardware everywhere, the cost makes sense.

Q: Is water penetration a problem with moving wall systems?

A: As with any product, there are various performance levels. In British Columbia, we have some of the highest performance requirements in North America for our doors and windows, with good reason. Our folding doors all meet or exceed those requirements, and have been proving themselves in adverse conditions here for many years.

Q: What advice do you have for anyone who wants to have a moving wall system in his/her home?

A: Do a little research before you buy. Pay attention to North American Fenestration Standard ratings (higher numbers are better) and energy-efficiency (lower numbers are better); the quality of the hardware (the panels should move smoothly and with minimal noise, even after many years); the quality of the components (if the panel looks cheap now, it won't improve with age).

Does the product match the conditions of your home? The person you talk to should be able to weigh the pros and cons of various products, and should know why each would (or would not) work for your specific conditions.

Check the credentials of the installer. How often do they do this? How long have they been doing it? Do they have liability insurance? What do their previous installations look like? Can they deal with unexpected circumstances, such as finding water damage?

In some cases, the installation can be more important than the product choice. The best product installed badly can look and function like the worst product.

Also, be wary of a deal that sounds too good to be true. This is an investment in your home, and you should be able to enjoy it hassle-free for many years to come. ☛

“We have limited space but are surrounded by magnificent natural scenery.”



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TAILOR-MADE

Unique design choices give homeowner custom-built home

BY PHILLIPA RISPIN • PHOTOGRAPHY: ERICH SAIDE • STYLING: BRENDAN POWER





“The house is built to a certain degree following universal access design principles, and it can be further adapted in the future.”



THE CASUAL OBSERVER taking a first look at this house would probably notice several things: the freestanding glassed-in elevator, the spectacular stairwell of reclaimed wood blocks stretching from basement to second storey; clean lines, large windows, and plenty of light.

A closer look, however, would reveal unusual design and decor choices: no living room, only a partial wall between the kitchen and the dining area, no sofas in the family room, no obvious closet in the master bedroom, baseboards flush with the walls.

These are all reflections of the unique desires of the homeowner, realized by architect John Henshaw and interior designer Joy Chao, partners in business and in life. “This home was designed for the long term,” says Henshaw, explaining that the homeowner, who is in her mid-forties and has two adult children living with her, kept her eventual retirement in mind when discussing the design of the house.

“The main-floor den can work as a bedroom,” says Chao. “The hallways and doorways are wide enough for a wheelchair. The house is built to a certain degree following universal access design principles, and it can be further adapted in the future.” 🏠

The feature wall in the stairwell is made of four-foot-by-four-foot modules of reclaimed fir blocks.
“Because it’s reclaimed fir, even though there is a pattern to it, each piece when they cut it looked very different,”
says interior designer Joy Chao. Wall, stair treads: Mike Anderson Furniture.



But it was built in the present for current needs, too. “This is a hard-working house,” Chao says. “The homeowner wanted a home where she could entertain family and close friends. She wanted it to be more spacious. She had specific ideas as to how the space should be divided. For instance, there’s no formal living room, because whoever is invited to visit will be close to her.”

So where will guests be entertained? In the dining area, around the dining table, cleverly designed by Chao and her team; it has a hydraulic lift so the tabletop can be lowered. Presto! The dining room becomes a living room, with comfortable chairs gathered around what is now a coffee table. The family room is less of a guest entertaining space and more of a TV room for the homeowner and children, so individual chairs for watching seemed a suitable choice.

The initial design of the house, the basic shell and the grounds were decided early in the building process. Landscaping, done by landscape architect Ron Rule, is extensive. There are big areas with their own characteristics, such as water features—a fountain on one side, a Japanese garden with a water feature on another—that mask the noise of traffic on nearby Marine Dr. The house has a large southern exposure, so many photovoltaic panels were installed. ☞



(This page) In the dual-purpose living-dining area, a cleverly designed table is just right for dining but can be lowered to become a coffee table. Table: Corian, fabricated by Eagle Iron and SSC Countertops; chairs: Bo Concept. (Bottom, right) The kitchen has a bright dining nook with a more conventional table, custom-made in pecan by Live Edge Design. (Opposite) The kitchen island and countertops are Volga Blue granite, and Crema Marfil marble tiles cover the floor. The extensive walnut cabinetry that extends into the living-dining area is, like that in the rest of the house, fabricated by Sage Cabinetry.





(This page) The homeowner wanted the main-floor powder room to evoke Bali, and for family and friends to feel as though they were washing in a pool of water. The basin, from Robinson Lighting and Bath, is solid granite. The luminous countertop is by Joel Berman Glass Studio. (Opposite) The media room is strictly for family and is carpeted in broadloom for comfort. The bifold doors on the right give access to a covered porch. The windows at the far end of the room frame views of a park next to the property.

The interior, however, was designed and then changed as construction progressed. “The aesthetic is contemporary and as open as possible,” Henshaw says. “The homeowner is fond of natural wood and fir; thus we put in lots of beams. Ceilings are almost 12 feet on the main floor, and 10 feet upstairs and in the basement. There are big windows, and a big light well in the basement, for as much natural light as possible.”

Those decisions were the easy part. The demanding part extended throughout the building process. “We knew there would be a lot of thinking, ideas going back and forth as we went along, because the client needed to see things,” Chao says. “She constantly came up with new ideas. She was very involved.”

That process kept construction somewhat slower than usual but also offered opportunities to get things right. “That main stair, I

didn’t design it until quite late in the project in terms of exactly what it would look like and how we were going to build it,” Henshaw recalls.

“And the feature wall behind the stairs took a good six months to figure out what would make the client happy,” Chao adds. “We did many versions of the design.”

The staircase and stairwell are showstoppers, but there are less obvious design and construction details that are equally impressive. ☞



“Contemporary houses are sometimes a lot more difficult than traditional homes to build. Because the line is so simple, there’s not a lot of room for errors.”

Behind the headboard in the master bedroom, a walkway leads to several closets and the master bathroom. The grain of the walnut panelling is bookmatched for an elegant effect. The floor-level lighting can be left on all night for safety. Here, as in all bedrooms in the house, the floors are carpeted for noise suppression and a lush feeling.



“Contemporary houses are sometimes a lot more difficult than traditional homes to build,” Chao points out. “Because the line is so simple, there’s not a lot of room for errors. For instance, all the baseboards are flush with the drywall, concealed, so that required ingenuity. Traditionally, when you have a wall built, you have drywall installed, then you put on the baseboard, and then you hang the door at the last. Because we did concealed baseboards, the

baseboards had to be put in before the drywall was put on. The doors had to be hung to make sure everything was level. Then the drywall had to be installed. Tolerances in this house are very, very tight. If there was just a quarter inch out of whack, you’d see it right away.”

