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FEATURE HOME
'WAVE HOUSE'

KBC DEVELOPMENTS
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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A WALK ON THE DESIGN SIDE WITH **JANE'S WORLD** | LEGENDARY BC BROADCASTER TONY PARSONS' **TAKE ON ART**



+ **FEATURE HOME** WORDS BY MICHELLE HOPKINS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY PUERZER

WAVE HOUSE

BY KBC DEVELOPMENTS

A WEST COAST TRIBUTE TO SKY, SURF,
SEA AND SAND IN WHITE ROCK, BC

In a seaside community of clapboard, Cape Cods, and shingled homes, one White Rock couple wanted a thoroughly modern house. The empty nesters' ambitious plan was to build with concrete, steel, glass, aluminum and wood grain siding. The result is a sophisticated, contemporary home that stands as a true testament to the owners' vision and the builders' talent.

People sometimes think that industrial minimalism is cold, but *Wave House* proves that nothing is further from the truth. This spectacular custom home translates organic simplicity to luxury; redefining elegance in a warm and inviting atmosphere.

The multi-level home was a complete departure for the homeowners, whose previous home was very traditional. "This time they wanted a modern home with refined finishes and warmth," says Ron Kliewer, who along with his brother Harv Kliewer, own Kliewer Bros. Construction Ltd. (KBC Developments). "With a 22 foot wide house, they knew that they wanted the living space to be on the top floor with the bedroom level under it."

ORGANIC SIMPLICITY MEETS REFINED ELEGANCE

The homeowners spent months looking for a builder who could take their vision and make it a reality. They found it in master home builders, KBC Developments, a well-established family owned company founded in 1959 by Ron and Harv's father, Jake Kliewer and his brothers.

"We had spent many months looking around for a contractor, and began to recognize that the best modern homes on the White Rock hillside had been done by KBC," says the homeowner. "Each home was unique and had specific design features we appreciated. Once we met Ron and Harv, we knew there could be a fabulous working relationship with them."



Wave House stands as a fitting tribute to sky, surf, sea and sand, which is what the owners dubbed the levels. The couple, like so many homeowners in White Rock, was attracted to the sleepy seaside community, one which dates back decades when it was renowned as a beach oasis and retirement enclave. It's hard to believe that in the 1960s and 1970s, the small cliff side homes were affordable to those who couldn't manage to pay to live closer to Vancouver. Today, many sea cliff cottages have given way to large homes, and million-dollar properties.

Wave House enjoys unfettered outstanding ocean panoramas, from Haro Strait, to the San Juan Islands and out to Mount Baker. From the home's multiple terraces, the couple can watch eagles soaring or capture a stunning storm from behind floor to ceiling doors and windows.

THE WAVE DESIGN RESONATES THROUGHOUT THE HOME

The architecturally designed, custom built home blends in perfectly with its surroundings, and the orientation of the rooms in the house is based on the best ocean views. "They wanted the decks and roof to appear light and airy – not like other, boxy looking homes in the area," adds Harv Kliewer.

The excitement starts as soon as you enter the front courtyard. The thoughtfully designed front yard has a fuss-free resort vibe. The patio's clean lines define the exterior. There's a sense of tranquility in the outdoor enclave; from the courtyard pond, framed by a concrete covered walkway, and beyond, with the tumbling waterfall and fire features. It is completed with stepping concrete blocks that allow one, as Ron Kliewer says, "to walk over water."

The layout of the home maintains that modern architectural point of view throughout. It's a 4,822 square foot home that boasts three bedrooms, four bathrooms and four common rooms on four levels, with an elevator to take you from the glass lobbied garage (with enough space for four cars plus the homeowner's prized motorcycle) up to the main level. Each floor features 180-degree south facing oceanfront views and large outdoor terraces.

