

VANCOUVER *Signature* INTERIORS



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Editor Lorraine Demers

Art director and designer Todd Chapman

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Portrait photography Robert Kent

TWR

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COVER Visionary Living in Yaletown – Above and Beyond

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A TrueWorth Publication

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AN INTRODUCTION BY THU WATSON

Sophisticated, sexy and refreshing – Vancouver, Canada has developed a whole new vocabulary to define the essence of what distinguishes it as one of the world’s most desirable cities to live in.

What is Vancouver’s secret? Is it the enviable climate graced by the air of the Pacific Ocean? Perhaps it’s the spectacular natural setting that permits golf and sailing all in the span of a few hours with the backdrop of majestic mountains – not to mention its role as host to the 2010 XXI Olympic Winter Games. It’s all this and more – including the warmth of its inhabitants that distinguishes Vancouver as Canada’s jewel on the West Coast. It’s no wonder Vancouver attracts an influx of newcomers compelled to establish their ‘home away from home’ in our beautiful and affluent city.

Once a ‘newcomer’ myself, I am honoured to be Canadian and proud to call Vancouver my home. As a designer of interiors, the splendour of Vancouver’s natural elements inspires me to create interiors that reflect our enviable surroundings and illustrate elegant coastal living – defining Vancouver’s international signature. It is this love of Vancouver’s people and the city itself that inspired me to create this book.

Vancouver Signature Interiors will take you on a journey into the world of a select group of Vancouver’s leading designers of interiors. Their innovative style-savvy designs capture the essence of living the West Coast lifestyle to the fullest.

Each distinctive interior is worthy of representing Vancouver’s signature on an international scale. Every exquisite design is as unique and individual as their author’s personal signature.

Vancouver Signature Interiors invites you to experience some of Vancouver’s most luxurious and elegant homes. For those who celebrate the art of living well, let’s open the doors to begin this exhilarating adventure. Walk through these pages and share with me these exceptional residences designed for gracious living.

We’ll make a grand entrance through the captivating lens of talented photographer, Ivan Hunter. So, join me and step inside *Vancouver Signature Interiors*.

Live well & enjoy —

Thu Watson

Publisher



A FOREWORD BY ROBERT LEDINGHAM

When I first came to Vancouver in 1966, Vancouver was a small city that was blessed, and still is, with one of the world's most beautiful settings – the water, the mountains, the landscape. It was a time when West Coast architects were experimenting with unique expressions of residential architecture tied to the landscape and organic materials. Inside spaces merged with exterior landscapes and the interiors reflected this relationship. It was a period of re-sawn cedar paneling and natural coloured quarry tile. The interior design community consisted of a series of studios on South Granville which in most cases made their own furniture and curtains.

As more interior designers moved West in the seventies, alliances were formed with architectural and office interior firms. Residential work remained in the hands of a series of small design firms or retail establishments. It was an interesting mix of traditional and contemporary styles with a very limited selection of beautiful products. One was constantly looking further afield for exciting new and old furniture, fabrics and accessories.

The world's fair in 1986 brought the world to Vancouver and put the city on the international map. For the next twenty years the urban core changed with the development of many condominiums. With the influx of both Asian and other nationalities,

the city blossomed with a wide variety of culinary offerings and retail experiences. The international influence had a profound impact on the urban lifestyle.

The inner core of Vancouver has been transformed with residential towers. What was once a sleepy cityscape now sets trends in urban planning that is studied around the world. This international focus has challenged the interior design field to achieve new heights. Technology and the Internet have brought the world to our doorstep; accordingly the opportunities have been embraced by the design community.

Vancouver Signature Interiors features a diverse group of designers to make the evolving interiors that comprise the West Coast style. Many of the interiors are housed in condominium towers but each shows an individual style in approaching their design solutions. Whether it is a house in West Vancouver that reflects the West Coast indoor/outdoor relationships or a traditional home in Point Grey, each solves these relationships in a different manner. As you turn the pages of this collection, I am sure you will be captured by the spirit of West Coast that is uniquely Vancouver.

Robert Ledingham





Robert Ledingham

Robert Ledingham LEDINGHAM DESIGN CONSULTANTS



World renowned for his contemporary style and modern signature, Robert Ledingham also takes pleasure in renovating a character home.

