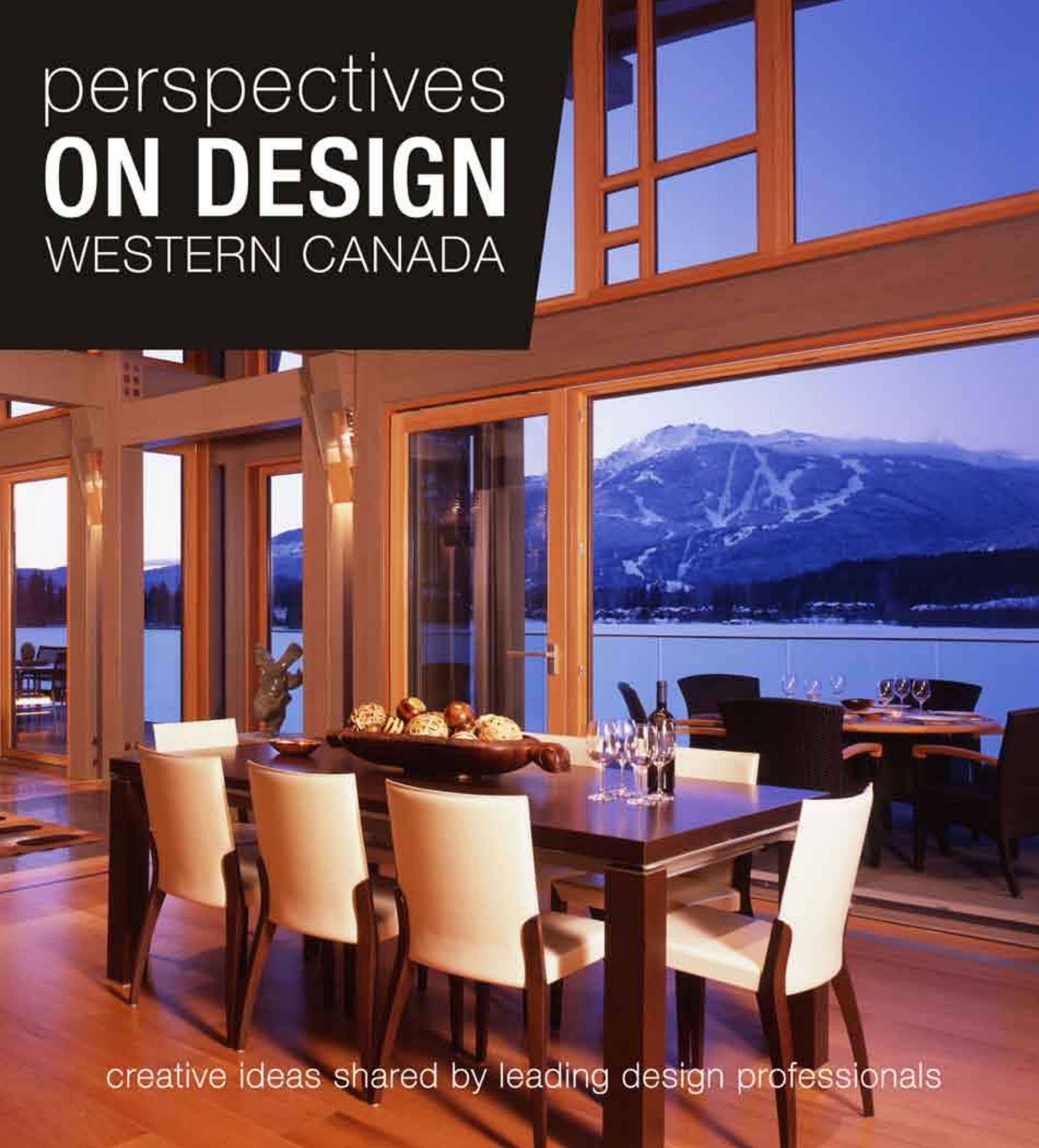


perspectives
ON DESIGN
WESTERN CANADA



creative ideas shared by leading design professionals



TOM BAKKER DESIGN

Surrey, British Columbia



“Just like a painting hung straight maintains a sense of balance in a space, so every aspect of a home must harmoniously blend to create a pleasing, comfortable ambience”

—Tom Bakker

ABOVE: Design must be intentional. Even something as minor as a light switch needs to be positioned correctly, taking both ergonomics and functionality into account. I love challenges. The kitchen has a structural column in the middle. I was told it couldn't be removed, so I added a second column and designed a cabinet with two popup TVs in between. Besides accommodating audio visual components, it also visually divides the kitchen from the sitting room while maintaining spatial openness.

FACING PAGE: The homeowners wanted a grand yet intimate ambience. The footprint is large, which allowed me to design two oversized islands that each have a lot of storage space. The larger island forms a natural transition between the kitchen and the breakfast area. One side of the island accommodates nine large drawers to service breakfast dining, while the smaller island accommodates barstools so guests can be a part of the action. Leaded glass—another design element the homeowners had dreamed about—was elegantly integrated into the upper cabinets.

Photographs by Stephen Cridland



“A positive emotional response at the end of a project is the greatest reward.”

—Tom Bakker



ABOVE: Indoor/outdoor living is important to the family, so I replaced three windows in the kitchen with a folding glass door, allowing access to a spectacular deck; they love it. I also wanted to ensure that daylight will continue to filter into the basement, so I collaborated with a glazing and structural engineer to creatively integrate two opaque glass panels into the deck.

Photograph by Stephen Cridland

FACING PAGE TOP: Symmetry and balance make the kitchen feel comfortable and harmonious while intimately enveloping its large square footage. Luxurious details—like the hammered-copper farmer’s sink, leaded-glass cabinet fronts, and two-tone interior—add interest to the magnificent award-winning kitchen.

Photograph by Dominic Schaefer

FACING PAGE BOTTOM: Five levels of decking ease guests down the nearly six feet of height difference between the kitchen and the existing grade. I created each level to provide space for a specific function, from dining and lounging to relaxing in the hot tub or mingling in the open space below during parties.

Photograph by Stephen Cridland



“Every project is like a journey, and the entire process should be enjoyed and savored.”

—Tom Bakker



TOP: Working with the owners of a beautiful 90-foot motor yacht gave me the opportunity and privilege to create something spectacular. The owners provided many examples of elements they wanted to implement, one of which was the triple oval portholes that I incorporated into their master stateroom.

Photograph courtesy of owner

MIDDLE & BOTTOM: The highly customized floorplan of the galley and dining lounge includes a partial wall featuring an exclusive work of art that I created. The owners wanted to utilize granite throughout, so a specialty fabricator was contracted to reduce the stone slab's thickness to accommodate the weight limits of the vessel. Other details such as fluted columns, triple-crown mouldings, and highly detailed countertop edges coordinate in a well-balanced manner.

Photographs by Onne van der Wal

FACING PAGE: Everything on the yacht was executed to the highest standards possible, from the enclosed aft deck to the mirrored ceiling and curved mouldings to the custom furniture and high-gloss drum table in the salon.

Photograph by Onne van der Wal