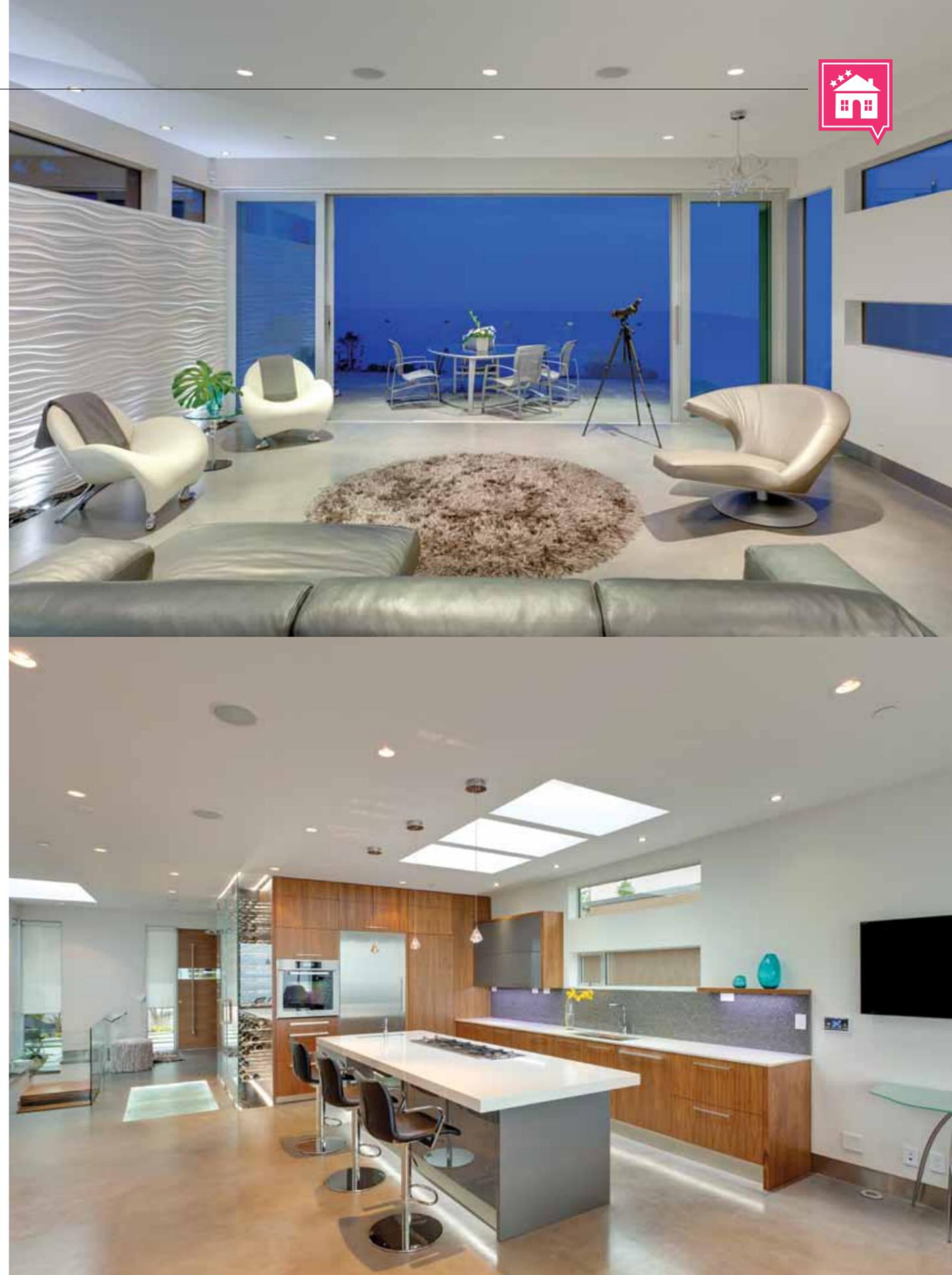
On the 'Sea' level, a full legal basement suite is below the bedroom level.

Step inside the custom designed black walnut pivot front door and suddenly, framed in black walnut millwork, concrete flooring and glass, the world outside stands in fine focus.

Upon entering the home, the exterior feature wall continues from the outside in. The curved "fin wall", as it's called in the construction business, is made of concrete with stainless steel bands. "The fin wall shoots through the house penetrating the outside," says Ron Kliewer. You are then met with a wall of glass at the back which opens to views of the mighty Pacific.

Rooms flow from the entry to the open-concept living room, kitchen and dining area.

The spacious kitchen's rich walnut cabinetry and Quartz countertops extend to a back pantry, which the homeowners use as their own private barista station complete with state-of-the-art coffee machines. The only pop of colour in the kitchen consists of hand blown turquoise glass vases. The lines, angles and materials are a continuation of the rest of the main floor.





The wife, who is passionate about interior design, wanted the overall colour choices to be varying hues of grey, but chose to highlight and compliment that with a grey-beige rather than the typical white.

“To keep things fresh, it was important to me to add sparkle wherever possible, which helped to heighten the contrasts,” she adds.

THE HOMEOWNERS NAMED THE HOME'S FOUR LEVELS... SKY, SURF, SEA, SAND. HOW APPROPRIATE.

Besides the stunning panoramic views, the floor-to-ceiling glass encased wine cellar, the custom designed glass floor piece, the patterned sculptural wave wall and the grand piano all vie for your attention.

“Gilles from Cost Plus Painting & Decorating did an amazing job of making the wave wall come alive by his meticulous application of the pearlized paint from Benjamin Moore,” says the homeowner.

