



Ambiance...with airport-grade glass

Neighbours not likely to hear a peep out of this decadent 5,000-square-foot home

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Hilltop location overlooking treetops and ocean views? Check.

Stately homes lining the street? Check.

Quiet neighbours, rural ambience only a few kilometres from the city? Check.

Airport-grade soundproof construction? Huh?

Everything Al Patey says about the 5,000-square-foot house that he shares with wife Barb Peterson dovetails with the image of a luxury home until he gets into the nitty gritty of their home's construction.

"We had the house built with airport-grade glass and double drywall for soundproofing," says Patey, a corporate seminar leader on sales psychology and owner of Paradigm Training.

Puzzled, I look out the windows for possible sources of noise, but see nothing, not even an airplane in the sky. "Um, soundproofing against what?" I ask.

Patey laughs. "It's to keep the sound inside from getting out." He leads me down to what he calls the "party room," a grand space lined with electric guitars, speakers, a karaoke machine and other entertainment equipment.

"We want to get along with our neighbours," says Patey. "You can't do that if you're blasting out the neighbourhood."

The room showcases the well-travelled couple's love for music, art and entertaining. At the heart of the space stands the house's second kitchen, which garnered an award from the Victoria branch of the Canadian Home Builders Association in 2004 for the house's builder, Coastal Construction.

Layer upon layer of Mexican art and culture are revealed in the kitchen, from distressed royal blue beadboard cabinets to the vibrant tiled backsplash with Mexican inlays.

Hand-carved Mayan motifs support the bar's blue- and red-veined granite top. Hand-blown pendant lights, a backlit curio display and appliances hidden behind wood panelling give the kitchen an authentic scuffed Mexican ambience. The floor is laid in broad terra cotta tiles inset with intricate inlays.

Much of the home blends classic West Coast earthy hues with bursts of Aztec and Costa Rican designs in mustard-gold and rich terra cotta hues. Brilliant royal purple feature walls enliven spaces, and everywhere the rooms are filled with sun-kissed original artworks, most painted by Peterson's San Diego-based aunt, Carol Lindemulder.



"We threw out any ideas of going for an open-concept home because art is so important to us," says Patey. "We wanted lots of walls to display our paintings."

The exterior of the house is classic arts and crafts revival, with stone piers over a covered porch, massive knee braces, detailed wood crafting on the frames, wedged with green-cast taupe shake and shiplap siding.

The great room features a gas fireplace fashioned out of Italian limestone quarried from under the sea and richly imbedded with fossils. The fireplace is framed within a massive cherry mantelpiece crafted by wood artisan Brad Ketterer.

The kitchen takes up the eastern side of the great room. Here, Ketterer custom-crafted cherry wood cabinets designed for elegance and functionality. A polished Juparano Veneziana granite countertop on the island is paired up with the same stone, but in a honed finish, on the perimeter counters. Oversize box windows open the views to stone-rimmed patios and a wide flagstone staircase down to a garden.

Patey and Peterson called for extra attention to detail in the marble and ceramic backsplashes throughout the home, injecting variation in colour and material while maintaining constancy in the pattern to create a harmonious design.

"Isn't it fun?" asks Patey as he explains yet another variation in one of the house's bathroom inlays.

The master ensuite features two vanities in a sandy Silestone counter. The mottled ceramic-tile floor turns the corner to a spacious glassed-in shower trimmed with engineered travertine marble.

To accommodate the soaring ceilings, Patey and Peterson had the doorways cut to large dimensions, with oversized five-panel lacquered white wood doors.

While the lower level is built for noise, Barb reserved the third storey for her artist garret. The studio workspace is paired with comfy leather furnishings for moments of peace and quiet, far removed from the party room downstairs.

"The floorplan is not an accident," says Barb, laughing.