Henshaw is generous in his praise of the team from general contractor Copa Development. For example, “Drywall has different levels of finish,” he says. “Normally, if you go

into a house, it’s a level three or level four finish; if you want it really good, it’s level five. These guys went above and beyond level five. Officially there is no level eight finish, but we joke that they’ve gone through the walls so many times, it is like a level eight finish.”

A large upholstered headboard in the master bedroom was built in place to conceal the row of closets and the entrance to the bathroom.



“It was quite a challenge. A lot was designed as we went along, and we allowed for the possibility of redesign.”





The end result is a large (7,500 square feet) home with a master suite, two bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, and a private office upstairs. In the basement, there's a spa area with a pool, an open recreation area, a laundry, and the housekeeper's bedroom and bathroom. The ground floor features a large kitchen, the dining/living area, the family room, and the show-stopping foyer, elevator and stairwell.

It's a tailor-made home, designed with care, executed with care, and offering care-free living for the homeowner who got exactly what she wanted. Despite the numerous redesigns and unusual requests, Henshaw and Chao enjoyed the project.

"Our interior designers had to do a lot of work to satisfy the client and her children, who had their own requirements for their rooms," Henshaw says. "It was quite a challenge. A lot was designed as we went along, and we allowed for the possibility of redesign."

"It was great to work with a client willing to wait while we came up with solutions," Chao says. "We had the luxury to think about it. I wish all clients were like that." ❧

The rooftop deck looks to the southwest. To the right, there are photovoltaic panels; three kinds are installed on the roofs of the house and the garage to augment the general power supply, especially for heating the house and the indoor pool.

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A MEETING OF MINDS

Collaboration and communication fostered the design process for this North Vancouver home

BY PHILLIPA RISPIN // PHOTOGRAPHY: EMA PETER





"I love concrete," homeowner Travis Cadieu says. "I love the kitchen countertops and the fireplace." He also loves how the kitchen countertop extends outside to form a little bar. "It blends seamlessly with the indoor space," he says.

Sustainability and energy efficiency are key concepts; thus the green garage roof and the rooftop-mounted solar panels from Terratek Energy Solutions.



THREE GEORGIE AWARDS SO FAR this year, in the running for four Ovation awards, and also in the running for a National Award for Housing Excellence – there’s seemingly no end to the accolades this home has won or for which it’s nominated. But it’s not just a showplace; it’s truly a home, and that’s no surprise. The architectural designers, the contractor and the homeowners all worked together, sometimes intensely but always collaboratively, to produce this unique, slightly quirky home with a green soul.

The initial challenge was to design a home that met the two owners’ aesthetic desires. “We wanted something that appeared modern but at the same time had a couple of architectural details that were a bit more traditional, like a gabled roof,” says homeowner Travis Cadieu. “We’ve always been attracted to the architectural style that you see at Whistler, which is generous use of timbers and steep roofs, use of stone and concrete. We wanted to incorporate those design elements somehow in our house here

so we’re constantly reminded of them when we’re at home.”

The house also had to meet their lifestyle needs. Travis and his wife Beth are both busy physicians; Beth works days and Travis works various shifts as an emergency room doctor. They wanted a place to relax with their three young children, with a simple transition between indoors and out and the ability to keep an eye on the children in each space. They wanted to be able to communicate easily within the three-storey structure.



Synthesis Design's principal Curtis Krahn characterizes the home as a "contemporary chalet with a modern twist." Large spaces are opened in front and back to ventilate the house in summer.

Also, the house had to have environmentally friendly features. The design produced by Synthesis Design Inc. incorporates a green rooftop for the garage that attenuates heat, a rainwater collection system under the driveway, solar panels on the roof, LED lighting throughout, and triple-glazed argon windows.

"We realized that a site-built home could be wasteful in materials, and we almost considered a prefab house," says Travis. Instead, the couple had their custom-designed home built and they ensured that leftover materials, especially

timber, would be incorporated into the interior. Thus, extra fir was used to create benches and bookshelves, and leftover cedar was used to make the forms for the concrete fireplace and the wall in the main-floor powder room.

The house was designed and built with extensive input from Travis and Beth; it was teamwork all the way. "We had clear concepts when we went to meetings," says Travis. And there were many meetings, both before and during construction. Although the basic shell and interior of the house were decided before

ground was broken, Beth and especially Travis often came up with little tweaks or big new ideas that were discussed and incorporated or not.

The team at Synthesis Design included the firm's principal, Curtis Krahn, the lead architectural designer, Kevin Li, and lead interior designer Ken Best. "Beth and Travis were very engaged and super passionate about their notion of home, but they approached the design process in two different ways," says Krahn.

"Travis was all about the detail, the kit of parts and how those parts intricately went



“Beth and Travis were very engaged and super passionate about their notion of home, but they approached the design process in two different ways.”

Builder Joe Geluch is enthusiastic about the “pretty nifty” concrete features created by Yves St. Hilaire and team at Sticks & Stones Furniture: countertops and bar in the kitchen, the family room fireplace, the bathroom vanities.

(Opposite, bottom) The family room as viewed from the kitchen end of the dining table. The fireplace concrete was pressed with cedar forms that left their impressions in the surface.

together,” Krahn says. “He explored many different products, textures, shapes and sizes of things and put them together in unique ways . . . Travis kept us on our toes, for sure. I don’t think he slept for six months, and I think he liked it.

“Beth knew what she wanted. She knew what was best for her family. She listened and relied on Travis’s passion and attention to detail to decide on certain items. For other things, things she felt passionate about, she was steadfast in her decisions. They made for great clients because, while we usually are

tasked with helping clients make decisions or telling one why the other’s decision makes the most sense, they convinced each other.”

Contractor Joe Geluch and his team (which he describes as “hard-working, passionate”) at Naikoon Contracting Ltd. were an integral part of the consultations and were equally impressed by the homeowners’ involvement.

“There was certainly a lot of collaboration going on throughout construction – different ideas, features, and really tuning up the details of the home after the base design was





Beth's and Travis's desire for easy voice communication within the house was the basis for the open stairway in the middle of the ground floor. The staircase and slatted wood wall beside it are made from reclaimed fir beams.

In the upper landing, leftover fir was used to create a bench; it has a hidden lid at one end (not shown) that opens to the laundry chute. It's indicative of what one of Beth's and Travis's young daughters notes proudly: "This is what happens when two people have ideas." Curtis Krahn calls this "the quote of the project."



“It totally suits our lifestyle. We’re proud of our house.”

Beth’s favourite spot is the master bedroom. It’s a peaceful place with a view of the mountains. The walk-in closet and “huge” bathroom (opposite) are especially appreciated, too.

completed and construction started,” says Geluch. “It was a pleasure to build this house. It was great to have the influence of designers and clients.”

