

Silver

PENNER RESIDENCE: A CLEAN ESTHETIC

by Janet Collins



When Penner & Associates Interior Design principals Shelley Penner and Robin McIntosh completed this project on Salt Spring Island, they proved the point that green design needn't be unattractive.

The goal was to build a 4,600-square-foot home that responded to the views, natural environment and daylight of the site. An earlier phase of the project saw the construction of a 700-sq.-ft. guest house, and an office and studio above a garage. The garage is linked to the house by an enclosed connector and mudroom. The materials and finishes of the interior reflect and complement the colours and textures of the Salt Spring Island site. The five elements of Feng Shui – water, wood, earth, fire and metal – are considered in the balance of interior elements.

The natural setting provided inspiration for the concept. Stone flooring continues into the entry from the outside and view windows span from floor to ceiling, creating a seamless flow

from exterior to interior. Douglas Fir columns allude to the trees outside. Varying degrees of visibility, translucency, transparency and reflection, inspired by the character of water, were expressed by using clear and backlit acid-etched glass, and playing with light on matte and spectacular surfaces such as glass mosaic tile, acrylic resin, and mother-of-pearl and glass-embedded terrazzo.

While every effort was made to use local materials, local regulations regarding the quarrying of Salt Spring stone necessitated a search for alternatives for the fireplace. Honed Pennsylvania blue stone was used instead. The blue stone is also used in the nearby curved wall and entry.

The entry opens into a large, bright living / dining / kitchen

space. Adjacent alcoves provide more intimate areas. Steps leading up to the master bedroom and down to the children's rooms separate the private spaces.

The architectural designer, Phillip Van Horn, provided a glass skylight running down the spine of the building, transom windows to allow for maximum light penetration and view windows spanning from floor to ceiling. "The clients were living in Scottsdale, Arizona so were used to intense sunlight," says McIntosh. "We maximized the use of daylighting and supplemented with a diversity of indirect ambient, task and accent lighting."

Renewable natural materials like bamboo flooring and natural fabrics such as linen, hemp and

unbleached cotton were also used throughout the project.

"We look at the longevity of materials used in a project like this," says Penner. "The trick is to find a balance between natural materials and longevity."

The clean esthetic created by the abundance of natural materials in the project is reflected in the minimalist décor. Ample hidden storage space eliminates much of the clutter found in homes with young children.

In awarding this project a Silver Award of Excellence, the judge's noted the "excellent environmental considerations." They added that "the openness of this space has a very nice flow." ■

Owner: Withheld

Location:
Salt Spring Island, B.C.

Interior Designers:
Penner & Associates (Shelley Penner and Robin McIntosh, both BID)

Architectural Designer:
Phillip Van Horn Design

Builder:
Cottonwood Homes Ltd.

Square Footage:
4,600