Ledingham believes good design must express function and project individual style, but it is his disciplined restraint and a keen sense of proportion that go furthest in creating the distinctive “look” that is his. His appreciation for openness in quest of calming effect ensures great unity of space, where flow and unification seamlessly meet function.

Materials are simple, not trendy, the colour scheme is neutral, yet everything is well designed and finely crafted. While following his intrinsic style of a restrained palette, Ledingham admits that in this home as in all his designs, the devil is in the details. He emphasizes the importance of beautiful materials against a neutral palette, so as not to compromise the supreme quality of the design’s elegance statement.

Whether through a conservatory that opens onto a terrace, or emulated by floor to ceiling glass tiles evoking the ocean, the outdoors is effortlessly carried indoors. This is signature Ledingham, a West Coast pioneer interior designer consummate at recognizing the significance of reflecting the outdoors in the design elements of the interiors.

With the knowledge and understanding that his task is to complement the architecture of a house or a building, rather than to decorate, Ledingham extends the given architecture and expands on its natural setting. Thus achieving the ultimate expression of design – unity and function.

In their entire splendour and elegance, Ledingham’s interiors invite the homeowner to dwell in sumptuous living spaces that remain forever timeless.



W

Thu Watson TRUE WORTH REALTY CORP.



In the world of distinctive interiors Thu Watson is noteworthy by designing many of Vancouver's high-end residential and commercial properties.

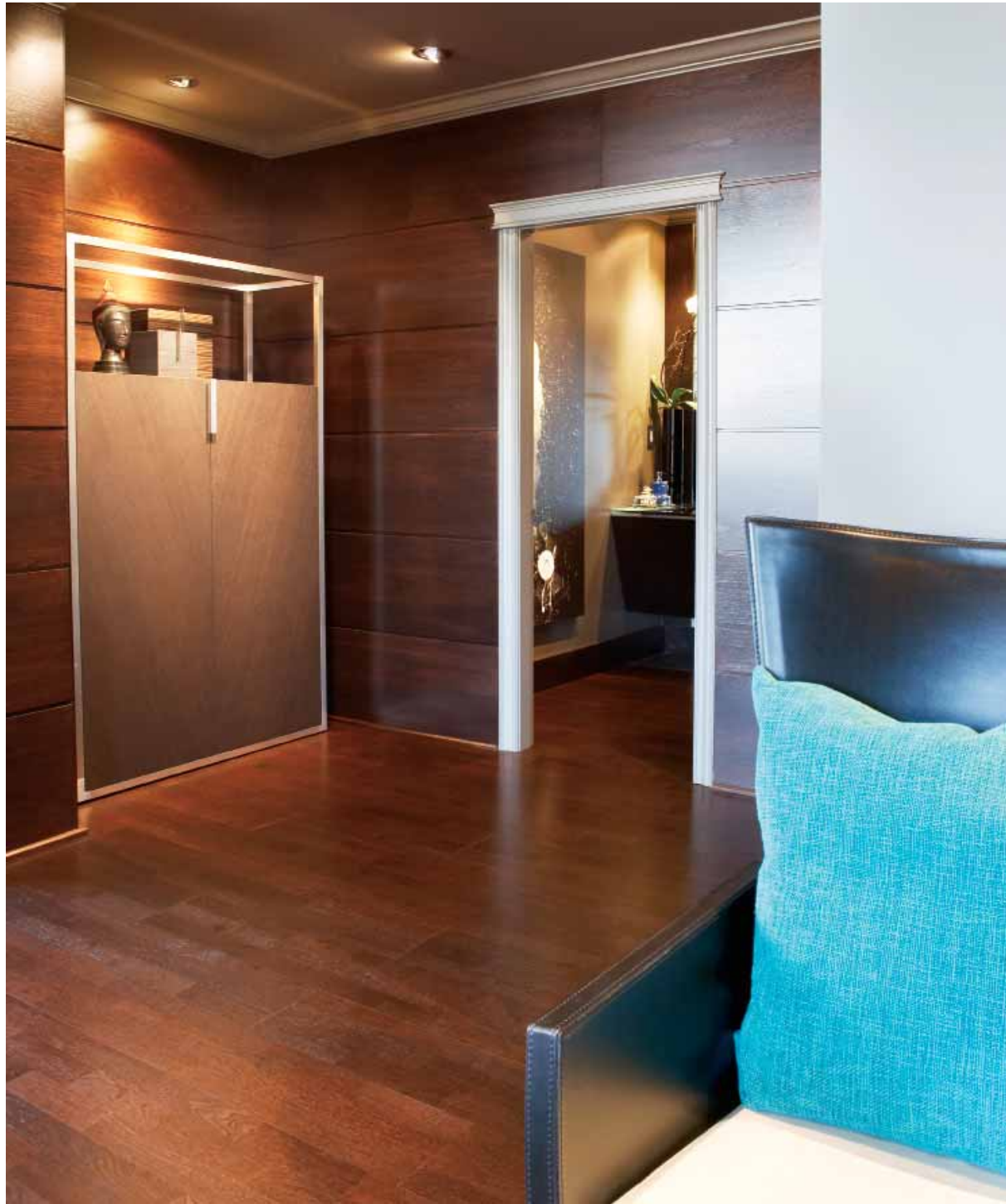
For Watson, it begins with a clarity of vision resulting in luxurious interior spaces. Her reverence to Vancouver's signature as the highest quality of life is showcased at the top echelon – the top of residential skyscrapers with breathtaking views of the city, mountains and ocean. Her ultra modern penthouses are sought after by a sophisticated international clientèle.