The home that resulted from this collaboration is an airy 3,800 square feet on three levels, with a striking staircase (looking airy in its own right) connecting all three. High ceilings, clean lines, abundant fenestration, folding doors that break the barrier between indoors and out, and judicious use of wood details

throughout make it the open, family-friendly home that Beth and Travis wanted.

“It totally suits our lifestyle,” Travis says. He remarks on “how easy it is to spend time both in and out on a warm day, and to feel how the energy of the family flows so freely from indoors to out.” In short, “We’re proud of our house.”

THERE'S A LOT TO LIKE ABOUT LEATHER

Here's how to shop for the perfect piece of leather-upholstered furniture

YOU'VE DECIDED TO INVEST in a piece of furniture that is upholstered in leather. How do you choose the right piece? Vancouver Home asked Steen Skaaning, owner of Inspiration Furniture, for his advice on how to invest in the right leather furnishings.



Q: *Steen, it is said that not all furniture leathers are created equal. There are various grades of leather. Can you describe the difference?*

A: There are a few grades of leather. The neck hide from a bull can be more than half a centimetre thick, allowing it to be sliced in half. The top layer is 'top grain' leather, usually deployed on the seats of furniture where it is more visible. The second layer, split hide, is used on the backs and sides of furniture, to save on cost, and is also used in handbags and shoes. Split hide can be finished in a variety of textures and sheens or left as suede. Finally, bonded leather is made of scraps left over from the other two processes. It contains only between six and 12 per cent leather; the remainder is synthetic materials. It is used in a wide range of products and has an accessible price point.

There's nothing right or wrong with any of these; it's a question of what you want. These processes ensure that none of the leather is wasted. It's a smart way to use a natural resource.

Q: *Why are some leathers so much more expensive than others?*

A: The best hides – we're talking maybe 100 out of every 1,000 – come from Europe, the best being from the Scandinavian countries. Those animals are kept in small herds, with lots of room to roam and easy access to grass and water. By contrast, animals from South America and south Asia are usually raised in huge herds. The potential for conflict between individual animals is high, leading to the possibility of hides marred by battle scars. Bumps from insect bites – more common in warm climates – and cuts from barbed-wire fences can also lead to imperfections. The leather created from these animals is still fully functional, and it can be treated to remove the appearance of superficial marks, but from a pure commodity perspective, these hides are more common, and therefore less expensive. In leather, you get what you pay for.

“The best hides – we’re talking maybe 100 out of every 1,000 – come from Europe, the best being from the Scandinavian countries.”

*Inspiration Furniture
1275 West 6th Ave. Vancouver
604-730-1275
www.inspirationfurniture.ca*





Q: What should I look for when shopping for leather furniture? How do I judge what I am buying?

A: We use clipbooks with various leather samples to educate our customers on what they are getting. If someone wants to buy something such as a sofa in a bright purple or red, it automatically means the leather will be more processed. Colours closer to the natural brown and black shades require less processing.

A hide can be left close to its natural state or protected with a finish. The latter is easier to care for and maintain, but some consumers prefer the feel of the former.

Q: What does the price range on furniture reflect?

A: There are various factors in pricing. With design aspects aside, there are huge differences in the materials used: from grades of leather to foam, to the material used for the frames. For instance, is the frame made of hardwood, composite wood, chrome, or plastic? The choice of the material has an impact on durability and the lifespan and functionality of the piece. Are you sitting on steel springs, pocket coils or rubber webbing? It can make a difference in comfort and longevity.

Does the chair have molded foam, which does not compress as easily, or cut foam, which may break down faster? What density is the foam in the chair? More can mean more cost.

Q: What is the best way to care for leather to ensure its longevity?

A: Natural leather requires care, cleaning and conditioning once or twice a year with a leather cream. Avoid furniture-care sprays; they often contain wax, which accumulates over time.

To assure longevity of a piece, the item should be kept out of direct sunlight and away from heat vents, which can create fading and discoloration, or dry out the leather.

That said, all leather changes over time through usage. It will develop wear patterns and folds, and stretch as people sit in their favourite spots again and again. ☛

“Natural leather requires care, cleaning and conditioning once or twice a year with a leather cream.”



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

And company has ways to handle it

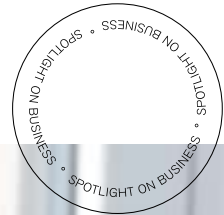
IT'S NO SECRET that Vancouver and environs is one of the rainiest places in Canada. It's also no secret that some neighbourhoods are on flat, marshy land and many are on hilly terrain, neither of which takes kindly to excess water.

According to Dinu Filip, president of ACO Systems, a company that manufactures drainage products, storm water is one of the most destructive factors against property – something that many homeowners have experienced.

ACO Systems Ltd.

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“Vancouver gets lots of storm water, and water flows on a hilly surface much faster than in flat areas,” Filip says. “On paved surfaces without proper drainage, water will often pool and can cause damage.”

The situation is further complicated by new municipal regulations that require downspouts to be disconnected from weeping tile systems. “Water from these downspouts should never be allowed to pool and infiltrate the ground next to a house’s foundation walls,” Filip says.

The potential result of uncontrolled water is structural damage and mould in buildings, items ruined in flooded basements, subsidence in driveways, contamination in swimming pools, and eroded landscape. Part of the cure is to collect and handle surface water before it gets into the ground.

ACO Systems provides residential surface collection and dispersal systems under the

ACO Self brand to deal with storm water. The surface collection systems are of two types: point drains, also called catch basins, and linear drains, also called trench drains. Both systems collect water from paved surfaces and move it through buried pipes to storm sewers, dry well systems or away from a building to a creek, valley or landscaping, says Filip.

A line drainage system allows for two-dimensional, graded paved surfaces to capture sheets of water and to improve aesthetics, he says.

The choice of drainage system depends upon the size of the area to be drained, the traffic on the paved surface, aesthetics, and user preferences.

“In many retrofit applications, it is difficult to connect new drainage systems to the storm sewer if a pipe is not already available,” Filip says. “In such cases, using an infiltration system placed away from the building may be

“Handling water in a controlled manner may be the most effective and cheapest insurance.”

the easier option. An infiltration system is a void underground where water is temporarily stored. It slowly seeps into the ground after the rain passes.”

Historically, Filip adds, dry wells were common. “A dry well is basically a large hole in the ground filled with crushed stone; it has a 30 per cent volume of empty space that can be filled with water. However, modern products, such as ACO’s Stormbrixx, create 95 per cent volume for water storage, using modular, easy-to-assemble parts.”

ACO also offers discreet grids, made from recycled materials, that can be anchored in grassy areas to prevent erosion and support vehicle traffic.

