



DESIGN TEAM

**architecture:** Iredale Group Architecture

**construction:** KBC Developments

**interiors:** A Good Chick to Know

**landscape:** Bearmark Design & Landscape

Architect Peter Hildebrand of Iredale Group Architecture designed a 4,340-square-foot split-level home to fit within a 100-foot-long, steeply graded site in White Rock, British Columbia. Clerestory windows allow the soft light, as well as views of Semiahmoo Bay, to enter the home. "The light makes this house feel warm even on a rainy day," says homeowner Debra Wright.



# TRUST THE VISION

*An artist and a TV producer orchestrate a blockbuster showplace in White Rock.*

Written by STACY KENDALL • Photographed by ANDREW DORAN and EMA PETER



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rt made by committee is rarely as successful as the vision of a lone mastermind. However, the right team can pull together something transcendent. Home-owners Debra and Brad Wright should know: When Debra, a visual artist, and Brad, a writer-producer best known for co-creating the successful *Stargate* television franchise, set their sights on building a contemporary house in White Rock, British Columbia, in 2011, they knew they needed a strong supporting cast.

The couple first met their contractors, Harv and Ron Kliewer of KBC Developments, after admiring several of their clean-lined projects in the area. On KBC's recommendation, they brought on architect Peter Hildebrand, a partner at Iredale Group Architecture. Designer Jennifer Scott of A Good Chick to Know finessed the interiors with a mix of new, vintage, and industrial furnishings that play off the home's clean lines.

The resulting 4,340-square-foot split-level places the open-plan kitchen/living/dining area, the master bedroom (with his-and-hers bathrooms), Debra's art studio, and Brad's office on its top level. The lower floor holds »





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**ABOVE:** In the living room, interior designer Jennifer Scott mixed vintage modern furniture, sourced from ReFind in Vancouver, with new pieces, including sleek gray sofas from Inspiration Furniture, also in Vancouver. "An eclectic interior paired with clean, contemporary architecture allows both elements to shine," Scott explains. **BELOW AND OPPOSITE:** A wall of glass overlooks the bay. Minimalist landscaping by Brian Beresford of Bearmark Design & Landscape is handsome year-round. The striking steel spiral staircase adds an artistic flourish, while a railing of partially etched glass on the upper deck softens views of neighboring rooftops. »



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*“As a producer, you trust your team to carry out your vision. That’s how you get the best possible outcome.”* —BRAD WRIGHT, HOMEOWNER







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a second living room, bedrooms for the Wright's two grown daughters, and a gym and sauna. The deck, which spans the length of the upper story and overlooks nearby Semiahmoo Bay, leads to a majestic steel spiral staircase that winds down to the lower yard.

Hildebrand's first proposed design scheme drew upon the International style, with its long expanses of steel and glass. When his clients worried such a home would feel too cold, he says, "we added rock accent walls for rich texture and tonality, plus soaring flat rooflines, a more open-plan layout, and fir beams and decking on the 14-foot-high ceiling for a more West Coast feeling. This aesthetic brought the house together very quickly." Thanks to the softened plan, plus Scott's savvy decorating, the interior proportions are simultaneously intimate and grand. The team collaborated closely on every element, even planning where each piece of art would live—a must for the couple's extensive collection and Debra's own vibrant canvases. "No corner went unconsidered. I love every detail," Debra says.

Yet after the new scheme was developed, the Wrights did something quite unusual as clients: They trusted the process completely and let the designers implement their plan with few adjustments. "The house you see here is the same one in our drawing," says Hildebrand. "That doesn't happen often—these were outstanding clients." The hands-off approach had the added benefit of keeping project costs and timeline under control, but that wasn't the Wrights' sole motivation. "We respected the team," Brad explains. "As a producer, you trust your team to carry out your vision. That's how you get the best possible outcome." »



EMA PETER



The kitchen shows off the focused color palette and natural finishes that permeate the whole house. The underside of the custom-designed table, created from a 100-year-old Spanish chestnut tree by Vancouver's Sholto Design Studio, features a hand-inscribed timeline of the life of the tree, tracing it from seedling to dinner table. **OPPOSITE:** At the home's entrance, a bonsai tree stands in a reflecting pool crowned by an oculus. The soffits look like wood, but they're actually steel printed with a wood grain—a clever way to avoid erosion from salty air coming off the bay.



*"This house is timeless. The consistent palette throughout means the home will look just as amazing years from now."*

—HARV KLIEWER, KBC DEVELOPMENTS



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Cantilevered white oak stairs lead to a stunning focal point: a floor-to-ceiling wine storage wall built around a favorite piece coopted from the set of one of Brad's TV productions, *Stargate*. For the under-utilized space beneath the stairs, interior designer Jennifer Scott found a vintage flat-file cabinet to hold Brad's scripts. **OPPOSITE, FROM TOP:** A sauna is adjacent to the downstairs gym. A detail of the *Stargate* set piece. The freestanding bathtub is in Brad's en-suite master bathroom; Debra opted for a shower in hers. The downstairs living room is intended to exude a *Mad Men* vibe, says Scott. \*