Exclusive turnkey design is her forté – contemporary interiors reflecting the harmonious balance of beauty and the implicit order of the surrounding natural elements. Each interior encompasses echoes of stone and water, cold and warm, light and dark, smooth and textured, wood and metal, streamlined curves, strength and sensuality.

An idealist with an intrinsic aesthetic sense, Watson's designs seamlessly embrace both comfort and luxury. She creates dynamic spaces where no surface is overlooked, from cool painted glass walls and sculpted waterfalls to exotic wood paneled walls and fireplaces. Mirrors reflect and expand spaciousness, enhancing the aesthetic of the sumptuous décor and the exquisite European furnishings.

Expect the unexpected – eye catching enchanting design revelations. Each interior mirrors her personal philosophy of living well – living spaces that are stylish and sexy, but equally luxurious and inviting. For Watson, home is a reflection of the world outside and her offering to the homeowner is a sense of uniquely personal residence. She believes that a well-designed interior has positive influences on its resident's quality of life; accordingly she delivers a lasting bequest of order and beauty.

The fait accompli of Watson's signature is the satisfying sensation of being at the very apex of the world reveling in elegance, contemporary style and sophistication.



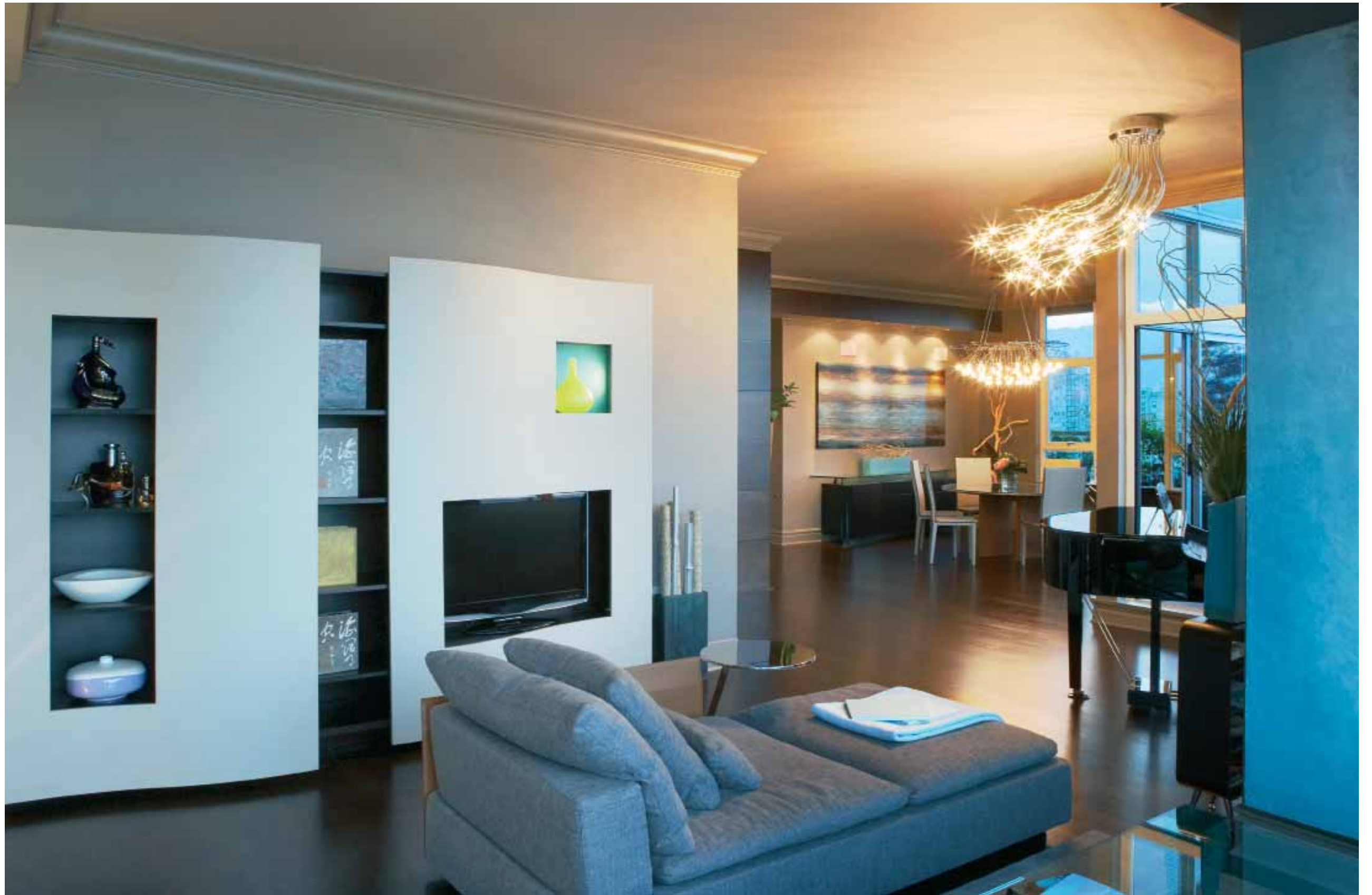
PREVIOUS PAGE This elegant Yaletown penthouse offers the best of West Coast living. A sophisticated residence complete with cosmopolitan amenities. Endless recreational possibilities are close at hand – David Lam Park, Vancouver’s celebrated Seawall and False Creek Ferries to Granville Island. Diverse urban living.

LEFT An inviting vestibule is furnished with a stately armoire, expertly niched in the alcove of a formerly traditional closet.