Although it’s ideal to install drainage systems during initial home construction and landscaping, it is possible to retrofit a property. Filip says that “most people will not take action until something happens.

“But it’s more costly fixing things than taking preventive action,” he says. His best advice: “Handling water in a controlled manner may be the most effective and cheapest insurance.”





CANADA'S WINTER DESTINATION

Lakeside living in the midst of wine country is clipping the wings of snowbirds

BY JULIE GEDEON

SOME SNOWBIRDS are heading for the driest part of Canada instead of points south and many are happily arriving forever at Osoyoos Cottages. The 285 homes built or still planned for the 70 acres bordering pristine Osoyoos Lake in the Okanagan Valley were originally intended for summer vacationers, but retirees have been snapping them up.

Eric Van Maren, the managing general partner of Osoyoos Cottages Limited Partnership, doesn't usually "fall in love" with land he buys to develop, but the lakeside region nestled an equal distance from Osoyoos and Oliver stole his heart.

"It's a spectacular location with 1,800 feet of waterfront—a third of it sandy beach—surrounded by open meadow and hillside vineyards," he says. "I've been in real estate development for almost 43 years and this project will be the capstone of my career."

The initial model homes weren't open for long when prospective buyers made it clear they wanted more space for visiting family and friends, a garage and other contemporary upgrades for year-round living. 🏡





“About 75-80 per cent of our residents are retirees,” Van Maren says. “They love the lifestyle we offer with the lake, boat slips in a quiet cove, wine country, two swimming pools, hot tubs and a clubhouse with tai chi lessons, wine and cheese parties and other activities organized by the residents.”

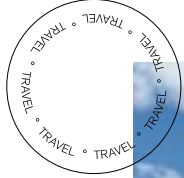
The weak Canadian dollar and steep insurance premiums for health care outside the country have prompted many retirees to opt for Canada’s only official desert region as a winter haven. “With minus five or minus 10 degrees Celsius being about the coldest it gets with just a dusting of snow, it’s certainly warmer than Winnipeg,” Van Maren says. “And less than 12 inches of rain annually makes for a lot of sunny days.”

Local hotel/motel accommodations that sat empty as of October a few years ago are now already booked for next January. “And the community has responded wonderfully by keeping restaurants and entertainment venues open to cater to snowbirds year-round,” Van Maren adds.

Everyone at Osoyoos Cottages has time to enjoy activities or to just relax with all the landscaping maintained by the developers.

The company offers more than a dozen contemporary floor plans to get buyers started, but goes out of its way to customize each property. “Kitchens and bathrooms are most often upgraded,” Van Maren says. “Vaulted ceilings, hot tub installations and a double garage are important additions for many.”

“Less than 12 inches of rain annually makes for a lot of sunny days.”



All the house sidings and trims by Hardie were chosen for their appealing durability, and the Magnum Glass and Door windows for their high level of energy efficiency. The landscaping is handled by the Strata Homeowners' Corporation to resemble a well-maintained park setting.

“The gorgeous lake in the middle of wine country makes it appealing for relatives to spend their vacation time here. Grandchildren love it.”



The houses are strategically placed on the hillside to give every owner the best possible views of Lake Osoyoos. Glass railings ensure that the view is as clear as possible from each balcony.

With most residents being 55 years and older, the developers have kept the needs of this aging demographic in mind. All the master bedroom suites, for example, are located on the main floor of each house regardless of its style. Decks and patios are readily accessible.

The overall project has been designed to facilitate easy walking throughout the property. “There are small groups of residents who gather throughout the day to go for a hike on the trails down to the beach or up the hills for a bit,” Van Maren says. “There’s also a fitness area with commercial equipment to stay fit, as well as 160 boat slips.”

Many buyers initially express interest in a home without any stairs whatsoever, but most opt for a two-storey house to better accommodate visiting family and friends. “The gorgeous lake in the middle of wine country makes it appealing for relatives to spend their vacation time here,” Van Maren says. “Grandchildren love it.”

The two-level hillside homes are ideal for people who want a beautiful view of the lake but aren’t as interested in water-related activities.

While the local towns fill with visitors come summertime, the Osoyoos Cottages on the north end of the lake remain tranquil. “Boats from Osoyoos rarely come all the way to this side,” Van Maren notes. “We’re also far enough from the highway so we don’t really hear it and yet it’s only about a 12-minute drive to Osoyoos or Oliver.” ☛

The Cottages on Osoyoos Lake
855-742-5555
www.OsoyoosCottages.com



SURFACE SAVVY

A Burnaby centre offers vast range of stone, quartz and other products

BY SUSAN KELLY

TO CALL THE COSENTINO CENTRE A SHOWROOM WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT. *It's more like a destination for style-savvy Vancouverites in search of natural stone, quartz, and other surfaces. "There's a lot going on here, and not just for the trade," says Philip Eeles, regional director of distribution for the northwest region of North America. "We like to think we provide a unique experience."*

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“We like to think we provide a unique experience.”



The Burnaby-based centre is a dynamic place. Open to the public, it is one of 39 showroom and distribution facilities in the U.S. and Canada for this Spain-based company, which distributes its products in 70 countries. Designers, builders and architects have the inside track; special facilities are set aside for them to sit in on a range of workshops and training sessions year-round.

But anyone can enjoy the larger-than-life product displays and find plenty of useful information here, including homeowners looking to install or upgrade. Many arrive at the centre armed with only a cabinet sample and no idea of what would complement it. Staff members help them sift through hundreds of colour and product options and discuss the practical considerations that go into finding the perfect countertop for the kitchen or bathroom. Bonus: Cosentino stands behind its products with a 25-year guarantee.

With roots in the marble business, the 75-year-old company also enjoys a solid reputation for innovation. Most people know Cosentino for its famous Silestone. Developed in the early 1990s, this quartz surface now enhances countless high-quality kitchens and bathrooms. Among the latest colours for spring 2016 is a vibrant Amalfi seacoast aqua. “And one texture option, which we call Suede, is proving quite a hit,” says Eeles. It’s a look reminiscent of concrete but warmer to the eye and touch.

The very latest product is Dekton. It advances the technology by fusing porcelain, glass and quartz to create thin and highly durable slabs; the company’s manufacturing process mimics nature’s process in an accelerated way. Dekton slabs can be used for not only countertops and flooring inside the home, but also UV- and water-resistant building facades and outdoor kitchens. It’s virtually impossible to

stain or scratch, and heatproof enough to torch a crème brûlée right on it. “And there are 38 colours in stock,” says Eeles. “People love Dekton for the look alone; the high performance is icing on the cake.”

