

VICTORIA

VICTORIA'S PREMIER MAGAZINE ABOUT HOMES AND LIVING

FALL 2011

HOMES & LIVING™

SHOWCASING THE BEST!

H&L's FEATURE *Home*

Coastal Construction — 'Wild Coast Retreat' Vancouver Island, British Columbia

READ EVERY ISSUE ONLINE! HLMAGAZINE.COM

H&L'S RENOVATION & DESIGN DIRECTORY - FIND PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR YOUR HOME AT A GLANCE



Written by TRACEY DRAKE
Photography by VINCE KLASSEN

Wild Coast Retreat by Coastal Construction

Making Its Way Out to Sea

HOME BUILDER Coastal Construction		
ARCHITECTURE CEI Architecture		
INTERIOR DESIGN Coastal Interiors		
STYLE West Coast Contemporary		
BEDROOMS 3	BATHROOMS 3 1/2	SQUARE FEET 3,800

If there is anywhere on Vancouver Island that could be coined a 'perfect piece of paradise', it might well be a home built by Coastal Construction called *Wild Coast Retreat*. Perched high above the majestic Pacific Ocean, this custom home project was a careful collaboration between visionary homeowners, world class builders and a risk taking architect that wasn't afraid to colour outside the blueprint lines. The result of their collective concepts is *Wild Coast Retreat*, a 3,800 square foot masterwork, comprised of three bedroom and three and one half bathrooms – built in a decidedly contemporary West Coast style – but with many unexpected and unique attributes.

The homeowners had been looking for the perfect parcel of land on which to build their custom dream home. On first visit to this rocky site, the couple was immediately taken by the awe inspiring southern exposure and the rare treat of both protected cove and wide open ocean viewpoints. The following day, the couple were elated and awestruck to witness a grey whale quietly enter the cove to feed. On another visit, an eagle circled overhead, leaving behind a single wing feather that the homeowners kept. There was no denying the magic of the location and a dream became a reality.

Jim Alders, architect with CEI Architecture, designed the home and is credited with creating the seamless bond between structure and surroundings – a design element that was important to the homeowners. In the early stages, the homeowners recall Alders saying that he envisioned a 'ship making its way out to sea'. The owners are delighted with the tactile interpretation, noting that "the sharp angles of the home with the metal roof, and metal and glass combined with wood and stone in the siding are true reflections of that vision." Sitting on solid rock, *Wild Coast Retreat* uses native 'ocean pearl'



Sitting on solid rock, *Wild Coast Retreat* uses native 'ocean pearl' stone as a foundation siding, which makes the house appear as if it is a natural extension of its earthly roots

stone as a foundation siding, which makes the house appear as if it is a natural extension of its earthly roots. The landscape was carefully planned to include massive rocks to help blend into its locale. Paying homage to the old growth forests in the area, the home was clad in BC cedar shakes.

The property has two distinct wings – east and west – adding visual interest to the exterior, privacy and million dollar views for the homeowners, and offering guests a unique entry over a bridged walkway into a home that is surrounded by a scaled down rendition of a modern day moat. The water feature, which flows from the front of the house to the back, features an exterior waterfall that flows under a window encased bridged catwalk that joins the two wings, is a strong element of the exterior design of the home. It offers a clue as to what distinctive design features lie beyond the front door.

Entering through a massive custom crafted pivot wood front door with impressive timber trellis work overhead, a custom painting of a magnificent eagle (that is missing a wing feather) greets you in the foyer, on a feature wall. This ingenious entry space also includes a sliding panel that creates an architectural coat closet, and a suspended floating wall with more feature art work that conceals a beautiful staircase with cantilever open riser stairs done in solid wood. At once, the foyer envelopes you with a warm, cozy feel, and this ambiance is effortlessly echoed throughout the entire residence, which is unified through the use of Douglas fir columns, as well as flooring that alternates between reclaimed merbau wood and charcoal granite slate tile.

