

Designer Stephanie Brown's palette for a Vancouver, British Columbia, townhouse features black, stainless steel, and gray. "The metal finishes are very modern and are used to warm up the space," Brown says. These include the brushed aluminum on the stairs and kitchen shelf, all from Richelieu Hardware. Polished porcelain flooring from Stone-Tile adds richness to the open-concept space.

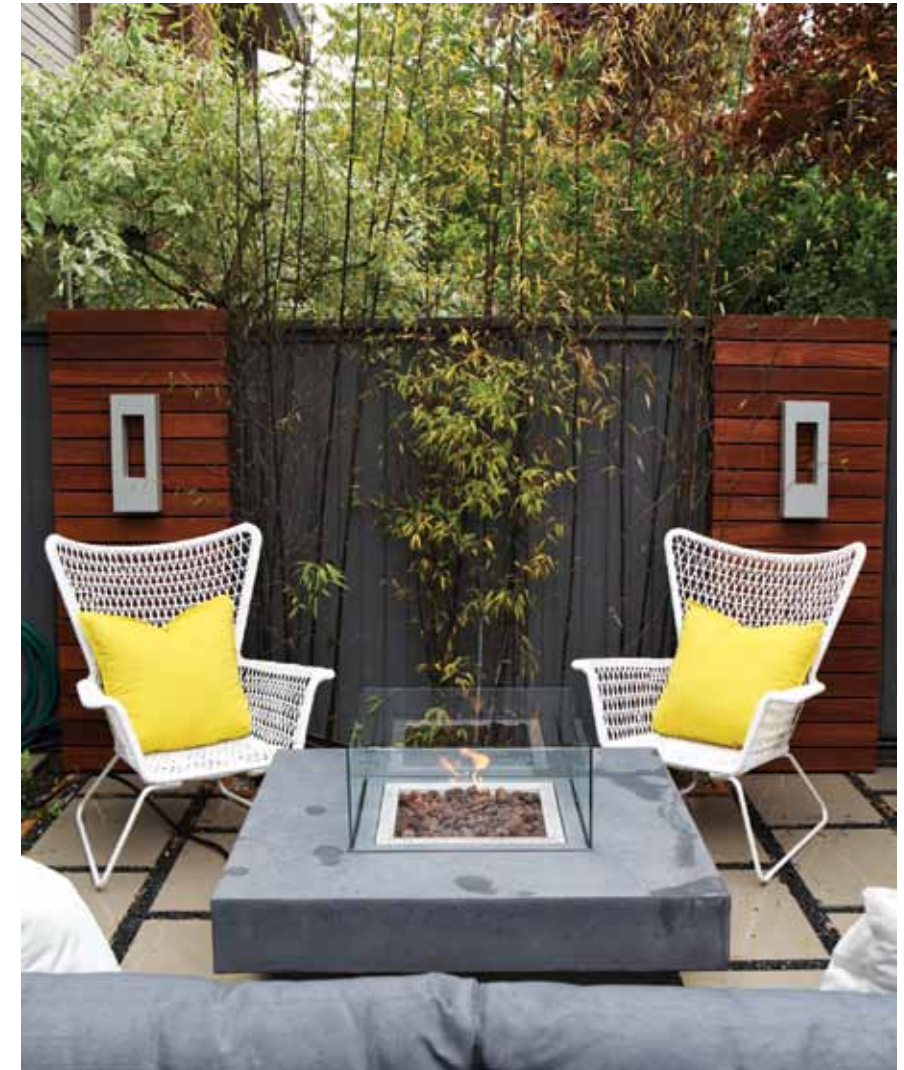
FRESH FROM A RENOVATION BY VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, DESIGNER STEPHANIE BROWN, A DOWNTOWN PENTHOUSE GLEAMS WITH MODERN MASCULINITY.

