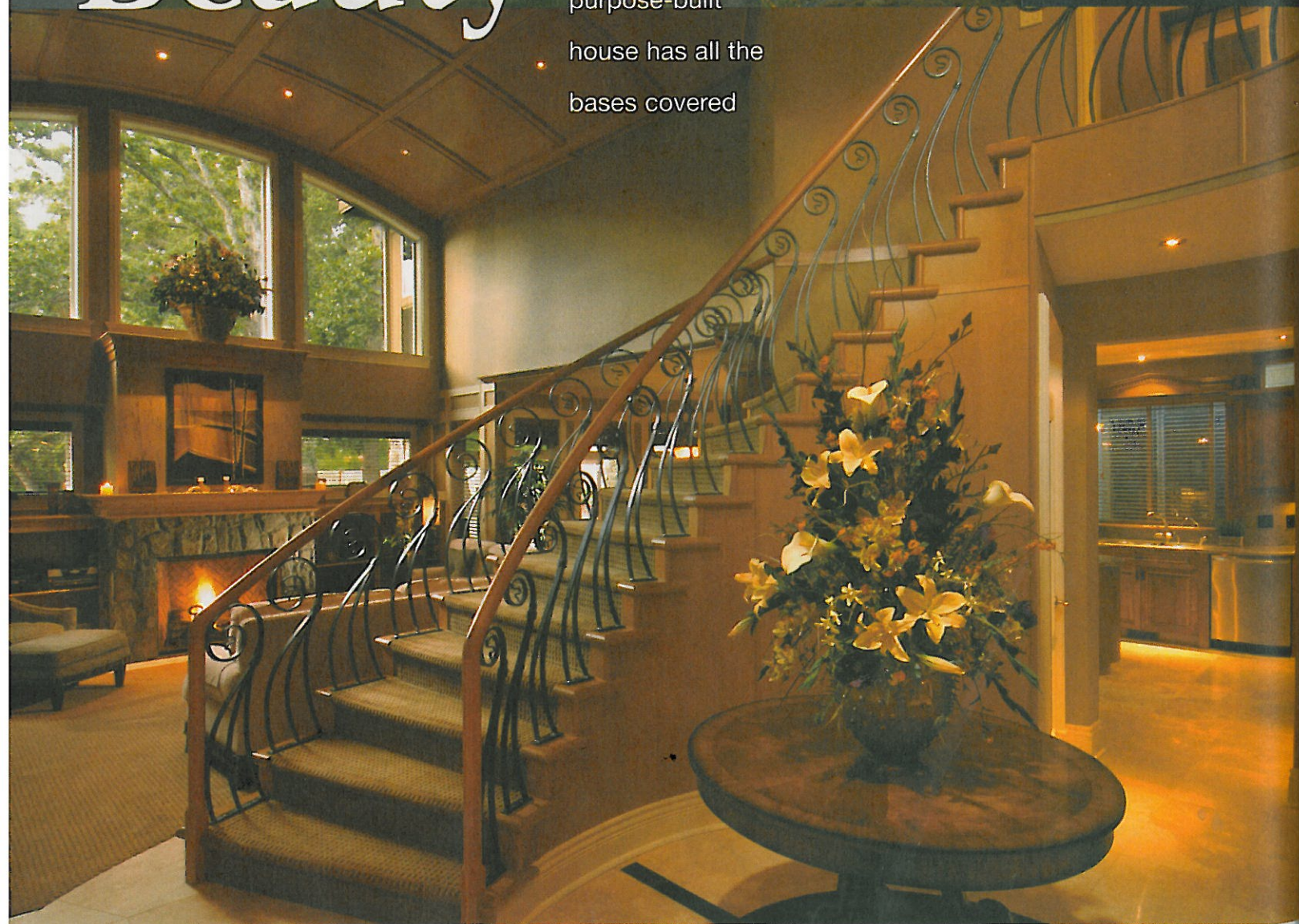
