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LUXURY
HOME
CANADA

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Natural Approach

*Johnson Chou illuminates the
Toronto skyline*

DESIGNER SHOWCASE

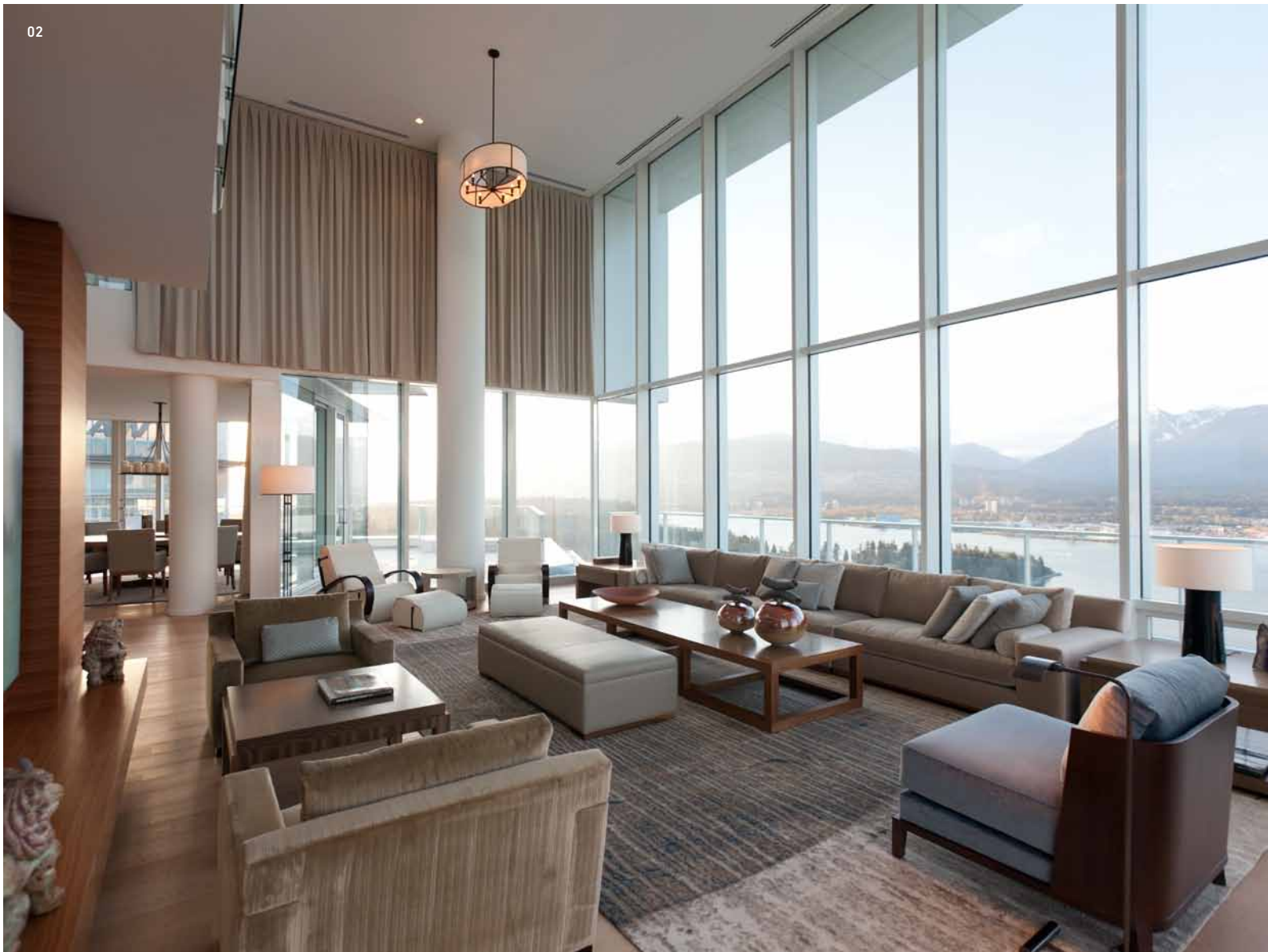


Robert Bailey Interiors

“The story of Robert Bailey Interiors must begin with the story of Robert Bailey,” reads the opening of a strategic storyline that documents the trajectory of the interior design firm. So let us turn first to Robert Bailey. Upon being asked why he became a designer, Bailey says, “I was born this way.” Many of his earliest memories involve “arranging things to appeal to a personal sense of rightness” and in particular, he credits his mother “for her unending support and encouragement, which gave him permission to follow this passion.”

STORY: ISABEL EVA BOHRER
PHOTOS: JOSH DUNFORD

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Bailey's passion became his vocation, and eventually led him to found his company, Robert Bailey Interiors. "My designer instincts began as primarily about style," he says, "but over time have evolved to prioritize the people who inhabit our work."