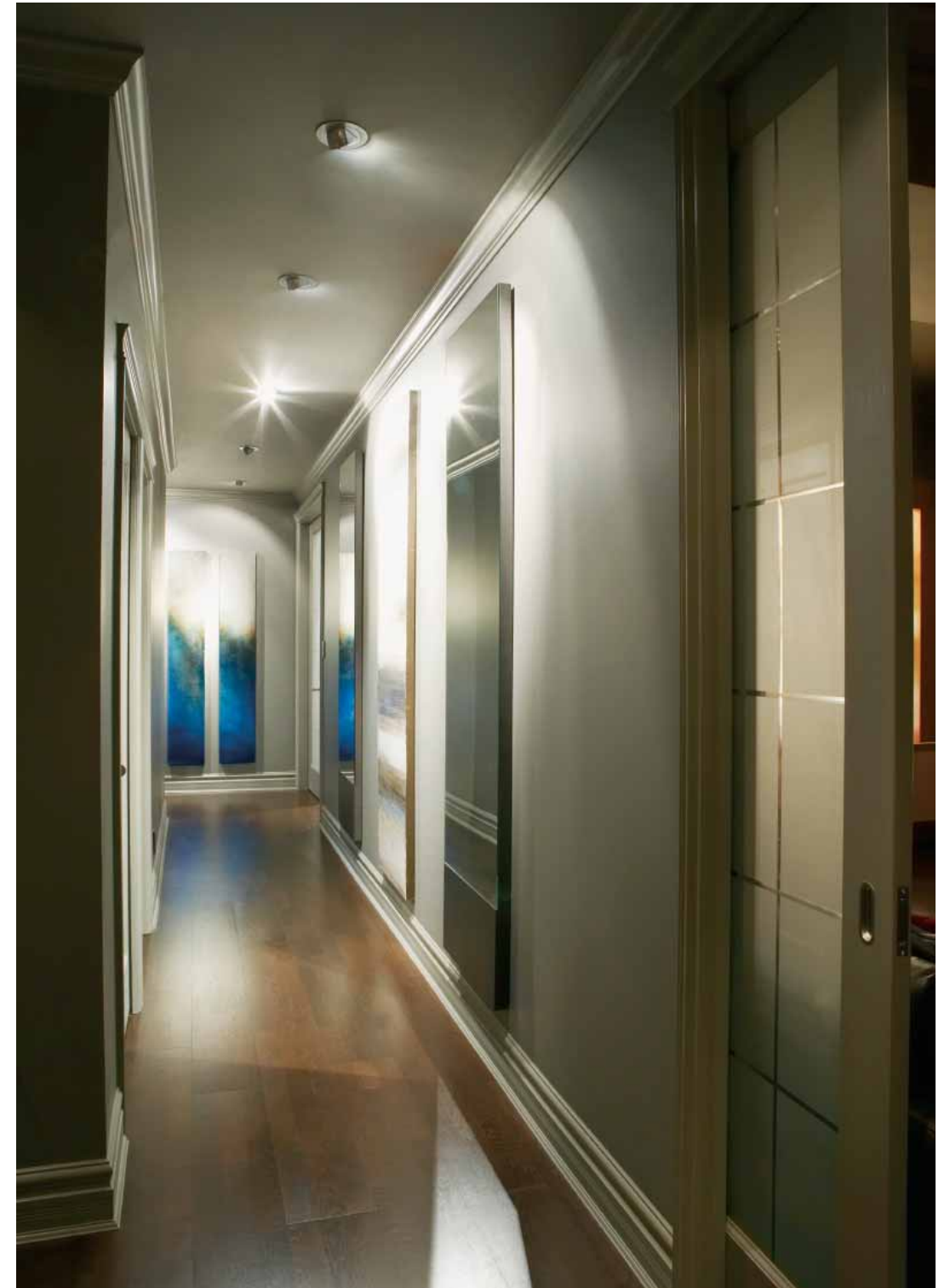
RIGHT Open spaces surrounded by exotic wood echo the distant forests. A delicate chandelier mimics the glistening city lights.











LEFT A console table of rippled glass and mahogany flooring, echoes of nature itself.

ABOVE Works by local artists are expertly exhibited in a galleria along an interior hallway.









LEFT Horizontal wood panels with stainless groove insets clad the floor-to-ceiling height fireplace of this contemporary dining room.

RIGHT Indoor comfort extends to the outdoor terrace for elegant moonlight dining.

PREVIOUS PAGE LEFT A Roche Bobois shelving unit displays earthy materials of leather and wood.

PREVIOUS PAGE CENTRE A free standing wall of bamboo offers residents daytime privacy.

PREVIOUS PAGE RIGHT The understated master bedroom – thoughtfully designed for resting luxuriously.

NEXT PAGE Yaletown at night. Dazzling lights illuminate the pulse of one of the world's most exciting cities.



W

David Christopher

Thu Watson TRUE WORTH REALTY CORP.

David Christopher FX-40 BUILDING DESIGN



When two creative minds such as Thu Watson and David Christopher collaborate in the design of an interior, there is no limit to the heights they can achieve. There's a tangible synergy between Christopher's sense of adventure in design and Watson's clarity of vision that culminates in an exceptional result.

The fusion of their individual talents have merited them the honourable designation for the cover of *Vancouver Signature Interiors*. The unique fusion of these two masters of design elevates Vancouver's international design profile.

Sharing ideas and design ideals allows the vision to expand and the design adventure to be fueled by creative energy. Once the adventure begins, they consult with each other every step of the way, from selecting fine materials and finishes to defining an exquisite colour palette that will enhance the overall design. In unison they set the stage for a truly world-class interior.

With feminine force and masculine strength designing in tandem, their sensual and powerful interiors celebrate *la difference*.

Watson and Christopher – their signature is vision and adventure à deux that soars.