The company recently launched Dekton XGloss (www.dekton.ca), a new line of ultra-polished, high-tech, compact surfaces that boast a crystalline shine. In addition to having a highly reflective surface, XGloss is water repellent and stain resistant, Eeles says. The material is also available in various textures and patterns, from highly polished to leather-like natural looks, and those that imitate Calacatta marble, wood and concrete.

Other Cosentino innovations include slabs of recycled materials and granite that withstand stains and the Prexury Collection, a semi-precious stone line hand-made by expert craftsmen.

Vancouverites have taken to the brand. Eeles, who has also worked for the company in Europe, reckons it’s because people here are discerning consumers with continental tastes. “There’s a high level of design interest in the region,” he says. And despite the trend toward a contemporary look, those who prefer transitional or traditional styles will find plenty of options to take their decor to the next level at the Cosentino Centre, too, he says. ☛

OFF THE WALL

The historic Murphy bed gets a new lease on life and handsome new looks

THE MURPHY BED, or wall bed as it's generically called, is an ingenious space-saving piece of furniture that dates to 1900, when it was patented by William Lawrence Murphy. It was a practical invention for its time. Today's wall beds are not only practical; they're attractive. They can be customized for any interior, turning a room into a multi-purpose space. For advice on wall beds, Vancouver Home asked Tara Blanchet, sales and design manager at California Closets in Vancouver, to weigh in on wall beds in current design.

Q: Tara, wall beds are seeing a resurgence in popularity. Why?

A: With the current cost of square footage in Vancouver, people are really trying to make all of their spaces multi-functional.

Q: Who is buying wall beds now?

A: Everyone: downsizers who want an office and a guest bedroom, families whose children have small bedrooms (they can play in the room during the day and then pop the bed down to sleep), and young people who need their small spaces to function in multiple ways.

Q: What sizes are wall beds available in?

A: All sizes: twin, double, queen, king. They are also available in a side-tilt version (versus the standard vertical tilt). This allows the side of the bed to come down instead of the foot. It takes up less space in the room when it's down.

Q: Are they useful for storage?

A: We can incorporate beautiful storage around the bed to maximize use of the space—anything from wardrobes and clothing storage to shelving, desks, displays, and lighting. We're a custom storage company, so we can create the perfect combination of storage, desk space, and display for items and guests. The client really gets to make it perfect.

Q: What about the comfort factor? We think of sofa beds as uncomfortable. Are wall beds equally so?

A: No. That's the best part really. You can use a regular mattress in a wall bed and it never gets folded or squished; it's as comfortable as a regular bed. Maybe too comfortable; your guests won't want to leave.

Q: What advice do you have for someone who is in the market for a wall bed?

A: Shop around. Designers in showrooms that sell wall beds should be able to show you how they work and discuss how you can customize them. 🛏️



California Closets
2421 Granville St., Vancouver
604-320-6575
www.californiaclosets.com



“With the current cost of square footage in Vancouver, people are really trying to make all of their spaces multi-functional.”







FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

A Dunbar garden is visually pleasing and a welcoming play spot for children

BY SUSAN KELLY
PHOTOGRAPHY: JANIS NICOLAY


GARDEN DESIGN 101 dictates that landscaping should mirror a home's style. Landscape architect Julian Pattison, principal at Considered Design, and partner Alison Magill broke the rule with this garden in the Dunbar area of Vancouver. And in so doing, they put it into a class all its own.

A couple with two young children—a two-year-old son and five-year-old daughter—and a golden retriever live in the Craftsman-style home. In upgrading parts of the interior along with the garden, they logically assumed their designers would conform to the original style. And yet, it was difficult to ignore the homeowners' forward and contemporary tastes in decor. "We convinced them to make the new elements very modern, in high contrast with the old, and that we could celebrate both old and new in a way that worked for them," says Pattison.

The landscape specialists worked closely with architect Nigel Parish of Splyce Design, who designed the new addition off the living room. Separate from the house and adjoining the back lane, a shed was knocked down. In its place

rose a larger contemporary design structure that houses a home gym and serves as a garage.

It marked a very different approach to landscape design for the 6,500-square-foot lot. "First, we defined the horizontal and vertical surfaces, which is a more abstract and contemporary way of organizing space," says Pattison. The next steps involved getting each element to function for the family and choosing the right materials.

Striking horizontal lines were created in the backyard through the inseting of rectangular engineered concrete slabs in the lawn that mimic paving stones. They visually and practically connect the home to the new gym/garage. For the deck, cedar planks were laid parallel to the back door and extend for 33 feet, creating the illusion of wide-open spaces. 

(Opposite page) The deck's minimalist design offers the homeowners options in how they use the space.

It also provides a seamless flow from the new living room extension. "It's a very flexible and sociable way of designing space," says landscape architect Julian Pattison.

In the front yard, horizontal planes appear to float, thanks to the juxtaposition of concrete slabs and planted areas of feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster') and bergenia. A walkway entices visitors from the sidewalk before a black pigment-dyed slab set at a sharp angle draws them to the front door. For an even greater sense of presence, the designers moved the path to the original Craftsman-style front stairs, creating an off-centre entrance.

An elegant and gracefully mature Japanese maple retains pride of place in the front yard. Its sinuous shape contrasts with the linear plantings that surround it. "Just as when you renovate a home's interior, you don't want to obliterate everything outside it," says Pattison. Also kept were a large birch tree that provides a low-hanging branch for the children's rope swing, and the mature hedge opposite it on the east side.

The landscape designers configured the garden for ease of maintenance; the owners simply have to mow the lawn. New plant species were chosen for eye-pleasing textures and forms and to be robust enough to endure a child riding a bike over them now and then. "There are also moments of lightness and delight, but nothing too precious," says Pattison. 🍃

"Just as when you renovate a home's interior, you don't want to obliterate everything outside it."













“First, we defined the horizontal and vertical surfaces, which is a more abstract and contemporary way of organizing space.”

In spring, randomly planted black tulips poke up through the ground-covering vinca, which flowers discreetly all summer long. The three trembling aspens along the back fence turn a vibrant yellow in the autumn, and in the summertime, the leaves appear to dance and provide a soothing ambient sound.

Like the plants, Pattison’s original design has grown organically, he says. The children discovered that the concrete side wall is a great place to launch onto their rope swing. The huge back deck was left with no defined areas other than one bench and a fire pit. The modern design opens up possibilities for the owners, the designer says. “They wanted almost a blank canvas so they could then figure out how they wanted to use it as they went,” he says. “We basically provided the bones, and the real life of the project comes from the people as they use it.”

Contemporary in design, the front yard was also designed to be play-friendly for the homeowners’ two children. Plants were chosen for aesthetic appeal but had to be robust enough to be trodden on now and then.