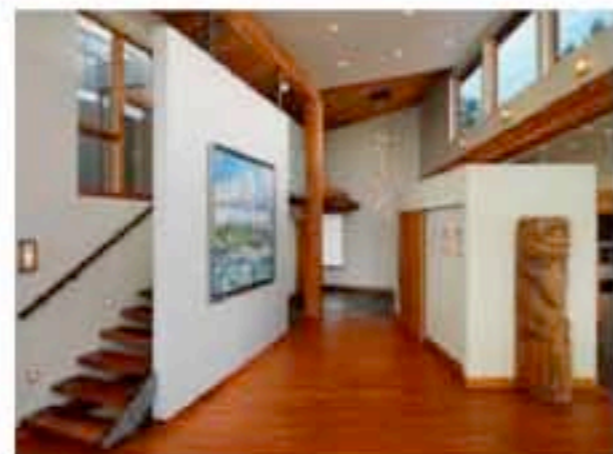


The entryway leads into the great room, the main living space in the home that features a wall of windows that overlooks the Pacific Ocean. The room includes a 180 degree wood burning fireplace and is designed to be furnished and decorated in a very minimalist style – the key was to let the view speak for itself and be the focal point of the room. For example, in one corner of the great room, the windows meet at a strong angle, pointing out to sea – gracefully reaching out to touch the ocean. Like every other room in this home, the windows are a deliberate design feature. The large number of windows for the home, some weighing 1,500 pounds each, had to be crane lifted into place.

The living room leads naturally into the open concept kitchen and dining room. The space is a gastronomic delight, providing ample space for preparing large meals on the massive island with smooth top range and sleek waterfall countertops; enjoying food and drink with guests at a table that provides a splendid view. The stunning fir cabinetry in the kitchen adds a rich yet natural element to the home; which even includes matching cabinet covers to hide the refrigerator and dishwasher. The CaesarStone countertops in the kitchen (as well as the bathrooms) were custom made and installed by the experts at Stone Trends, a company that Coastal Construction has worked with on several projects. The kitchen also features a few very unique bells and whistles, such as a butler wall with a built-in wine fridge and prep station, and a sliding door that hides the mess or reveals a dry good storage area. The far wall includes a built-in wall oven, microwave and flat screen TV – which was a specific requirement by the homeowners for watching hockey games!

Coastal Construction is known for building aesthetically exceptional homes for very discerning clients. Perhaps it is their uncanny ability to see the project through the eyes of the homeowner that has furthered their industry success; achievements that comprise fifteen Care Gold awards including Project of the Year in 2006 and 2009. *Wild Coast Retreat* has garnered numerous awards for Coastal Construction in 2010 – most notably Gold Care winner for Best Kitchen. The homeowners are not surprised. "The kitchen is the most used space in the house, and one of our favourite spaces. It has a functional elegance that is conducive to conversation among family and friends." To add functionality to beauty, behind the kitchen wall, there is also an irregular shaped powder room with a custom angled counter with integrated sink, and a large mudroom with laundry, additional storage and access to the outdoors.