There are those other unexpected serendipities in the décor - the Swarovski crystal night sky hallway, the custom designed curved slate fireplace, and black walnut suspended stairs with frameless glass wall guards – that make *Wave House* stand as an architectural marvel.

“The wave design is throughout the house and the wave fireplace is made of real slate and appears to be floating off the floor,” says Ron Kliewer, adding the polished pebbles below only enhances that illusion.

Yet, this is a home where minimalism rules – no picture frames or knick-knacks anywhere. The only things that sparkle, apart from the natural light, are the crystal chandeliers, concrete, stainless steel and glass that swathe the home every which way you look.

The living room furniture is simple and sophisticated, consisting of grey leather chairs and couch, against grey, white and black backdrop.

On the Surf level, the master suite opens up into a terrace with views of the ocean.



Credit. robcampbellphotography.com



The bedroom's blinds can be lifted automatically from the bedside. The homeowners don't have to leave their custom designed bed – with a black walnut bed frame and headboard – to awaken to the oceanic vistas. For the husband, the master bedroom is a sanctuary after a long day at work.

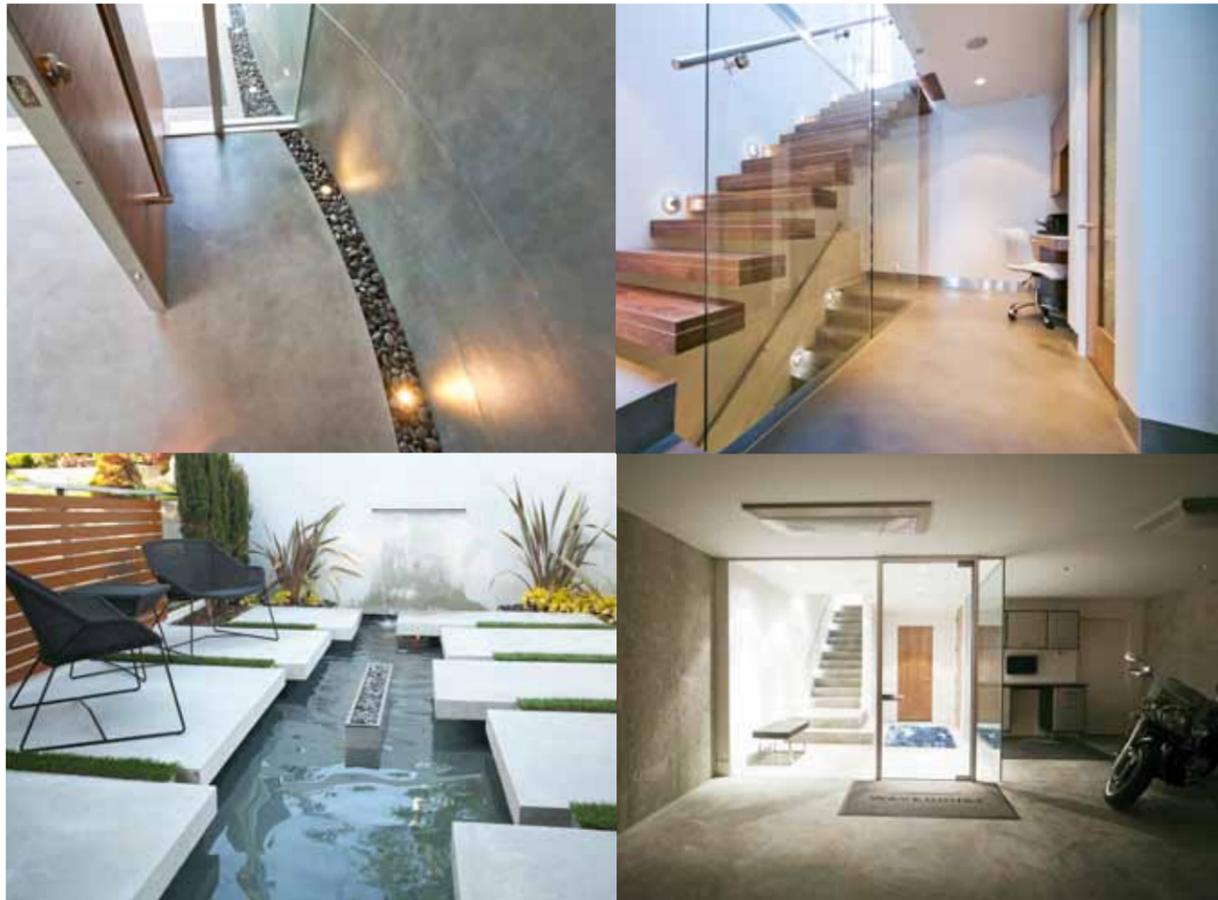
“The deck off the master bedroom has a six foot high glass surround (to block the wind), a hot tub, a couple of loungers, fire bowl, overhead heaters and an endless view of the ocean,” he says. “Not a bad place to end the day.”

