



## Waterfall a wow in competition finalist in Oakridge

'Water is always a good feng shui sign ... meaning wealth,' home's designer says

### WESTCOAST HOMES

Not many homes feature a three-storey waterfall beside a spectacular spiral staircase, but this Vancouver house has that — and more.

Designed by Eric Lee of Victor Eric Design Group, the home — a finalist in the Georgie Awards, an annual construction and renovation competition — is one where details abound. Lee, a 34-year-old self-taught designer who built his first home at the age of 18, was given free reign to incorporate his best ideas into the 5,000-square-foot custom home in Oakridge.

He took care of the home's architecture — inside and out — but also looked after the fine details, including the colours of paint and types of artwork.

Most of the decisions were left to Lee, since the homeowner, a businessman who also has a home in China, placed his utmost confidence in his designer.

The owner's only requests were that Lee create a home suitable for entertaining, with open-plan living, and that he prominently feature three prized liquor bottles. Lee met that request by placing the bot-

tles in lit art niches in the basement's state-of-the-art media room.

"He was a dream client. This was a chance of a lifetime to complete the whole vision," says Lee, who also chose all the furnishings, incorporating some of his own custom-made designs.

The results of Lee's efforts are evident from the moment the oversized front doors swing open, revealing a two-storey entry with the home's biggest "wow" feature: the spiral staircase and waterfall.

"Water is always a good feng shui sign. It means wealth and is good for business," says Lee, who believes this particular water feature is one of a kind for a residential property.

The installer had created similar larger waterfalls, where the water cascades in straight rows along mylar strands, but they were done for commercial projects. This was the first for a private home.

Stepping down to the main living area, the main feature is a fireplace with cast concrete surround.

See **WALNUT CABINETS** K8



Designer Eric Lee (above) was asked by his Oakridge client to prominently display three prized liquor bottles. He did exactly that — positioning them in lit art niches (top) in the Georgie finalist's spacious media room, top. The self-taught Lee believes the three-storey waterfall (right) is a one-of-a-kind feature in a residential property. The waterfall, positioned inside the home's front doors and next to a spiral staircase, is a positive symbol of feng shui, he reports.



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Designer Eric Lee was asked by his Oakridge client to create a space suitable for entertaining, and he did precisely that in many areas of the 5,000-square-foot home, including the welcoming kitchen. Lee gave the room a clean, contemporary look, positioning the large dining table next to a good-sized island, ensuring ease of transition between meal-prep and meal-time. Cabinets are walnut; flooring is in-laid Carrera marble tile and Silver Sand marble. Adjacent to the kitchen is a pantry and a wok-cooking area.

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## Walnut cabinets and tile

### From K2

Stepping down to the main living area, the main feature is a fireplace with cast concrete surround.

The room is one of modern elegance with 16-inch-high baseboards and custom millwork that includes a horizontally-stacked, walnut partial-room divider. Within the millwork is a large aquarium, which helps to visually separate the living room from the adjacent

dining room, a step above.

In the dining room, Lee used a faux leather finish with fine stitches on the walls and had a chandelier installed, similar to one in the entranceway.

The kitchen, which has a custom contemporary dining table off the large kitchen island, features walnut cabinets and flooring of in-laid Carrera marble tile and Silver Sand marble.

See **A SENSE OF GRANDEUR K10**

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Designer Eric Lee's Georgie finalist is an Oakridge departure. His client is 'thrilled,' Lee reports.

#### From K10

The Lee-designed residence is one of four finalists in the Georgies' category for best single-family-detached home, 4,000 square feet and over, and one of three Vancouver-area nominees.

Also nominated are tdSwansburg design studio for its project in White Rock, and NASCO Construction Ltd. for a project in North Vancouver.

The fourth finalist in the category is Keith Dahlen Construction Ltd. for its work on a project in Vernon.

Winners of the competition, sponsored by the B.C. chapter of the Canadian Home Builders' Association, will be named at a banquet on Feb. 8.

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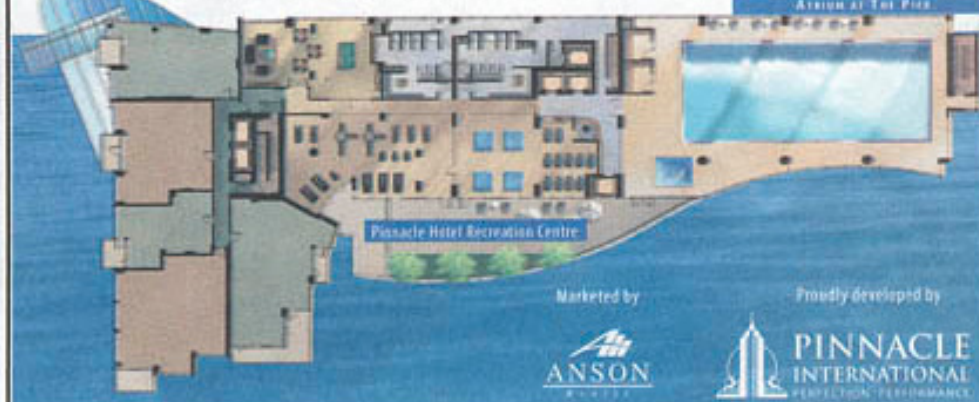
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