POLISHED GEM

Written by ERINN GLEESON
Photographed by PHIL CROZIER



The custom dining area millwork and table are by Soma Furniture. The painting is by Barrie Weiss, an artist and friend of Brown's. Chairs from Restoration Hardware continue the modern-and-metal theme. The contemporary chandelier from Robinson Lighting and Bath Centre resembles raindrops overhead. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** A fire table from Restoration Hardware, white chairs from Ikea, an outdoor sofa from Moe's Home, and Hinkley wall sconces from YLighting warm up the 400-square-foot garden space.



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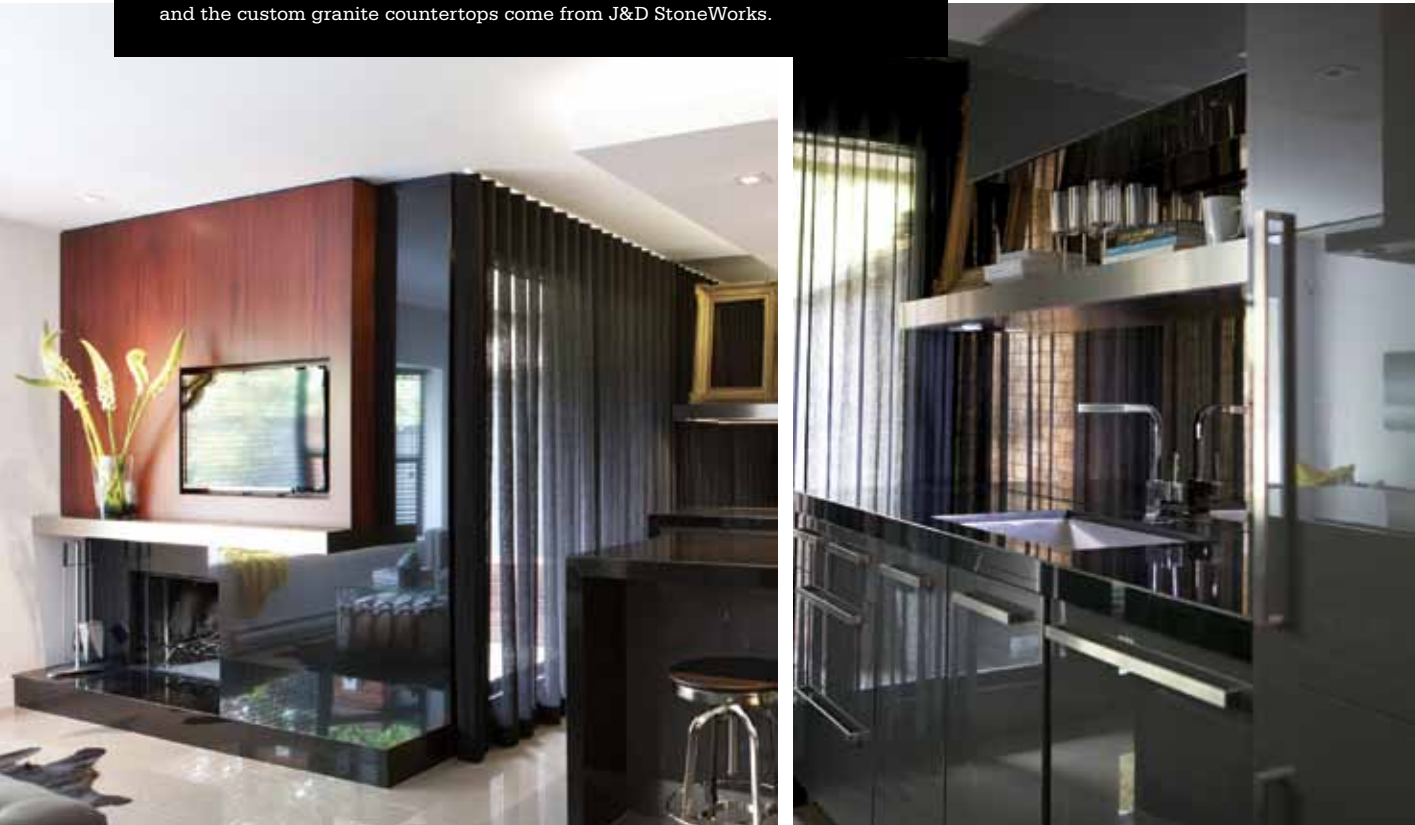
idden in the heart of Vancouver, British Columbia's Fairview area is one man's private oasis—"the ultimate bachelor pad," according to homeowner John Stimac. A collaboration between Stimac, a project manager for Murray Sims Construction, and the Vancouver-based interior designer and IDIBC member Stephanie Brown, founder of Stephanie Brown Inc., the townhouse has come