MAKING THE MOST OF SUMMER

A well-designed pavilion creates an outdoor lifestyle for a North Vancouver family

BY SUSAN SEMENAK · PHOTOGRAPHY: COLIN PERRY · STYLING: NEGAR REIHANI

ALI SADEGHI'S WEST VANCOUVER BACKYARD is twice as big as many condos.

At more than 1,200 square feet, the property seemed almost too vast, with its expanse of lawn stretching from one side of the property to the other. He and his wife, both busy professionals, wanted an intimate space where they and their two young boys could enjoy Vancouver's short but beautiful spring and summer.

"It's a luxury to have so much outdoor space," says Negar Reihani, the interior designer hired by the family to create the modern cedar structure that's now their summer oasis. "But it needs to be inviting if you are really going to make use of it."

Reihani, the owner of the award-winning interior design firm Space Harmony, left half the lawn, but created a large and luxurious pavilion, which sits as if perched on an island in the middle of a tranquil pond. The mandate from her clients was clear: the structure couldn't just be beautiful. It had to be child-friendly and highly functional.

"We like backyard barbecues and having people over in summer," says Ali. "We wanted a nice, comfortable place." 🐾



The cedar pavilion, built by X3 Constructors, is situated 20 or so steps away from the house. To get here, the owners walk through the garden.

Together they envisioned a look that is modern and rustic, romantic but still child-friendly, impressive but not overbearing. To begin, they built a 600-square-foot platform of concrete blocks upon which the structure rests, its cedar posts supporting a multi-tiered roof which is covered at one end and glass-roofed at the other.

Reihani then divided the space in two, designating one area as the kitchen and the other the lounge. She set the kitchen, with “all its bells and whistles” close to the property line, where it is away from the living area. There’s all that’s needed here for a day outdoors: barbecue, bar fridge, sink and even a juice bar with blenders for whirring smoothies and margaritas.

An island clad in white stone and topped with easy-maintenance grey quartz sits at the centre of the pavilion, uniting the kitchen and lounge. It’s where guests gather for drinks at parties, where the children eat their lunch after a morning of play.

On the other side of the island is the lounge, a relaxed and elegant space anchored by a generous sectional sofa and a fire table with edges wide enough to serve as a coffee table. Here, the mood is bright and airy, almost tropical. “This is Vancouver, where it’s so grey so much of the time. The last thing we wanted was more grey,” says Reihani.

She and her clients opted for modern faux-wicker furniture in rosy-toned taupe,

with cushions that are light and weather-proof. Behind the seating, a wall of potted bamboo is most dramatic in the evening when, lit from below, it casts its silhouettes into the space.

Reihani says she spent a lot of time designing the lighting, an element she says is too often overlooked in outdoor areas, leaving them dark, unsafe and uncomfortable. For lighting that is both functional and beautiful, she layered light fixtures throughout the gazebo, fastening track lights along the beams above the kitchen for general lighting, and adding uplights to the flower boxes for mood. And for a hint of playfulness, movable LED globe lights are arranged in a cluster in the lounge.



The island is clad in white stone tiles. The counter is grey quartz, a virtually indestructible surface that is great for outdoors. Reihani says it is an economical alternative to polished concrete, which was the homeowner's first choice.



“It’s a luxury to have so much outdoor space.”

In the kitchen, Nuevo Living stainless steel stools at the island counter are weatherproof and comfortable.



There’s a long stainless steel trough with a drain in the middle of the island. Filled with ice, it’s a handy cooler during parties. Arranged with pots of herbs or flowers, it’s a centerpiece.



The structure sits at the edge of a shallow pond, which was originally planned as a swimming pool. Its amorphous shape and rocky edges create the sense of a small lake.

“Now it’s like their own secluded lake out here.”

The pond, which ripples in the wind along the edges of the pavilion, was Ali’s “passion project.” The couple had originally planned a swimming pool for the backyard. But concerns over the children’s safety quashed that idea. They opted instead for a shallow shimmering pond with a river-rock bottom as their water feature.

“Now it’s like their own secluded lake out here,” Reihani says. ➤



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A BACHELOR'S PARADISE

*A single man chooses a contemporary gentlemen's-club
decor for his new condo*

BY JULIE GEDEON // PHOTOGRAPHY: EMA PETER // STYLING: MICHAEL NGUI





“We aimed for that high level of luxury with clearly masculine elements.”


A DOWNTOWN HIGH-RISE CONDO is both a relaxing home and entertainment hub for its single male owner because of its contemporary gentlemen’s-club decor.

“My client showed me photos of his favourite London hotel to give me an idea of what he liked,” recalls designer Michael Ngui, the owner of M80 Design Studio, who designed the condo. “We aimed for that high level of luxury with clearly masculine elements.”

Diverse shades of black anchor the various spaces, starting with the commissioned artwork in the entranceway. “The assorted squares of black glass by Norwegian duo Jørgen Craig Lello & Tobias Arnell all catch the light differently,” Ngui says.

A Carl Hansen & Son stool directly below the artwork is the first indication of the way that Ngui contrasted traditional heritage furniture with bold contemporary elements to create a subtle tension, so the condo is neither coldly industrial nor overly plush.

The homeowner enjoys English Bay’s sunsets while lounging on the contemporary silk-upholstered chairs with Macassar ebony backing that Ngui had custom-made. They’re paired opposite Art Deco-style chairs. “All the seating is similar in colour to maintain the focus on the different shapes,” Ngui says.

An olive-coloured silk-wool area rug ties all of the elements together. Most of the unit’s side tables are circular to offset the straight lines of the larger furnishings. 

The saddle leather Giorgetti wing chair from Italy, along with the burnished brass and gold leaf circular tables, give the TV room its gentlemen’s-club ambience.

A rosewood end table contrasts with neutral grass-cloth wall covering.



“All the seating is similar in colour to maintain the focus on the different shapes.”

The lit onyx backdrop on the living room bar and prominent wine closet showcase the home’s entertainment features. Dinner parties are easily held around the dark mahogany dining table that anchors the funky Lindsey Adelman lighting fixture. “The white glass rods on this chandelier from the Agnes collection are movable in various ways,” Ngui says. “And the black and brass elements tie with the other touches of black and warm metals elsewhere.”

Casual eating and partying is simple at the kitchen’s leathered-granite island. The counter-height stools were custom-made with chocolate leather seats and embossed suede backing.

A TV room and the office space were created by opening up a third bedroom. The Giorgetti saddle leather wing chair has a contemporary design and leather that will show its wear for a yesteryear texture. “The velvet sectional will also eventually show crush marks,” Ngui adds. “And the burnished brass coffee table and gold-leaf side table suggest that a patina will develop with the passage of time.”