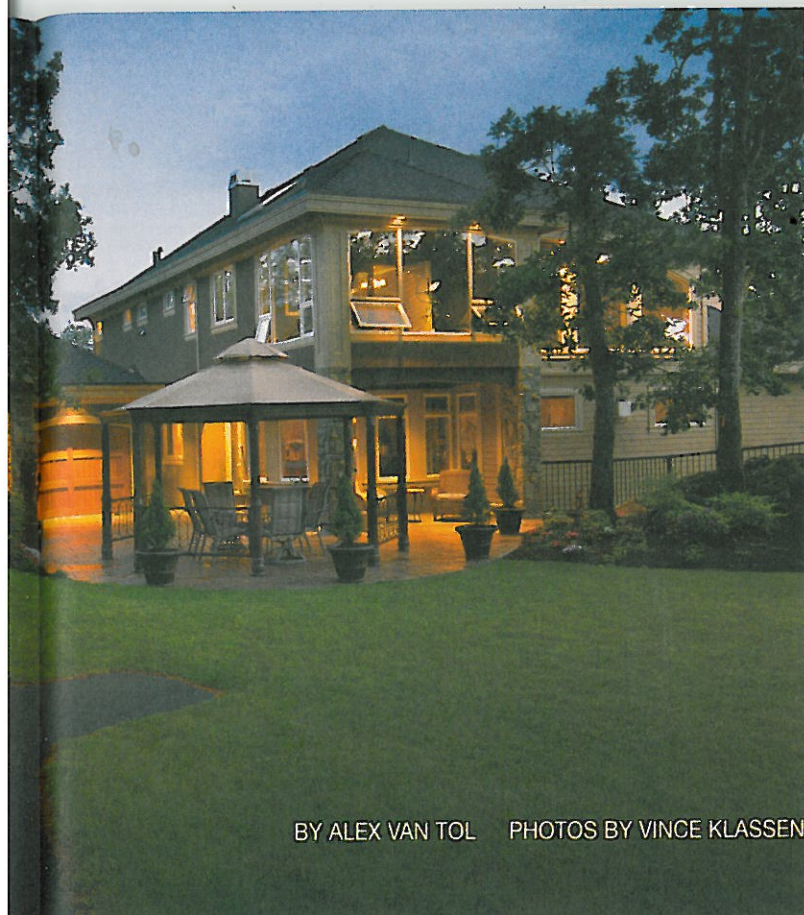


