

17th Annual West Coast Modern Home Tour

Itzinger-Meuldyk Residence

Designed: Wolfgang Gerson, 1967

Renovated: Wexler Design, 2012

Photos: Jesse Laver, 2023

Perched on a very steep and forested site, this modest 2,000-square-foot home was designed by award-winning architect Wolfgang Gerson for Hermann Itzinger, chairman of the applied arts department at Langara College, and his partner Joop Meuldyk-

The architecture blurs the line between inside and outside, with expansive windows and outdoor access via several patios and decks, all while maintaining a sense of privacy from neighbouring homes. The home's structure consists of two large exposed Douglas fir glulam beams that run east-west, anchored to the bedrock. The beams are supported by a post system that lifts the home's cantilevered platforms, which terrace down the slope. The volumes of the various spaces interlock and flow freely between the rational structure, creating unique overlooking spaces that interplay with the natural environments of the mountain side.



Chun House

Designed: Arthur Müdry, 1989

Photos: Oleg Solodchenko, 2022

Situated in a setting of rugged bedrock, cedars, and garden space, the Chun House reflects the architect Arthur Müdry's reverence for nature and belief that design should ultimately blend the joy of our living spaces and enhance the natural environment. This home captures that approach and embraces the panoramic ocean, mountain, and island views.

Müdry's dedication to celebrating the landscapes on which he built is seen in the way he worked to incorporate the house into the area, rather than change the area to fit the house. In a 2018 interview with Hadani Ditmars, the architect stated that "nature is sacrosanct ... one of the sins of our time is that when we find beauty in nature, we never know how to live with it in the right relationship."



McGee House

Designed: Donald Manning, 1955

Renovated: Georg Koslowski, 1978

Renovated: Architecture Building Culture (ABC), 2022

Photos: Andrew Latreille, 2022

The house is a beautiful example of unassuming mid-century post-and-beam architecture set in a private forested corner of West Vancouver. It is a small single-storey house in which every space has a different view of the garden. The owners love how it feels to live in a house that has been conceived primarily as an instrument for viewing and experiencing the surrounding landscape. The task for Architecture Building Culture (ABC) was to modernise, refurbish, freshen, and add to an already very well-considered series of spaces without undoing any of the original magic.



Sewell's Landing Apartment & Sanctuary Boathouse

Designed: Merrick Architecture, 2022

Photos: Ema Peter, 2022

The Sewell's Landing site lies in the uppermost northwestern corner of the Horseshoe Bay basin. It has the interesting characteristics of southern exposure and good access to light while also featuring glorious views up Howe Sound toward the north.

The project was conceptualized as an extension of the Horseshoe Bay village. Design inspiration comes from its West Coast marine setting, influenced by architects Arthur Erickson, Ron Thom, Fred Hollingsworth, and Ned Pratt and is built around themes concerning locality, community, waterfront, and continuity.



Carmichael House

Designed: Ron Thom, 1957

Photos: Ken Dyck/UrbanPictures, 2013

The Carmichael house is one of the dozens of gems that Ron Thom designed on the North Shore when he was a rising young star at Thompson Berwick and Pratt architects. The house clearly shows the dominant influence of Frank Lloyd Wright, particularly in its hexagonal plan, which the American master builder had devised and employed most famously in his 1938 Hanna House. Like Wright, Thom occasionally would design on a "diamond grid" instead of a conventional square, which generated unusual non-rectilinear room shapes and angles. Thom once described it as "fun and games with three-dimensional space."