PREVIOUS PAGE Visionary living above the skyline. A spectacular Yaletown penthouse overlooks the International Quayside Marina in False Creek. This impeccably detailed kitchen was inspired by a top-of-the-line automobile. The integrated cabinets and adjacent hallway paneling surfaces are styled in Aston Martin automotive metallic paint.

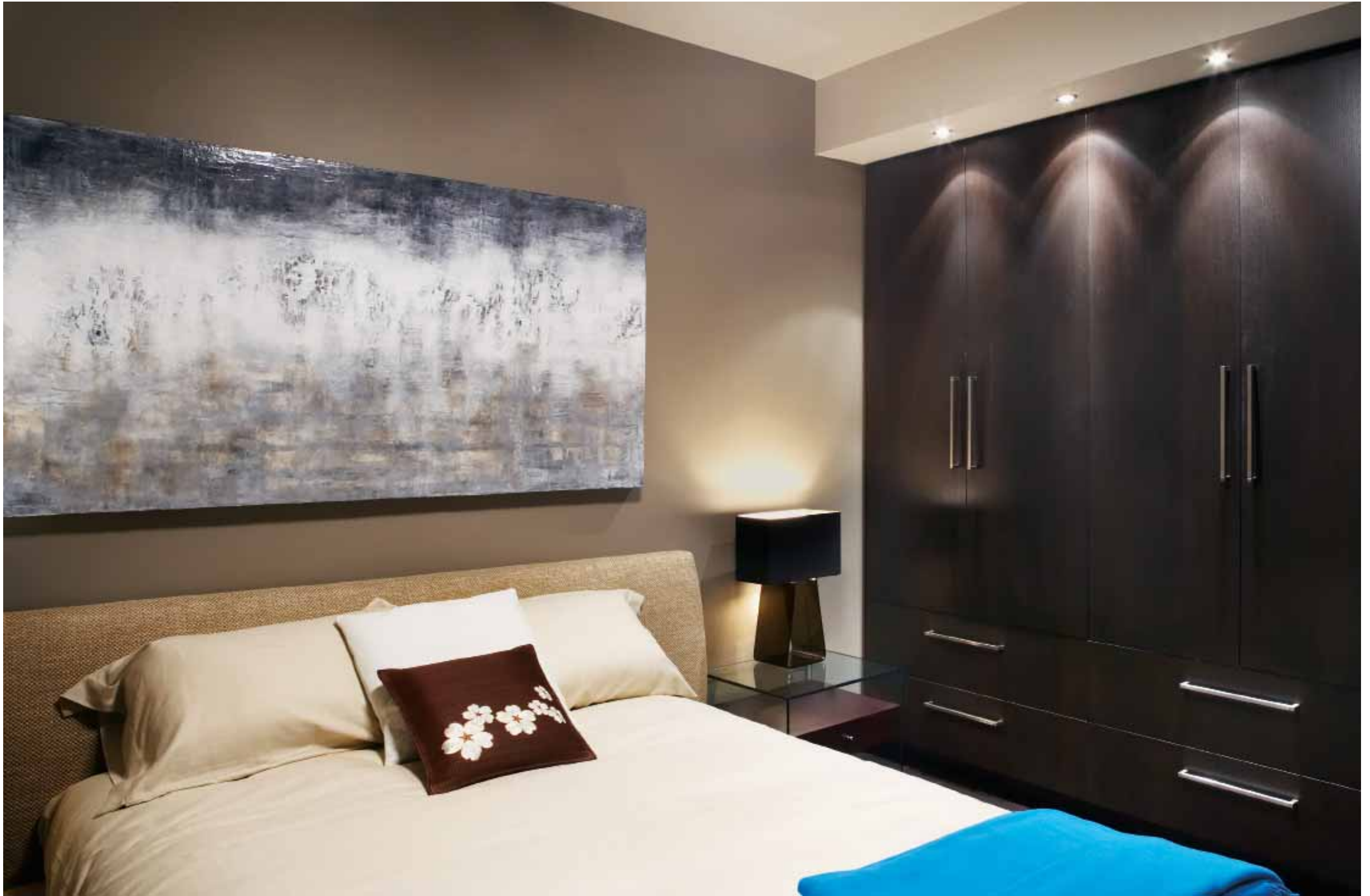
LEFT A spiral staircase trimmed in stainless steel – a structural sculpture featuring individually lit wooden treads. A gallery of paintings exhibits local artist Ronan Boyle's work.