Broadmead Beauty

This stunning,
purpose-built
house has all the
bases covered





BY ALEX VAN TOL PHOTOS BY VINCE KLASSEN

LOVE HIM or hate him (or is it all really just about the hair?), real estate developer Donald Trump sticks it out there in his characteristic frank manner: "I like thinking big. If you're going to be thinking anything, you might as well think big." And thinking big is exactly what the owners of this spectacular home were doing when they designed their 6,000 square foot dwelling, perched on a forested lot high in the leafy oasis of Broadmead.

It helps that the home's contractor/developer was none other than multiple CARE Award-winner Bob Gill, Vice-President of the Canadian Home Builders' Association and owner of Pacific Concept Developments. Gill designed and built the award-

Clockwise from top left:

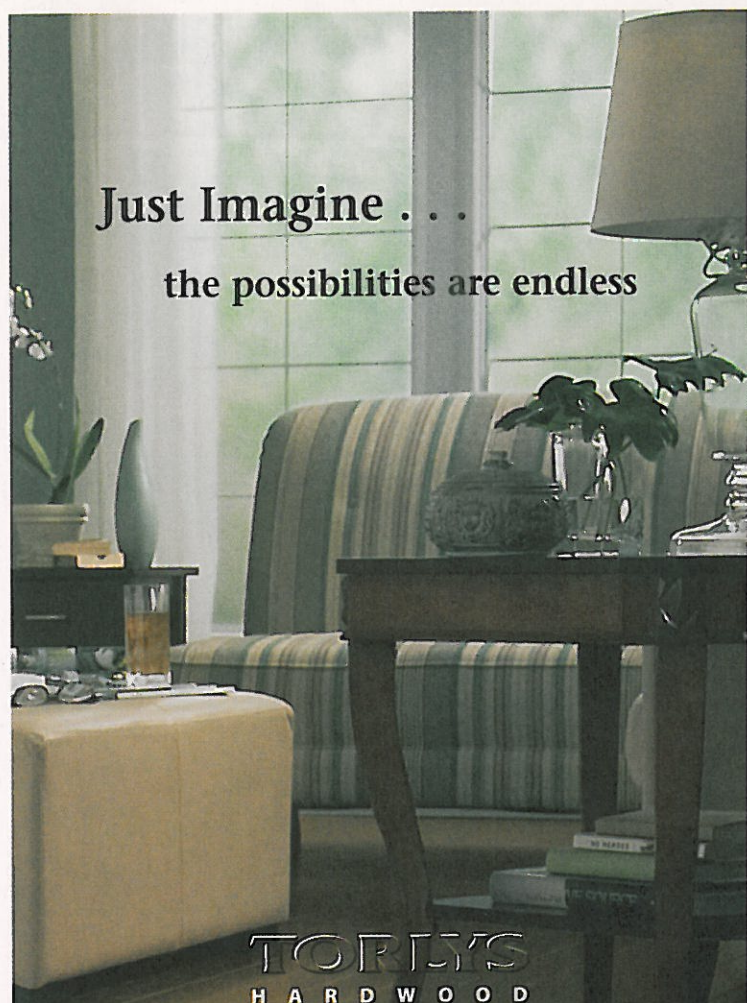
Designed by award-winning builder Bob Gill, the house rises majestically from a tree-framed corner lot.

The patio overlooks a rambling yard with an abundance of natural features.

Curves abound in Gill's design, linking living spaces with flow and grace.

winning surrounding homes as well, as part of Valewood Trail Estates, a goodly chunk of land cleaved off from a neighbouring estate several years back. Built on a corner lot, this imposing house is enhanced by its natural surroundings: Broadmead's ever-present tall coniferous trees frame the backdrop; a carefully preserved stand of oak mingles with a natural outcropping of bedrock on the west side of the property; the wild natural growth of the adjoining estate creates a sense of countryside privacy; and a three-lot span of backyard, complete with parts of the estate's original winding pathways, separates the owners from their nearest neighbours. It's a little hunk of Heaven right here in the city.

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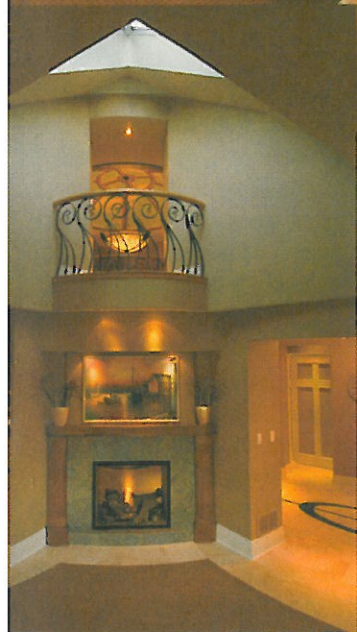
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The corner location was chosen deliberately by the owners. "You can build beautiful homes on corner lots," Gill explains, "because you've got two fronts." And beautiful describes this place quite succinctly. On this pleasant summer evening, the house is splashed by west light from the setting sun, and my eye is drawn to attractive exterior features like an arched entryway — which calls to mind the carriage entrances of old Rockland mansions — and the appealing interplay of imposing windows, warm wood doorways, a wrought-iron

Top: A wooden barrel ceiling soars above the sitting room, while the massive fireplace gives the space depth.

Bottom: Ornately detailed, the Juliet balcony admits light from the sunny living room to the upper floor.