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."
- Frank Lloyd Wright

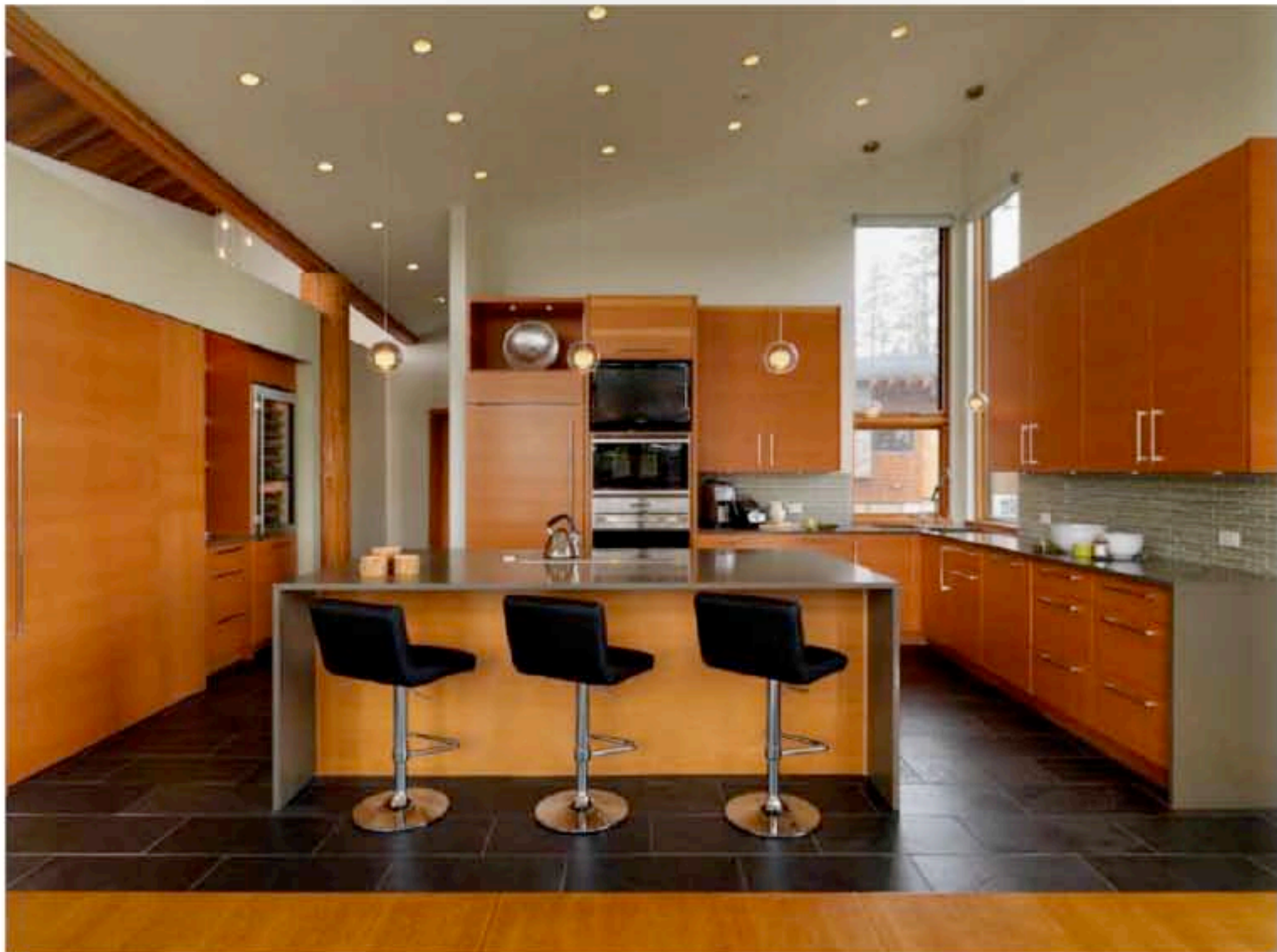


WE BUILD THE
WEST COAST'S VERY
BEST HOMES



PROUD RECIPIENT OF 15 GOLD CARE AWARDS, INCLUDING 2006 & 2009'S PROJECT OF THE YEAR

1986 Mills Road, Sidney, BC V8L 5Y3 | 250 656 8006 | build@coastal.ca | www.coastal.ca



The homeowners are thrilled with the tactile interpretation of the architect's vision: a ship making its way out to sea...

The lower level of the home includes two good-sized guest bedrooms, one with an ensuite, a second common bathroom, an exercise room with infrared sauna; media room with a wall mounted console and TV, as well as proper theatre lighting and tiered movie house seating. This level doesn't scrimp on features either, with custom built-in beds, large windows and French doors that flood the bedrooms with light, a lovely featured art niche and a door leading to the outdoor waterfall.

With unimaginable views of the Pacific Ocean, the jewel of *Wild Coast Retreat* is the storm watching snug.

The showstopper of this home is the west wing, which houses the master retreat on the main level and the storm watching den on the upper level. The master bedroom is accessed by an internal glass bridge from the main foyer and is perfectly removed from the rest of the home, offering privacy and a unique tranquility, without ever feeling disjointed. Stepping down in the sunken bedroom area, the expanse of the room is immediately apparent – a room designed to accommodate a bed that faces the ocean. There is little else in this room to distract; the forests and water are the main attraction. The bedroom is separated from the master bathroom by a huge walk-in closet. The spa-like bath features the same fit cabinetry used throughout the house, a classic floating double vanity, heated towel rack, and a vaulted ceiling with 72" skylight above the deep soaker tub. The master retreat also features a large outdoor deck with numerous natural viewpoints, as well as a hot tub.