A dramatic rosewood end table along with the anigre-wood veneer behind the flat screen television hint at the exotic. Tone-on-tone carpet pulls together the space and softens the porcelain tile without drawing undue attention. 🏡





The bathroom boasts a burnished bronze metal vanity and matte-black faucets.





The circular nightstand is perfect for the tight space at the far side of the bed; its shape echoes the round tables found throughout the condo.

In the master bedroom, the masculinity of the dark side tables and Macassar ebony headboard are softened just a touch with a midnight blue velvet headrest and silk wall covering.

By contrast, the ensuite bathroom's white freestanding tub and marble countertop are masculinized with burnished bronze metal cabinetry and matte-black faucets. The subtle black vein in the marble and slightly iridescent porcelain backsplash add a touch of softness. »

OPEN TO ALL

*Once known only among the building trades,
The Ensuite showrooms are now a draw for homeowners*

BY SUSAN KELLY

THE ENSUITE BATH & KITCHEN SHOWROOMS ARE NO LONGER A BEST-KEPT SECRET – or more appropriately a place that the design and building trades have quietly known about since 2002. They are now favoured destinations for discerning and design-conscious homeowners in the Vancouver area.



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“We work with every customer to ensure they get their order when they actually need it.”



“Over the years we’ve made a big effort to be more welcoming to the non-professional,” says David Kroeker, business development manager, who works at the Burnaby location. There are seven Ensuite showrooms on the lower mainland, with the latest slated to open on Vancouver’s west side by the autumn. And an additional seven are strategically located around the province. All are aimed at making it easier to access the shopping experience, and not just for home builders and renovators, interior designers or architects.

Emco, the parent corporation, is a plumbing supply company established in 1906. For more than 14 years, the Ensuite Bath & Kitchen Showrooms have focused on outfitting what are considered by many the two most important rooms in the house. Homeowners will find everything needed to inspire and inform when building or renovating their dream bathroom or kitchen.

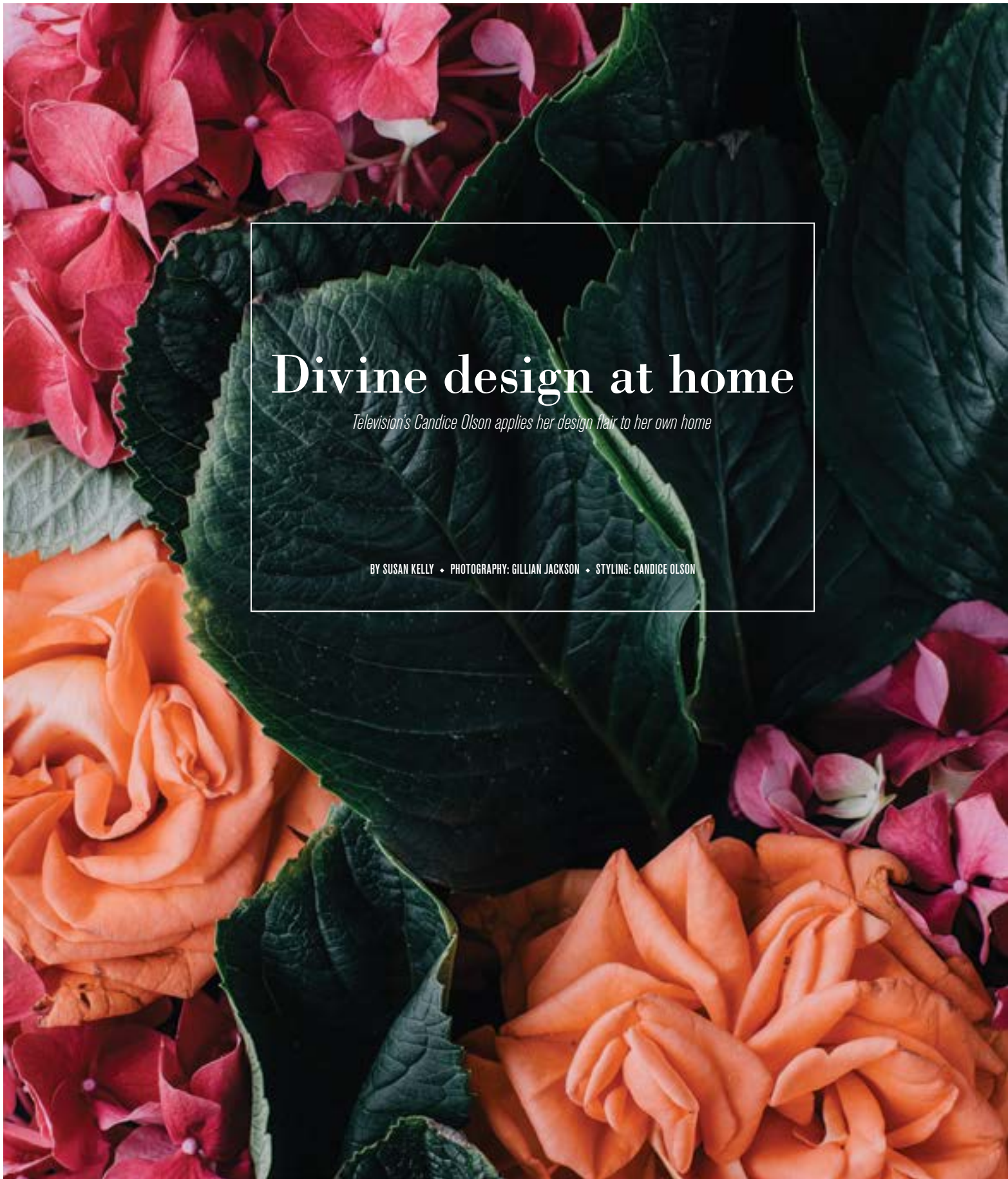
They can talk to someone who understands their desire to control what goes into the home. “Kohler, the main product line we carry, offers homeowners many ways to explore their creativity,” says Kroeker. With the Artifacts bathroom collection, for instance, they can choose the handle, spout and finish of choice to design a unique faucet. The Tailored vanity line provides many ways to customize the look. And the new Artist Editions features distinctive patterns in sinks for kitchens and bathrooms: florals, geometrics, special-interest themes and architectural detailing embossed in precious metals.

The innovative designs and materials used in another line, Hytec, are also popular with those who favour a contemporary look. Available in several exciting fashion colours, the many options in new bathtubs, showers or surrounds also provide a high level of performance. Out of San Francisco and designed by two Britons, Kallista

has been setting new standards for style since 1979. Exquisite details – from surfaces finished by hand to cultured stone – also make it a favourite.