ABOVE Dropped ceilings juxtapose in three tiers, each featuring a guiding light scheme that draws the eyes to the breathtaking views. A Mylar clad ceiling reflects the yachts of the Quayside Marina below.

RIGHT The dining room is expertly designed for elegant entertaining. A dramatic dance of the elements – shimmering fire, enchanting lights and a glass encased waterfall.









PREVIOUS PAGE LEFT The home office features a stainless steel clad column. A discreet private doorway leads to a curved nautical-inspired balcony.

PREVIOUS PAGE RIGHT In the guest bedroom, continuity is maintained between the darkness of the wood floor and the custom built-in wardrobe.

LEFT Cove L.E.D. lighting casts a subdued ambiance in the master bedroom.

CENTRE Drama is created in an opened ensuite spa by juxtaposing pistachio back-painted glass panels and Absolute black granite slab.

RIGHT The luxurious master bedroom redefines the meaning of living well – a Dolce Vita lounge chair, an exotic orchid arrangement – sophisticated pleasures.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INTERIORS

Robert Blaney

FX-40 Building Design Corp.
TEL 604.922.6092
info@fx40.com
www.fx40.com

David Christopher

FX-40 Building Design Corp.
TEL 604.922.6092
info@fx40.com
www.fx40.com

Ted Feenstra

Feenstra Architecture Inc
ted@feenstra.ca
TEL 604.739.8888

Mitchell Freedland

Mitchell Freedland Design
TEL 604.733.3600
www.mitchellfreedland.com

Barbara Houston

Barbara Houston Design Inc
TEL 604.806.0281

Robert Ledingham

Ledingham Design Consultants
TEL 604.874.4900
info@ledingham.com
www.ledingham.com

Alda Pereira

Alda Pereira Design
TEL 604.736.2179
alda@telus.net
www.aldapereiradesign.com

Richard & Diane Salter

Richard Salter Interiors Ltd
TEL 604.730.9220

Thu Watson

True Worth Realty Corp.
TEL 604.232.4059
thu@truworthrealty.com
www.truworthrealty.com

PUBLISHER

Thu Watson

True Worth Realty Corp.
120-8211 Sea Island Way
Richmond, BC V6X 7W3
TEL 604.232.4059
thu@truworthrealty.com
www.truworthrealty.com

PROJECT MANAGER

Marc LaBrie

TEL 604.616.4704
marc@marclabrie.com
www.marclabrie.com

EDITOR

Lorraine Demers

TEL 604.722.2977
ldid@novuscom.net

ART DIRECTOR / DESIGNER

Todd Chapman

Hangar 18 Creative Group Inc.
TEL 604.737.7111
www.hangar18creative.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tracey Ellis

Gwendolyn Gawlick

TEL 604.716.8243
gg@prdiva.com
www.prdiva.com

Sherry Matthews

TEL 778.998.5759
smatthews@shaw.ca

DISTRIBUTOR

18 KARAT

TEL 1.888.849.8811
FAX 604.856.8305
info@eighteenkarat.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERIORS

Ivan Hunter

Ivan Hunter Photography
TEL 604.739.2008
ivan@ivanhunter.com
www.ivanhunter.com



Ivan Hunter grew up in Victoria, British Columbia, in a house designed by his father.

Photographs of great architecture coupled with the ambience of the west coast and Japanese culture, engendered in him an early affinity for environmental concerns and the importance of craft in daily life.

At the age of 18 Ivan began his photographic career on a tour of Asia and Europe, and later received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Brooks Institute of Photography. His belief is that architectural space is successfully photographed only through the careful control of detailed relationships.

PHOTOGRAPHY PORTRAITS

Robert Kent

Robert Kent Photography
TEL 604.736.8066
niki@robertkentphoto.com
www.robertkentphoto.com www.compassionateeye.org



The rk studio is proud founder of the compassionate eye foundation, an innovative

non profit organization based out of Vancouver, BC. We are a group of photographers and creative professionals committed to giving back. Our goal is to support, honour and empower those in developing nations in order to expand their possibilities for sustainable development.

A portion of Robert Kent's creative fees are donated to the compassionate eye foundation.

We extend our appreciation to the amazing homeowners for opening their doors to the world.



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