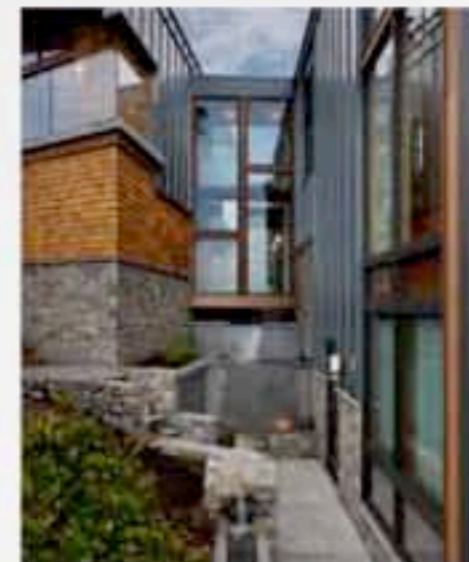
From the main floor, head up the brilliant floating staircase and across a second level suspended cable-style bridge, and you enter the jewel of *Wild Coast Retreat*, the storm watching den. This eagle nest style snug is 460 square feet of comfortable living with unimaginable views of the Pacific Ocean. Once again, in keeping with the rest of the home, all the custom cabinetry was done in Douglas fir. Walking into this room, although it has beautiful furniture and a cozy fireplace, it is hard to notice anything but the view. Vancouver Island is famous for storm watching season and this is the best vantage point in the home - perhaps even on the island - to marvel at raging waters and scenery that changes by the minute.

The interior designer for the home was Coastal Construction's Adriana Sharoun, who collaborated with the team at Swiftsure Woodworking on cabinetry details and construction. Having worked with Coastal on many custom home builds, Swiftsure was pleased to provide all the custom cabinetry for this residence. "*Wild Coast Retreat* uses exposed Douglas fir timbers for many of the structural elements and the theme is carried throughout the cabinetry. Built from edge-grain fir panels, the cabinetry and millwork were designed to harmonize with the native finishes and details of the structure."

There were so many little touches in this home that all came together successfully to arrive at a flawless design. Lighting throughout the home was meant to resemble beach glass and ocean ambiance, so that it blends nicely into the home and becomes a feature instead of serving just a utilitarian purpose. Illuminations and McLaren Lighting both contributed to the custom lighting on this project. A one-of-a-kind totem pole sits on a singular wall, brimming with local personality and working well to unify the main living spaces. There are no window treatments in the home to clutter either the interior design or the exterior views – a wise choice.

According to Brad Johnson, owner of Coastal Construction, *Wild Coast Retreat*, a project that took two years from start to finish, was as rewarding as it was challenging. The team of builders, architects, designers and their tradesman welcomed each of the many times their expert skills were put to the test, building a home with such a unique aesthetic, inside and out.





The exterior landscaping, which is an engineering marvel in itself, makes this point quite clearly. Project manager Troy Freeborn explains how the house was built backwards, from the ocean up. "The landscaping includes extensive terracing, patios, rock walls, walkways and stairs carved from stone; all which eventually meander down to an ocean side patio that sits just a few feet above the high tide mark. The work crew had to excavate and develop the lower areas first. Otherwise, with this steep incline, if we had started to build the house first, we would have cut off all access to the areas below." The expansive grounds also include a separate garage with studio, a BBQ patio, an outdoor fireplace and covered patio area, a hot tub plus several viewing decks attached to the home.

When the project was completed, the crew at Coastal Construction presented the homeowners with a hard covered, coffee table style book – a keepsake that recounted the building of their dream home. The photographs in their book told a story of a couple's vision, planned out carefully by a very skilled and thoughtful building team. *Wild Coast Retreat* came to life amongst the pages, and nestled in the book was an apropos quote by famous architect and father of organic architecture, Frank Lloyd Wright. "Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

Coastal Construction did so much more than build a beautiful home on Vancouver Island's rugged coastline. *Wild Coast Retreat* is a destination... an organic experience. With its minimalist elegance, mesmerizing oceanfront location and spectacular landscape, it is the kind of place that reflexively makes you breathe deeper, walk slower, and be at one with nature. ■