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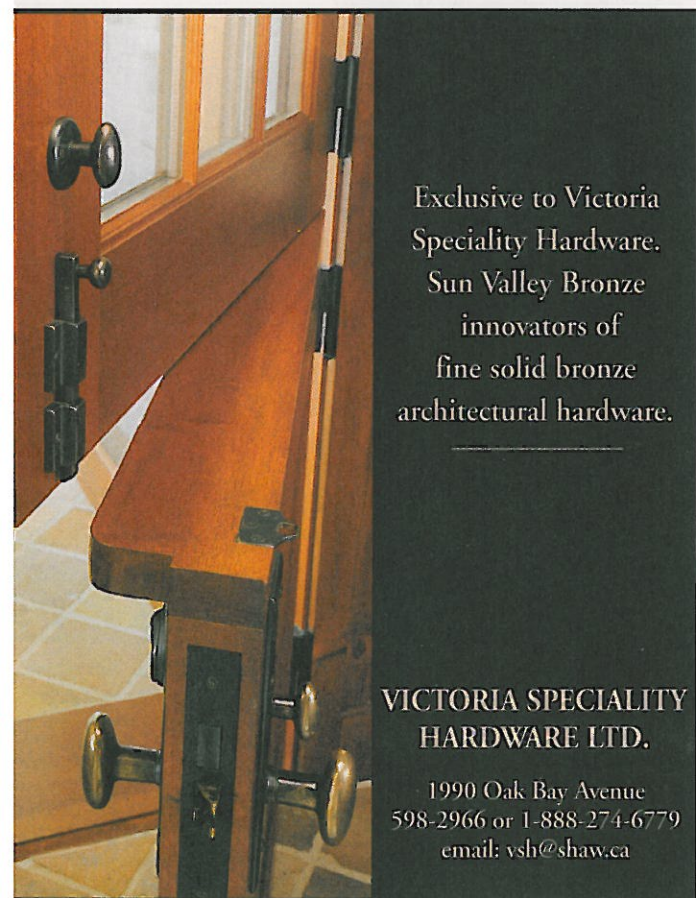
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Maple cabinetry and
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lend a luxurious feel to
the functional kitchen
workspace.

balcony and sandstone masonry. A round
turret softens the southwest corner of the
house, and a variety of angles and nooks
impart a welcoming feel.

