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LUXURY
HOME
CANADA

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Natural Approach

*Johnson Chou illuminates the
Toronto skyline*

WEST COAST MODERN

NATURE REIGNS WITH VANCOUVER'S
MASON KENT DESIGN INC.

Story Kimberly Nichols Photos Stacy Thomas









01

The sitting area has a refined coziness to it, with a fluffy rug, plush seating and fireplace

02

The kitchen window looks out onto the home's front yard comprised of trees, boulders and a man-made pond

Mason Kent is a modest man, one who is uncomfortable articulating the inherent and intuitive processes he implements while creating dream homes for his clients. If it were up to him, he would personally buy up land and build houses like the kid in the sandbox who passionately concocts visions from his own mind on the playground.

But when prodded a bit, he admits that it was the drawings and models of West Vancouver's modern homes that he played with as a young boy that remain his lifelong mental companions and sources of perpetual inspiration.

"I grew up in the fifties when local modernism was in its very early stages," he says. "My parents were both professional musicians and I was exposed to artistic rather than traditional offerings in my cultural upbringing. I fell in love with the architectural drawings in the magazines that my parents were drawn to and they remained with me. People like Frank Lloyd Wright, Arthur Ericson and Fred Hollingsworth were my early heroes."

Today, as the single-handed visionary of his company Mason Kent Design, Inc., he has become known for his one-on-one mentality with clients who appreciate the same things he does, as well as the collaborative methods of seeing those mutual dreams come to fruition.

Over 100 homes throughout the North Shore have his signature stamped upon them. The recent 4973 Water Lane Residence is a good example of this. Both Kent and his clients fell in love with the coastal location where topography including the lush trees, rudimentary rocks, and curvaceous land begs to remain undisturbed while laying the groundwork for a significant architectural gem.





“One aspect of modernism that has always particularly led my design direction is the fact that the most successful homes should be built in concordance with the nature that pre-exists in the space,” explains Kent.

This combination can be seen in the home’s welcoming façade, which wraps around a massive boulder grouping that acts as both entry to the home and cornerstone of the impeccably designed property.

A long open corridor, from which all of the clean-lined spaces are strategically placed to garner different views of the ever-present rocks, connects the main floor of the home. Dark grey slate throughout mirrors the colour and texture of the external stone landmark. A reflecting pond on the top of the formation can be seen from within the kitchen bringing the element of water to the forefront of the home’s already peaceful atmosphere.

Dramatic moments weave the interior and exterior of the home together, like the chocolate brown jutting and linear eave that creates an outdoor patio, upon which key moments in the landscape lend a calming perspective conducive to reflection. Large skylights placed generously within the home perpetuate this marriage of indoor and outdoor allowing natural light to filter throughout in concert with large windows and eclipse doors. White oak hardwood adorns the staircase and upper level floors so that a sense of lightness accompanies the ascension toward the elevated environs.

03

The large kitchen and dining area has metallic accents against birch wood panels

04

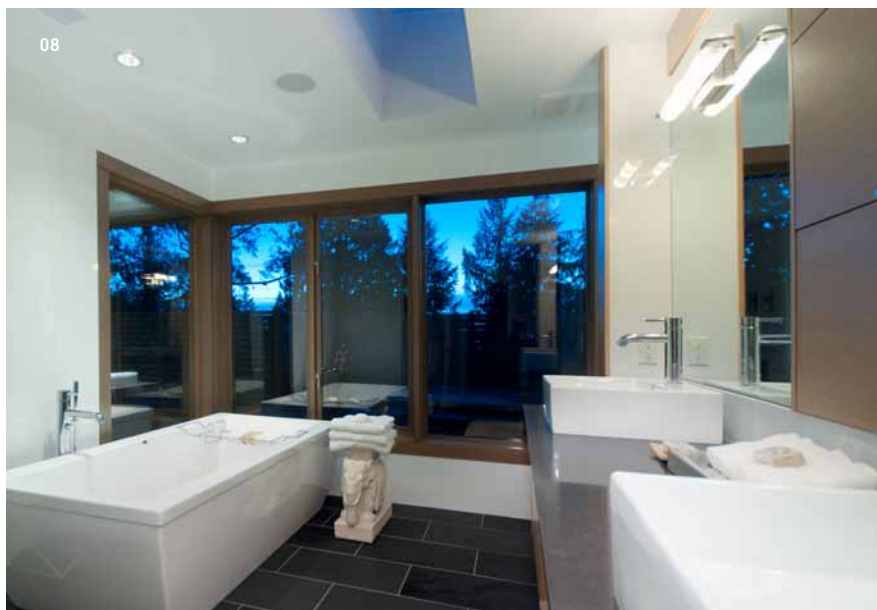
The kitchen allows for impressive views of the open patio and fire pit outside

05

An outdoor dining area mirrors the natural setting that surrounds it







An undisturbed flow of the home was also considered when choosing sleek, non-obtrusive appliances and features such as natural gas direct vent Kingsman fireplaces with “clean view” circulating kits.

“Although it was a consideration, the resulting serenity and presence of this house was something that came as a nice surprise, an end note to my plans,” says Kent.

This exquisitely refined, modern residence erected around a sublime moment of nature bespeaks a true glimpse of the subtle and elusive designer’s key characteristics. ■

06

The home’s exterior looks as though it were built into a mountain, with rocks and lush foliage scattered throughout

07

An alternate view of the sitting area shows windows that look out into the front yard

08

The sleekness of the bathroom is made complete with window views to the backyard and a skylight

A MESSAGE FROM CLARENCE DEBELLE

It is with great pleasure that I listed this magnificent contemporary residence! Mason Kent and the owners, collaborated their thoughts and wishes, to produce an absolutely exceptional modern home, located on a large, sunny, meticulously landscaped lot. Without fail, each and every buyer who came to visit the home, commented on its serene beauty, and the elegant balance between the home, the lot and the setting. From the street, the structure, gardens, and waterfall are poetically graceful, and from within, the floor plan, and attention to design and quality, with an emphasis on indoor/outdoor living, offer an elegant yet functional living space. I look forward to having the opportunity to represent another equally exquisite home.