

BEST·HOME

Winter 2012

WESTERN CANADA



Coastal comfort



The vision of uninterrupted water views through dappled sunlight on dense foliage almost sounds like a dream come true. Add peaceful solitude, modern comforts, and constructive ingenuity and you very well may find yourself building on a steep, rocky site on Gambier Island. It seems, as unique properties present themselves, so do opportunities to create truly inspired solutions.

The majestic two-storey fireplace in the great room affords wide-faced warmth. Clad in Metallic Bronze Glaze porcelain tile with a floating fir hearth, it joins the cedar ceiling at its eighteen-foot vaulted height.



Floor-to-ceiling, cedar-clad windows overlook the bay in the dining room that adjoins the exterior lounge area. The outside is welcomed in where a twenty-foot, lift-and-slide door opens living spaces to a large covered deck, expanding comforts outward.



Photographs by Patrick Barta Photography

The floating under-lit vanity in Charcoal stained Wenge hosts marble slab countertops with dual vessel sinks enhanced with waterfall wall mounted faucets mounted in a Carrera Marble slab backsplash.



A hotel ambience permeates the luxurious comforts of the ensuite. The raised bath brings vistas to eye level amidst floor-mounted fixtures in chrome. Adjacent, the open shower hosts unobstructed amenities. Marble mosaic borders Carrera Marble floors with black porcelain inlays.



A frequent weekend visitor to Gambier Island, this adventurous homeowner decided to make this long-time refuge his dream home. When a small number of island building sites became available, he and his partner were faced with finding the right designer and builder, in addition to the logistics of being situated on an island with no bridge or ferry access to the mainland. “We discovered a conceptual drawing by Turkel Design in collaboration with Lindal Cedar Homes,” shares the homeowner. “Soon after, we were introduced to My House Design/Build Team in Vancouver—who is also the Lindal dealer—who had both the design and the building experience we needed.”

“We like to be involved from the beginning—from concept to completion,” admits Graeme Huguet, team leader of My House Design/Build. “It’s about ambience, social interaction, and how they live in the space.” Inspired by the client’s vision, they spent time touring the building site so that they could meld the design to the land with respect to a well-defined wish list of relevant criteria.

The award-winning My House Design team worked within the priority of minimizing disturbance to the rocky shoreline site. A synergy of creative strategies ensued, resulting in a muted presence, energy efficiencies, power protocols, and the smooth delivery of a precise package of premium materials to a remote site. “Sensitive placement, plus our selection of exterior colours,



This elegant floating staircase features darkly stained stringers with recessed lights and treads in rift-cut oak. The frameless glass railing offers contemporary styling with clear intentions.



Great room décors host views to the bonus room and connected flows of the gourmet kitchen.



Contemporary stainless steel pulls accessorize custom Wenge cabinetry with seamless appliance overlays and flat panel elegance. Thick slabs of quartz define countertops and island that host a variety of built-ins with waterfall-edge styling. A custom stainless steel hood fan and mosaic stainless steel tile backsplash provides ample reflection. Large format porcelain tile in matte black anchors this sleek setting.

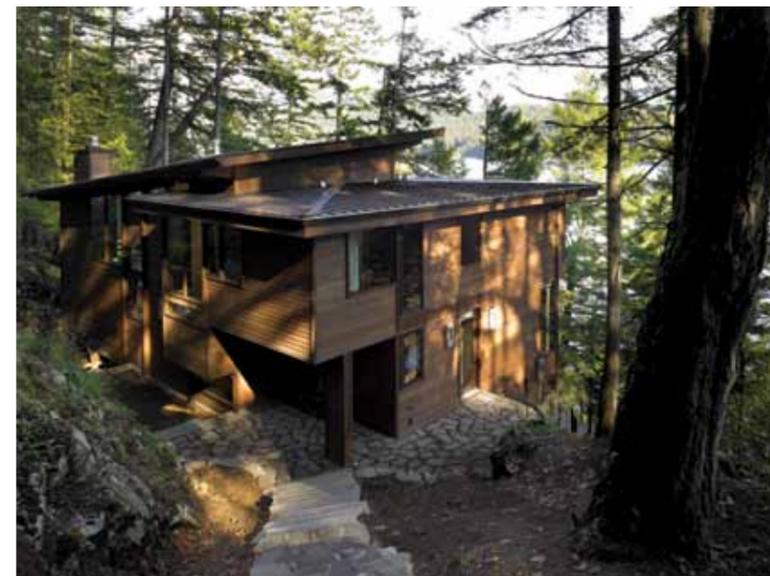
made our home much more subtle than any other house on the island,” affirms the owner.

