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THE V LIST

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WHO'S ON THE V LIST?



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Time is Precious

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KARIM'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

The theme of our Fall issue is Time Is Precious. We had originally planned to write about The Slow Movement, which has been popularized in the international best-selling book "In Praise Of Slow" written by a Canadian, Carl Honoré. The book examines our 21st century proclivity to hurry and speaks to a global trend toward putting on the brakes – to personally de-accelerate, to savor the moment. We plan to examine the subject of "slowing down to the speed of life" in a future issue.

Instead, in this issue we are paying tribute to Herb Doman, a giant in the forest industry, a pillar of his community, and also a proud Canadian. His passing in July was a great loss. Although he became one of the greatest entrepreneurs this province has ever seen, he was a modest and humble man whose business sense never overtook his human spirit. He often reminded people to, "never forget where you come from," and he lived by those words. We can all be inspired by Herb Doman – as I was.

In this Issue we are featuring the story the Baker Twins from Stellat'en First Nation reserve in Northern BC. It is the first in a series of articles dedicated to the province's First Peoples and their distinctive art and culture.

Please take the time to fill out the subscription card to ensure you will continue to receive it.

Warmest Regards,

KARIM

Karim Virani

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Designer Penthouse

The distinctive penthouse at 1717 Duchess Ave., known as The Regent, carries many of the hallmarks of contemporary European design. The clean straight lines of its architecture, cabinetry and light fixtures, and the exquisite hand-made carpentry give this two-level suite unique sophistication.

And yet, nothing detracts from the 360-degree mountain, ocean and skyline views that feel as much a part of this Ambleside home as the imported granite counters and Italian custom-designed closet doors.

That was the goal, says Erez Avramov, whose company Solengo gutted, redesigned and rebuilt this penthouse. While he has gained a reputation for high-quality developments in Europe and the United States, this was Mr. Avramov's first project in Canada. He wanted the home to reflect the West Coast character.

"We decided to do a test pilot of the type of construction that we know how to do," he said, explaining that a team of architects from Europe was brought in for the project. "We wanted to introduce the more contemporary modern design of Europe but still have some connections with the West Coast lifestyle. The combination of the two worked very nicely."

That meant that special consideration was given to the relationship between interior and exterior. Outdoor terraces seamlessly blend with indoor space, and floor-to-ceiling windows infuse the interior with natural light. Details, such as the unobtrusive automatic window coverings, show attention to every possible convenience and luxury.

It was indeed a winning formula: the home was sold by VIRANI Real Estate Advisors in one day. By the time Solengo finished the residence, it was unrecognizable from its original condition.

The low-rise building was constructed in the early 1980s by developer Bill Lougheed, who chose the site for its unbeatable views. Each condominium occupies an entire floor to take full advantage of the surroundings, with the penthouse on the upper two storeys.

The ultimate suite, however, had not been updated in more than 20 years. Besides its unfortunate green and pink colour scheme, the layout was not functional. "When we bought the penthouse," recalls Mr. Avramov, "the only description for it was 'horrifying.'"

The company gutted the unit and upgraded the plumbing and electrical systems. The 3100-sq.-ft. three-bedroom home now features custom-made European cabinetry and unique Hansgrohe bath and kitchen fixtures designed by Phillip Stark. All appliances are top-of-the-line, by Miele and Sub-Zero. The dark and elegant hardwood floors are imported walnut, and Italian limestone tiles grace the bathrooms and open spaces. Custom-made Bocci chandeliers were designed by a renowned Canadian artist.

The terraces stretch over 1,500 sq. ft., giving the new residents ample opportunity to enjoy West Vancouver's famous natural beauty. <<<

