

Unifying Forces

Meticulous attention to detail by designer Robert Ledingham lend heart and soul to a Vancouver home

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Glance out the windows, and you could be forgiven for thinking this gorgeous 10,000-square-foot home is tucked into a rural setting. In fact, it is situated in a residential neighbourhood on Vancouver's popular North Shore.

"There are clearly areas of the home meant for entertaining," says interior designer Robert Ledingham, "but this is also a family home." Much of the success of the design is due to themes that have become signatures of Ledingham's more than 40-year career: a largely neutral palette, meticulous attention to detail, and a sense of proportion that creates spaces that flow seamlessly together.

The effect begins in the aptly named great room. Here, full-height windows form a conduit between the indoor and outdoor areas.

At one end of the room, an open-

The Indonesian sapele wood used in the kitchen cabinets is repeated in the living room ceiling panels giving a sense of unity to the two spaces. A similar effect is created by the black countertop and custom slab coffee table.



A limestone-trimmed fireplace adds a zen-like quality to the great room. Ledingham's neutral color palette provides a pleasing contrast to the wall of custom sapele cabinetry.



Sapele cupboards, black granite counters and stainless steel appliances give the kitchen an efficient uncluttered appeal. Above right, a wall of windows brings the outdoors in.



plan kitchen commands enough space for a dozen cooks. When the pantry door is shut, the back wall appears to be an uninterrupted expanse of sapele millwork. This echoes the opposite end of the great room with its wall of custom cabinets punctuated by a limestone-trimmed fireplace. Floating sapele panels suspended from the ceiling further unite the two areas of the room, and strengthen the connection between indoors and out.

"The ceiling panels also create a lighting solution," notes Frank Ranieri, senior designer with Ledingham Design Consultants who worked on the project. The wood panels serve to offset banks of lights. "We could have installed recessed lights," says Ranieri, "but at 2,000 square feet the room was so large there would be holes all over the ceiling before we had enough light. The fixtures we installed are commonly used in retail environments. They



can be focused, so they are very versatile."

The large windows running down the side of the space create plenty of natural light, which travels deep into the main level thanks to the installation of translucent panels on either side of the room's entry. Reminiscent of shoji screens, the panels incorporate a gauze insert between the panes of glass. As such, the panels mimic materials found throughout the great room, such as the woven fabric in the custom sofa and the sides of the accompanying lounge chairs.

Down the hall, another screen positioned outside the dining room picks up the texture of the linen-clad doors of the custom-designed oak buffet. In addition to providing much-needed storage space in the dining room, the green buffet front plays up the edging of the area carpet under the round mahogany dining table. The color here, and in the grass window shades is a reference to the outdoor environment. A



Tucked into a spacious alcove, the home office looks onto the forest beyond. In addition to the swimming pool (top right), the spacious lower level houses a guest suite, wine cellar and cigar room. A round dining table (lower right) lends intimacy to the generously proportioned area.



The media room's cloth-covered wall panels hide the mechanics of a state-of-the-art entertainment system. Orange and green accent pillows punctuate the massive 24-foot-long sofa.

central light fixture incorporates the same ceiling lights used in the great room.

The library and study occupy a single room at the opposite end of the house, behind the great room. A sliding ladder aids access to upper shelves of the full-wall-height bookcases. A custom sofa and club chair provide seating in the library area. Behind the desk, large windows offer excellent views of the swimming pool below and the lush forest beyond. In addition to ample use of wood throughout the room, the two spaces are joined by a large area rug that covers much of the hardwood flooring.

A floor-to-ceiling leather headboard creates a focal point in the master bedroom, which is located on the upper level of the house. A custom table positioned over the bedside table runs the length of the wall beside the bed thereby reinforcing the generous size of that space. The master suite features a large dressing room with custom built-in shoe and sweater storage space. The ample



A dramatic floor-to-ceiling leather headboard is the focal point of the master bedroom. The custom bedside table extends the width of the room.



Wooden trusses and stone pillars create an impressive entry way to the 10,000 square foot home.

ensuite, which boasts a large ottoman and a custom rug, adjoins the master bedroom or the dressing room via pocket doors. Four other bedrooms, two of which also have ensuite baths, round out the upper level. These are the children's rooms. The color theme of each room is highlighted by the inclusion of a playful piece of furniture such as the large tomato-shaped beanbag chair in the red-themed room.

The lower floor might well be described as the play level. This is the location of the pool and Jacuzzi, which are surrounded by walls of glass under a 20-foot-high wood ceiling. This level is also home to an exercise area, games room, cigar room complete with wine cellar, and a guest/nanny suite.

The games room looks onto the conservatory and opens into the media room. The guts of the entertainment system (speakers, etc.) are tucked behind cloth-covered wall panels (which also aid acoustics) and the projector is housed in the bulkhead. The massive 24-foot sofa is possibly the largest piece of furniture Ledingham has ever designed. Brightly hued chairs and accent pillows create a playful energy, one that evokes the exuberance of a growing family at home in a house designed just for them. ♣

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