Sharing a keen desire for seamless landscape continuity, the My House production crew ensured trees remained undisturbed for shade and privacy with encroaching flora respectfully kept in place. Walls of glass capture views across the bay but also reveal delicate ferns and moss-covered boulders close at hand, framing beautiful imagery from nature’s canvas onto all sides of the home.

Accommodating a primary ocean-front access, the ‘front’ entry is on the waterside at its lowest level. From there, three levels of open floors host wonderfully textured finishes where the filtered sun moves from east to west, continually changing the warm ambience of the interior. “The interior volumes are a wonderful relief from the tightly packaged exterior foliage,” continues the homeowner, who preferred a home that would fit the setting rather than the setting fit the home.

This custom designed, post-and-beam home, based on a Lindal TD3-2400 concept, captures the contemporary styling pursued by the clients, incorporating the spacious, open flows of its engineering. “The community is social and close-knit, so we wanted a house where we could entertain with a dedicated office space to allow me to work more from home,” he shares. Integrated home automation systems, quality materials, and fine finishes produced a home that exudes a comprehensive sense of style, refinement, and relaxing peaceful contemplation.

“It was a steep site for a waterfront island retreat with no ferry access,” admits Huguet. That said, a lot of materials were barged over, and, ultimately, the home appears as if it has been dropped down from above. During the eighteen-month design/build process, the My House team



The house presents itself humbly and is woven into the hillside and hidden by the trees it delicately avoids. The standing seam steel roof includes a green roof that covers dining room and outdoor patio comforts with extended pergola attractions. Western Redwood cedar in a medium brown stain blends discreetly with the landscape, with custom metal posts anchoring frameless tempered glass for unobstructed views.

A special thanks to the following suppliers:

Lindal Cedar Homes
Terrastone
B.A. Robinson
Harrison Blake Cabinetry
Fireplaces Unlimited
Richelieu
Ames Tile
Connected Spaces
Edmonds/Y. Franks Appliances

effectively managed the selection and mobilization of the many tradespeople and craftsmen involved in its construction, most of whom were in-house personnel.

“We were impressed with Graeme’s team’s knowledge and familiarity with the latest building technologies, many of which were incorporated into our house,” recalls the homeowner. “We also appreciated the many useful recommendations made by the My House staff during the course of construction. Their attention to detail and refusal to accept sub-standard work was both impressive and reassuring.”

Featuring 3,300 square feet on three levels, this two-storey walkout hosts an entry level from the waterfront, created by blasting granite so as to blend the foundation to the stone. “Graeme suggested we have a mechanical room, and as we proceeded we put in a full basement, which opens access at the downward slope making the home bigger than anticipated,” explains the owner.

“The clients wanted clean lines with bright open spaces and a feel that is a bit retro, which is in vogue right now,” shares My House Registered Interior Designer Sarah Gallop. Stark contrasts in finish selections add dramatic flourish with simple yet stylish furnishings that don’t detract from the view. Abundant opportunities to not just display but truly integrate art into the home were created with the My House Team’s designers, guiding material selection and coordination every step of the way. “This was such an amazing project, not because of the location or even the style, but because they had such a clear vision, which we were thrilled to make their reality,” says Gallop.

“The great room is my favourite,” claims the owner, as high ceilings host filtered sunlight through the trees. A geothermal heat pump system provides plentiful radiant in-floor heat enhanced with a continuous air curtain wall in front of the glazing. “These big open spaces keep surprisingly warm, so it’s very comfortable,” he admits. “There’s a better quality of air out here.”



My House

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Scan the QR Code to watch the Gambier Island Virtual Tour.

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