



Canada Cool

Contemporary SoCal style meets Canada's great outdoors at this Vancouver home

FIRM /
ZACHARKO YUSTIN
ARCHITECTS

PROJECT TYPE /
RESIDENTIAL

LOCATION /
VANCOUVER, BC

PHOTOGRAPHER /
EMA PETER

Breeze block and aluminum panels were a low-maintenance solution ideal for Vancouver's marine climate

Combining Vancouver's natural beauty with retro California cool, architects David Zacharko and David Yustin wanted to give their successful client a sleek space for entertaining and a peaceful place for introspection.

"Starting with [the client's] original notion of Southern California living, it brought to mind the concept of a modern contemporary lifestyle, white brick, and breeze block; it's that Frank Sinatra feel," Zacharko says. "But we wanted it grounded as well, so it's a real blend between what we would see (CONTINUED...)"



The veining in the marble alludes to the house's waterfront location and street-side water feature

A horizontal window backsplash in the kitchen frames the property's city views



(...CONTINUED) as those clean, California lines with the livability and urbanity of being in Vancouver.”

The small site on an urban waterfront presented some unique urban planning challenges. Privacy, too, was a concern for the client, so the architects set the house in such a way on the property that it was secluded, while being careful not to shut out the street entirely. A water feature separating what Zacharko calls the public space from the client's private space, creates an entry at the garden gate rather than the front door.

The house also affords its owner plenty of opportunities to connect with his surroundings—features like an outdoor shower, personal rooftop yoga courtyard, and walls that open up, to name just a few. “We [designed them] in such a way that they aren't kitsch or contrived, they just become part of the house,” Yustin says. “When these walls are open, your sense of space is extended beyond the structure of the house. You feel the entire property is your living space, not just the building itself.” ■



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For custom millwork and home builder BLP Management Ltd., the biggest challenge can sometimes bring the greatest reward. When designing the millwork for the Vancouver beach house, “our biggest challenge was the alignment of the grain structure throughout the space and tying all the elements together,” principal Borge Lind-Petersen says. “It was also our favorite design feature.”

The British Columbia-based company produced the millwork for the kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms, walk-in closets, panelling, doors, and stairs. “The most interesting fact about this project was the amazing skill demonstrated by the artisans involved and watching them come together to create this stunning home,” Lind-Petersen adds.

“This involved the selection of veneers, the handling of hundreds of pieces of veneers by the stitcher who assembled them, the people who pressed the veneers, and our team who manufactured and installed the product and finished it on-site.”