a long way from its tired 1970s origins. "I still get goose bumps every time I walk in," Stimac says. "She knocked it out of the park!"

It's a real compliment, from a man who knows his way around a renovation. Over the past couple decades, Stimac has purchased, fixed-up, and flipped eight projects, each following a similar design formula: beige walls, crown molding, and a white kitchen, all of which he was getting tired of. Brown's work opened his eyes to a more sophisticated



ABOVE: The designer and resident brought the outside in with a framed green wall and a photo by artist Michael Levin. **BELOW LEFT:** New wood paneling covers the original 1970s fireplace, bringing it up to date. **BELOW RIGHT AND OPPOSITE:** In the open kitchen, the barstools are from Restoration Hardware, the appliances are from Midland Appliance, the kitchen cabinets are from Ikea, and the custom granite countertops come from J&D StoneWorks.





ABOVE: The upstairs bathroom features a pendant fixture by Moooi and a freestanding tub from Acrictec. All tile is from Creekside Tile. The gray floating Ikea vanity gives the illusion of more space. **BELOW:** In the downstairs powder room, Osbourne & Little wallpaper, supplied by AnneStarr, adds texture and drama to a small room.



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—STEPHANIE BROWN, STEPHANIE BROWN INC.

style. “I will never do another personal project without getting Stephanie’s fingerprints on it,” he vows.

Brown stuck to a limited palette in the 1,000-square-foot space, selecting materials to complement the exotic Jarrah hardwood that Stimac already had on hand. “But it’s really red,” Brown says, “so it was very dominant. I had to think about what kind of color scheme was going to work with the red but still tie into the masculine modern concept.”

She opted for a variety of reflective surfaces, such as stainless steel on the stair risers, the fireplace mantle, and the kitchen shelf, as well as a mirrored backsplash, glass accessories and lighting, and polished porcelain tiles on the main floor. These gleaming materials transform an otherwise dark palette, bouncing light around and creating the illusion of a larger space.

To balance all the gloss, Brown designed a four-by-six-foot vertical garden installation, which Stimac constructed and installed with Bill Picha, a colleague and gardener. “I first thought, let’s find a big painting that has a lush mossy feeling, but then I thought it would be nice to have a wall of moss,” Brown says. “From there I thought, let’s do a green wall—it’s very West Coast.” To add texture and warmth, Brown chose a gray Gus Modern sofa from the shop Stylegarage. Custom yellow pillows tie in with similarly hued accents in the master bedroom and on the patio.

Both Stimac and Brown are thrilled with the final product, but that doesn’t mean the project is fully complete. What’s left to do? Stimac wants to add wiring to the massive outdoor pergola over his hot tub on the deck, which is nestled amid greenery. Why? “So I can watch hockey outside when it snows!” ❄️



Gray grasscloth by Phillip Jeffries, supplied by Crown Wallpaper, clads the master bedroom walls. Brown chose the headboard from Fabulous Furnishings to match the bedding from The Bay and drapes by Ravi Design. The bedside pendants by Foscarini not only leave the side tables free of clutter but also draw one’s eye up to the large vaulted ceiling.