Robert Bailey Interiors focuses on highly customized, client and site-specific design. "The work of our office is primarily residential, with a lesser percentage of hospitality, retail and commercial work," Bailey says. "We work in a contemporary manner for lifestyles of today." However, he also highlights that his company does not work exclusively in a modern style; on the contrary, "most of our work is a blend of styles, resulting in a very personal portrait of our clients and their desires," he says.

According to Bailey, it is this fact that makes his company particularly unique and successful. "We offer very personal service to our clients. And work very much in a collaborative style," he explains. "We also 'own' our clients program and always put ourselves in their place, never designing without their needs being addressed." Although each project is different, it is the "norm" that Bailey's clients are involved throughout the design process in varying degrees.

01
The foyer overlooks a glass stairway and a hallway that leads to the living room

02
The living room has abundant seating to take in the breathtaking views of Vancouver

03
The foyer in the Deep Cove property peeks onto the first and second floor stairway with exposed brick

04
Reflective surfaces in the bathroom sparkle from light coming through the expansive windows

05
A floor-to-ceiling window in the bathroom's spacious shower looks out onto downtown Vancouver

06
Neutral colours and comfortable seating provide a relaxing experience while viewing the city below







The Fairmont Penthouse

At the Fairmont Penthouse, Bailey and his team sought to create a “a refined, peaceful interior.” The project is replete with products and furniture designed especially for the residence, including custom area rugs by Zoe Luyendijk Studio (zoeluyendijk.com) custom soft pieces by Carmel Furniture (carmeldesigns.net), as well as custom case pieces by M Trayler (trayler.com) and Lech Podgorski (lechdesign.com). In the living room, lamps by Solis Betancourt + Studio H from Holly Hunt (hollyhunt.com) shed light on the Aspre + Ecume chairs by Christian Liaigre (christian-liaigre.fr/en), as well as Casablanca chairs and ottomans by Tresserra. In the family room we find an occasional chair and ottoman by Giorgetti (giorgetti.eu), pleasantly illuminated by a Kevin Reilly floor lamp (kevinreillylighting.com) and table lamps by Armani Casa (armanicasa.com). Den lamps, in turn are by Christian Liaigre (christian-liaigre.fr), while bedroom lamps are Portana Romana (portaromana.co.uk/). Bailey characterizes the outcome as both “beautiful” and “understated,” a consequence, he says, of the fact that his company “[custom] designed almost all of the furniture for the space.”

In fact, Bailey’s inspiration frequently stems from his clients. “Inspiration comes in many forms, but usually the jumping off point is our client(s),” he says. “As projects proceed they take on a life of their own, and the project itself becomes the inspiration.”

Both the Fairmont Penthouse and the Deep Cove home in North Vancouver, BC, could be considered such projects that took on a life of their own. With regards to the former, Bailey explains that the clients “are an international couple, whose global business bring them to Vancouver several times per year.” In terms of the objective for the project, he adds that with the penthouse, he and his team sought “to create a refined, peaceful interior, that reflected our clients goals for a visually quiet space that is at once luxurious and comfortable.”

At Deep Cove, in turn, Bailey explains that the goal “was to create a contemporary pacific home to be lived in, by an active family and their guests.” (Specifically, the clients are a young family with two pre-school children and two dogs). “The house was built ground up, and every aspect of the design was considered as part of the whole,” Bailey says.

As is the case with the Fairmont Penthouse, almost all of the furniture was designed especially for Deep Cove North Vancouver, including custom





05



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“WE LOVE WORKING WITH CLIENTS TO MAKE THEIR DREAMS CONCRETE, AND CREATE LIVABLE SPACES THAT ARE FUNCTIONAL AND UNIQUE TO THE USER.”

Robert Bailey, Principal

soft pieces by Carmel Furniture. Other unique products include Holly Hunt lamps in the living room, a dining table by B&B Italia, and area rugs throughout by Colin Campbell, who provides Vancouver’s largest selection of natural wool carpet flooring and hand-knotted area rugs.

All in all, Bailey considers all of his projects rewarding on different levels. The “satisfaction for me is not comparable, as each experience is unique,” he explains. There is, however, a common denominator throughout: “The most rewarding principle of our design is longevity,” Bailey affirms.

It is the longevity that has enabled Bailey to remain in the design business for over 30 years, and it appears that his company will last well into the future, too. As for his own plans for the next year, Bailey says that, “Hospitality is an area of design that perhaps allows for the most lateral thinking so this work is always exciting to produce.” All in all, however, he enjoys both private as well as public work. “We love working with clients to make their dreams concrete, and create livable spaces that are functional and unique to the user.” ■

07

A black and white runner in the hallway leads the way to the living room’s floor-to-ceiling windows

08

Enjoy city views from comfortable indoor seating, or step outside onto the glass patio

09

A futuristic wall of illuminated dots against a black background tie together the sleek furniture of the sitting area

10

Somber exposed brick and subtle tones of the seating area come to life with the vibrant artwork on the walls

11

A mix of brick and glass and slatted steps complete the main stairway

12

Beige and neutral tones of both the furniture and decor of the bedroom bring a calming feeling to the space