The home's overall result is a clever and sophisticated hierarchy of spaces, each room situated to take full advantage of indoor-outdoor living.

Wave House was built to be highly efficient, low maintenance and beautiful, including the roof line. “The original plan was for a flat roof, but then we came up with the idea to slope the roof slightly, both north and south,” says Harv Kliewer. “This was done to accentuate ceiling heights and to have the view open up, when standing on the upper floor.”

In terms of design, it's all about the authenticity of materials. It's not overly embellished – it's more about natural simplicity.





Above photos. robcampbellphotography.com



THE CUSTOM DESIGNED GLASS ENCASED WINE WALL IS VISUALLY SPECTACULAR

The contemporary warmth of this one-of-a-kind house is reflective of what the homeowners envisioned. *Wave House*, they say, suits their lifestyle and provides a private calm sanctuary that is voluminous, takes advantage of the beachfront views, is simple and uncluttered by detail and comprises of straight lines.

“We spent 18 months in a very intense and focused engagement with Ron and Harv and yet we laughed, shared stories and enjoyed the journey ending up with a home that far exceeds our expectation,” says the homeowners. [HL](#)

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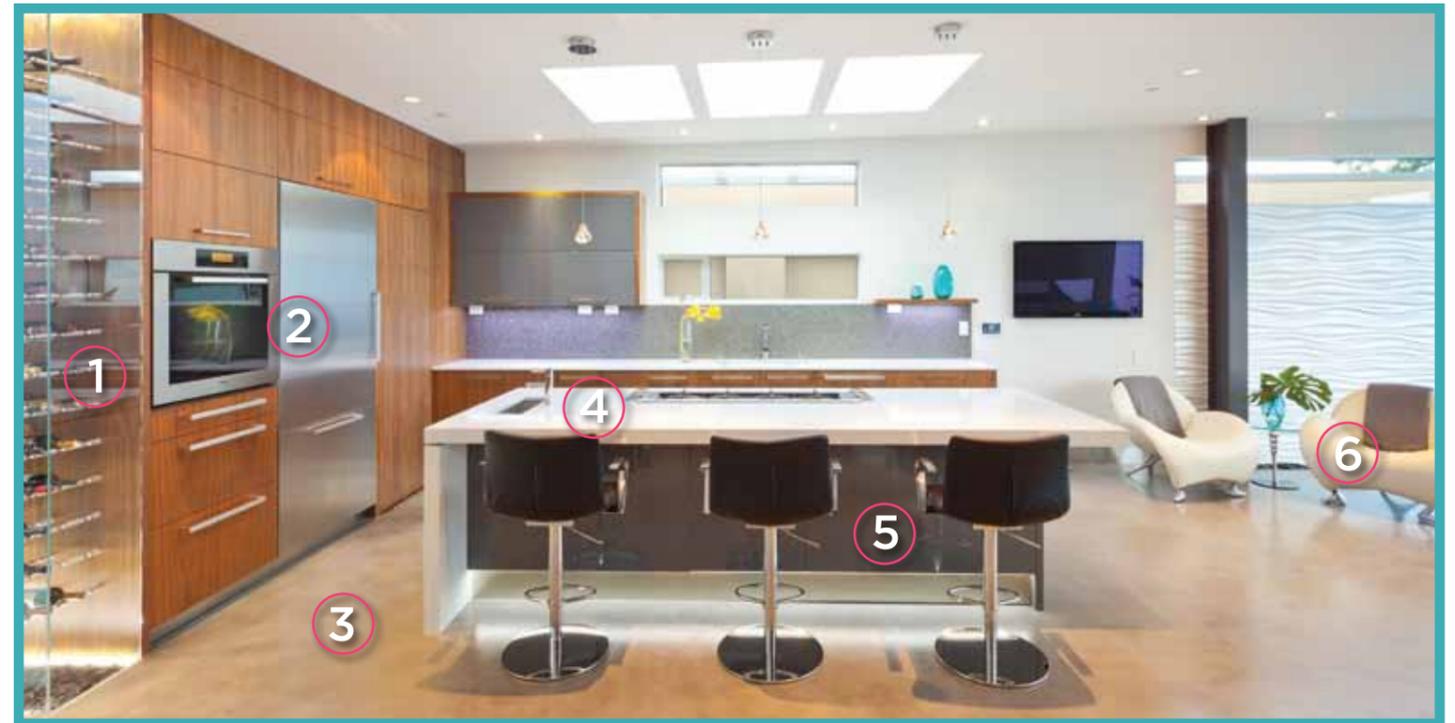
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