The Ensuite showrooms are operated by trained and knowledgeable sales consultants, most of whom are multilingual. “Our staff members are professionals and tend to stay with the company for many years,” says Kroeker, who has been associated with the company for 24 years. When necessary, they will review your home’s floor plans and design needs, and help sort out the myriad products, preferably by appointment. Visitors are also welcome to make an impromptu visit to take in the displays on their own, with staff on hand to answer questions.

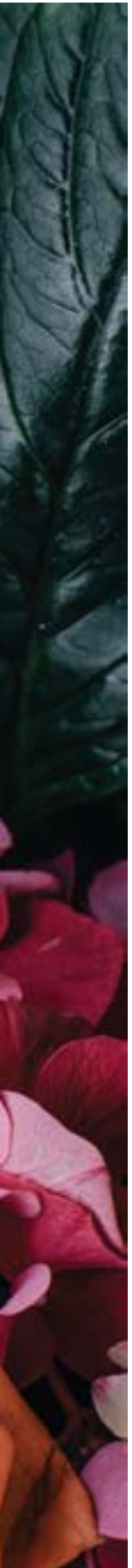
A recently implemented system helps ensure that orders are filled and delivered in a timely manner. “We work with every customer to ensure they get their order when they actually need it,” says Kroeker. ☛



Divine design at home

Television's Candice Olson applies her design flair to her own home

BY SUSAN KELLY • PHOTOGRAPHY: GILLIAN JACKSON • STYLING: CANDICE OLSON



“It’s very much a home meant to be lived in and not just looked at.”

CANDICE OLSON’S FLAIR for creating elegant contemporary interiors has been showcased for more than a decade on two hit television shows – *Divine Design* and *Candice Tells All* (W Network/HGTV) – and in six best-selling books. Her ability to break down the basics of superior style in a down-to-earth way, spiced with a bit of wacky and irreverent humour, has won her legions of fans.

When it comes to the design of her home’s kitchen and bathroom, it’s very much a family affair. The designer shares the home with her builder husband, Jurij Sennecke, and two children: Pyper, 12, and Beckett, 10.

“My husband and I really designed the house together to suit our personal lifestyle and how we saw it evolving with our children,” Candice says. “It’s very much a home meant to be lived in and not just looked at.”

With busy professional parents juggling two careers and kids involved in countless sports, home life is laughingly described by Candice as “more zoo than Zen. It’s like living with a tribe of baboons but a lot less civilized.”

Candice goes on to say “that’s probably why we all love the home’s wilderness setting.” Perched high above a forested ravine with an expansive golf course view, the Don Mills home allows the children to roam freely while Candice and Jurij enjoy the picturesque scenery. Whether it’s the colours of the sky during an impending summer rainstorm or the ever-changing seasons, Candice cites Mother Nature, whom she considers “the biggest and the best designer of them all,” as her major source of design inspiration for her extensive collection of signature home fashions.

“I get to see some of her finest work on display every day,” she says. “It’s inspiring, to say the least.”

Candice admits she approached the kitchen’s design a little backwards. “I fell head over heels for some onyx slabs with wonderful stormy blue-grey veining and caramel accents,” she says. “And they became the starting point for the rest of the home’s palette and finishes.” The couple decided to use the spectacular slabs like pieces of art

The kitchen design was inspired by the onyx countertops and their “wonderful stormy blue-grey veining and caramel accents.” In contrast, the island is topped with leather-finished black granite. Candice and Jurij love to cook and entertain, and they appreciate the style and performance of Thermador appliances. Their custom cabinetry is by Dundene Homes, and the pendant lights over the island are by Restoration Hardware.







Candice wanted something a little more contemporary amid the kitchen's traditional style, so she chose counter stools by McGuire in a mix of wire and wood. The sinks and streamlined faucets are by Kohler.

(Opposite) Onyx slabs not only top the counters, they also run up the walls for dramatic effect. (This page) The designer has a rare quiet moment in a life that she describes as “more zoo than Zen.”

in the kitchen, running the stone from the countertops vertically up the wall so that it could be viewed and enjoyed from other areas in the open-concept layout.

For contrast, Candice chose a material she has long loved—aged, leather-finished black granite—for the island countertop. It crowns a pine cabinet whose antiqued surface was intended to stand up to such punishment as restless children kicking their feet as they spin on the counter stools. And even though the family’s pups chose one corner to gnaw on while teething, Candice finds the cabinet is aging as gracefully as she anticipated.

The striking wood-beam ceiling detail, she says, is “brilliant,” her husband’s idea. With its two-storey skylight, the kitchen area is always treated to ample natural light. Candice’s brainstorm was to inset panels of woven brass on the large cabinet doors that discreetly conceal several refrigerators, freezers and pantries. (“We feed a lot of kids in this house!”) She loves the metal’s gentle gleam, which will develop a soft patina over time. Brass

details on hardware also add warm contrast against the cool blue-grey painted cabinetry.

The top-floor master bathroom is part of a new addition to the 1960s split-level home and was designed as a private sanctuary. “Well, that was the original idea, but I have to admit that all four of us—and our two little Coton-poo pups—have been in there all at once,” says Candice. “It could double as a car wash.”

The bathroom divides the bedroom by a long marble-clad, European-style shower, with glass walls on both sides. For privacy, she installed a frosted film on the glass, inspired by a personal favourite pattern from her 11 top-selling Candice Olson collections for York Wallcoverings. She loves the pattern so much that it’s featured in her latest textile collection with Kravet Fabrics.

Everything was chosen to create a serene retreat. Still taking cues from the onyx in the kitchen downstairs, “it’s more about the rich caramel colour upstairs,” Candice says. There’s a hint of it in the Calacatta marble counters and the warm mushroom-coloured marble floor tile, her hubby’s fave. 🐾



Photo: Brandon Barré



“My husband and I really designed the house together to suit our personal lifestyle and how we saw it evolving with our children.”





Candice's eclectic style means that a sleek, contemporary floating walnut vanity and makeup counter meet a furry Tibetan yak-hair stool in the master bathroom. Further evidence of her approach to decorating is found on her website at www.candiceolson.com.

Medium-toned walnut cabinetry contains a multitude of drawers to tame the usual bathroom clutter and to keep clean contemporary lines reading as such. It also floats above the floors to instill a sense of lightness and space, further enhanced by under-lighting for a special effect.

The vanity area epitomizes her style in more ways than one, Candice says. It practises what she preaches: that contemporary yet comfortable design is about a mix of periods and styles, playing pared-down, modern elements against embellished traditional ones. Here it's an ornate vintage Venetian mirror paired with contemporary cabinetry and a Tibetan yak-hair stool. That stool features another signature style element: fur. The Calgary-raised designer points out that an affinity for furry things may be in her genes, since her grandfather was a trapper by trade.

"And I think that stool softens the look and makes the whole room," she says. "Plus it's just so quirky and funny. When you put it all together, it's just me." ☺

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