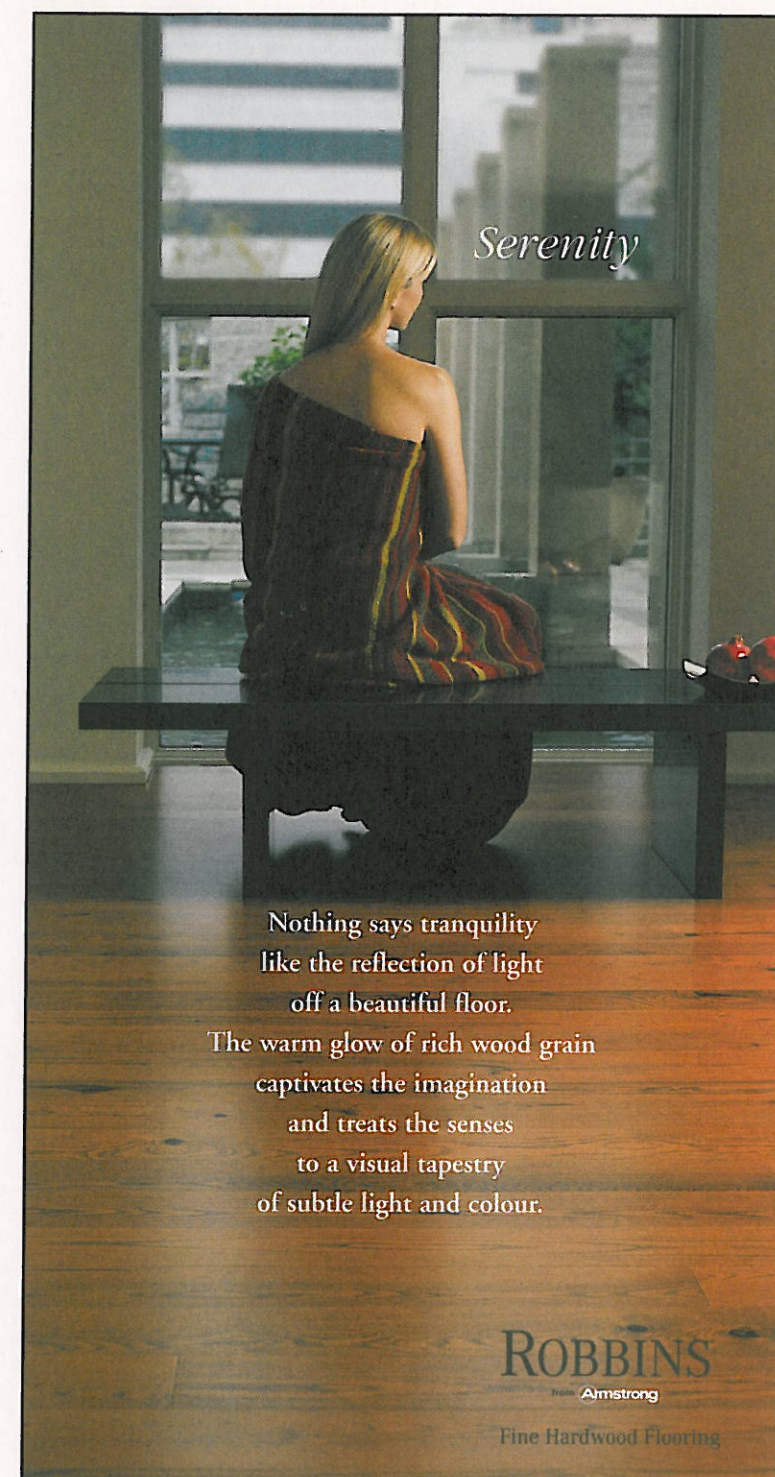
The circular theme resurfaces upon
entering the home, where immediately the
visitor's eye is drawn forward into the
foyer by gently curved walls and a finely detailed granite oval,
carefully inlaid in the marble tile floor. "I like a lot of circles,"
explains Gill. "I wanted a circular focal point of the house and
everything to radiate from that." The rounded foyer is capped by
a dome evolved from three circles, intricately painted by
millwright and artist Tom Kendall, and designed to dovetail with
the circular staircase and balustrade that "flows like a ribbon"
from the main floor to the open upper level. Each piece of
wrought iron rail on the stairway is unique, crafted locally by
Crescent Moon Forge and Ironworks to match the exterior
metalwork.

The main entrance and stairwell area is circular; the living
room off the entrance is circular; the dining nook is partly
circular. The pattern isn't overbearing; rather, the arrangement
gently connects the intimate spaces throughout the spacious
home. It's a tough assignment to build a "huge, yet cozy" house
as per the owners' wish, but by teaming the circular theme with
earth tones and natural textures on ceilings, walls and floors, Gill
was able to achieve it. The walls throughout are painted a

mellow caramel — a comely complement to the maple
woodwork and the natural textiles of the furnishings. Pale
limestone on the main level, courtesy of Island Floor Centre, is
warmed by wool-blend carpet purposely laid to create the feel
and look of area rugs. The earthy, neutral palette creates a
feeling of timelessness, which in turn alleviates the need to
redecorate in several years' time.

And indeed, the main rooms engender a feeling of snug
harmony. Southwest sun from the floor-to-ceiling windows
bathes the living room, and a wrought-iron Juliet balcony high
on a wall efficiently channels this bright light into the upper
hallway. The dark granite, maple cabinetry and stainless steel of
the kitchen are softened by rounded counters, bronze-finish
hardware and amber crystal pendant lights twinkling over the
island. There's a small spice kitchen located just at the end of a
short hallway, perfectly appointed — and well ventilated — for
making those tasty dishes that sometimes create lingering smells.

In the family room, a wooden panelled "barrel" ceiling with
recessed halogen potlights soars above a bank of north-facing
windows, counterbalanced by a commercial fireplace (read: big
enough to qualify for the lobby of Trump Towers) made with the
same Pender Island sandstone used on the outside of the house.
The fireplace masonry is painstakingly chiselled so that each
brick fits perfectly against its neighbours in a mortarless system.
To eschew a cavernous feeling, the room itself is small in area
and is anchored by spacious wooden bookcases, comfortable



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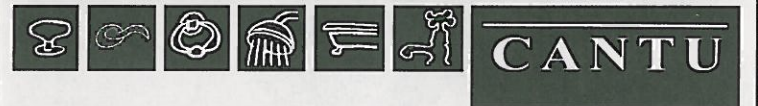
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Clockwise from top:

Weekend relaxation beckons from the sun-drenched sitting area off the master bedroom.

A blasted glass rendition of *The Dance* forms the ensuite door and maintains privacy within.

A secluded exercise room connects to the open, bright master ensuite — for a refreshing shower after a session on the elliptical trainer.



seating and thick carpet. Presto: intimate spaces within a huge home.

Also on the main level is a master suite. While the large sitting area with adjoining bathroom and bedroom is an ideal setup for a current live-in relative, this separate apartment is an example of forward thinking and building for purpose: the main floor suite will be useful when age reduces the owners' mobility.

The upstairs master suite offers an ensuite bath with steam shower, soaker Jacuzzi tub, raised vessel sinks, a marble countertop that matches the tub's surround and plenty of warm accents such as wood-and-wicker baskets, chocolatey brown candles to bathe by, and striking pieces of original art. An elegant pane of blasted glass, courtesy of Gabriel Blasted Glass, separates the bath from the bedroom. A spacious sitting room adjoins the master bedroom and bespeaks lazy Sunday mornings reading the paper. Two smaller bedrooms and an artfully appointed bath complete the upper floor.

Descending below ground level brings the visitor to another array of rooms designed expressly for function: a home office is lit by a sunny row of high south-facing windows; a two-car garage on the





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In the media room, a wall-to-wall screen and theatre seating transport viewers from the workaday world into a fantasy of their choosing.

west side of the house offers a haven for the busy businessman to tinker with his prized Mercedes (two other garages are accessed by the home's south side); an extra bedroom offers space for guests. And the pièce de résistance? A well-appointed media room complete with a four-walled mural of a scene from the Greek coastline, a wet bar and wine area, a projection system, surround-sound and theatre seating for five. And to inject the movie-going experience with that extra little bit of realism, the seats (designed by a chiropractor so as not to stress the back, by the way) have actuators in them for those authenticity junkies who insist upon actually feeling the explosions and car chases as they happen onscreen.

But now, to practicalities. In this age of heightened awareness regarding the environmental impact of the way we live, Gill added features such as low-flush toilets, insulation within every wall and floor, efficient in-floor heating, a circulation pump to keep warm water accessible to all taps, individual thermostat controls, and a programmable system that can control all lighting from one area if necessary. The house is "wired for the future" meaning that there are jacks for all manner of tech-ware in every wall. (No more arranging a room's furnishings according to the cable outlet.) This unique home, with its thoughtful planning and meaningful design, is indeed the result of dreaming big.

And I'll bet Trump would approve of the location, too. ▼

Alex Van Tol realized with an embarrassed shock that she had written about her own personal dust bunnies in two previous issues of Boulevard. So in this issue, she is pleased to announce that her days of dust bunnies are behind her (for the first few months in her new house, at least).

SUPPLIERS AND TRADES:

Designer: **Will Peereboom of Victoria Design**

Contractor: **Pacific Concept Developments**

Interior design: **Kimberly Williams Interiors**

Tile floors and carpeting: **Island Floor Centre**

Door, window and fireplace trim: **The Finishing Store**

Lighting: **Illuminations Lighting Solutions**

Plumbing fixtures and hardware: **Victoria Speciality Hardware, Cantu Bathrooms and Hardware**

Ensuite door and transom lights: **Gabriel Blasted Glass**

Staircase and deck railings: **Crescent Moon Forge & Ironworks**

Mural art: **Tom Kendall**



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