

VANCOUVER  
LUXURY

# LIVING

DEC 2017/JAN 2018

## THE WINTER LUXE ISSUE

INSIDE VANCOUVER'S  
**PRICIEST**  
CONDO LISTING

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PLUSH BEDROOM DÉCOR | MYSTERIOUS MARRAKESH | MCLAREN'S NEW 570GT

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STEVE HANSLINK TRADEMARK  
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**FURNITURE** |  
CUSTOM DESIGNED BY HOUSE  
OF BOHN AND MADE BY CARMEL  
FURNITURE DESIGNS AND  
BLOOM FURNITURE STUDIO

**MILLWORK** |  
SOFO KITCHENS

# NATURAL WONDER

VANCOUVER'S MOST EXPENSIVE CONDO LISTING IN HISTORY WAS MADE BEAUTIFUL AT THE HANDS OF INTERIOR DESIGNER KARIN BOHN—WHO WAS INSPIRED BY ITS JAW-DROPPING OCEAN AND MOUNTAIN VIEWS.

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**PHOTOS** | AMANDA OSTER



MANICURE  
**LIVING**  
**FEATURE**  
**HOME**



**ABOVE:** IN THE KITCHEN AND FOYER, KARIN SWAPPED WHITE PARQUET FLOORING FOR ONYX AND MARBLE TILES PLACED IN A GEOMETRIC PATTERN.

**RIGHT:** A CUSTOM ALLIGATOR SHOE CONSOLE IN THE ENTRYWAY; RALPH BUCCI'S COPPER SHEET CHANDELIER; A CUSTOM MARBLE DINING ROOM TABLE AND CHAIRS.

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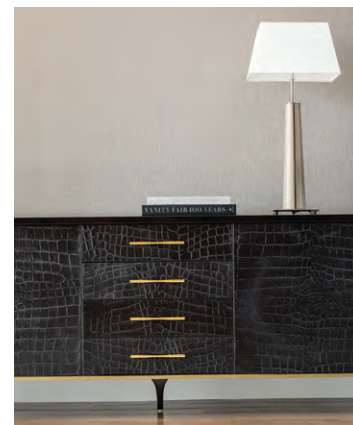
HEN KARIN BOHN RECEIVED

a call in 2014 from a contractor to renovate a four-bedroom, five-bathroom penthouse condo at Three Harbour Green tower on Thurlow Street in Coal Harbour, it seemed like a straightforward project. "The client wanted us to change the wallpaper, change the floors," she explains over coffee at Gastown's Mink Chocolates.

Little did the designer, who leads a team of seven out of her Gastown-based design studio, House of Bohn, know, that the minor project in the luxury development would evolve into a two-and-a-half-year-long renovation which included gutting the entire 9,000-square-foot penthouse condo, changing all of the finishes, the lighting plan and parts of the floor plan.

Even more astounding was the fact that post-renovation, the condo, which covers three floors including two rooftop terraces and boasts 360 degree views of the North Shore mountains on the East and West side, the ocean and Stanley Park, would be listed for sale at just under \$60 million dollars—at the time the country's priciest piece of real estate. "The client, who does real estate development in Beijing, had priced it for the Chinese market. If you were to buy (a condo) like this (there), that's what you would expect to pay," says Karin.

Originally built in 2012, the 2016 listing represented a 254 per cent increase from the \$16.6 million price tag of its previous sale in 2014. (Since the \$58.8 listing, which garnered its share of media buzz in 2016, the owners opted to take the home off the market and sell it privately.) ➤



**RECTANGULAR WHITE**  
LACQUERED MDF  
PANELS ADD A RETRO  
VIBE TO THE DOUBLE-  
HEIGHT CEILINGS IN  
THE LIVING ROOM;  
CUSTOM FURNITURE  
IN EARTHY TONES,  
INCLUDING A COFFEE  
TABLE IN EMPEROR  
GOLD MARBLE  
STONE, CREATE A  
SENSE OF RELAXED  
SOPHISTICATION.





**TOP LEFT:** HIS AND HERS SINKS, A SOAKER TUB AND WHITE MARBLE ADORN THE BATHROOM.

**TOP RIGHT:** A CONTEMPORARY STONE FIREPLACE WARMS UP THE BRIGHT AND AIRY LIVING ROOM.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** BUILT USING NATURALLY COATED WHITE OAK, THE WALK-IN CLOSET OFF OF THE MASTER BEDROOM SEEMINGLY GOES ON FOREVER.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** PLUSH CHAIRS AND A MODERN CRYSTAL CHANDELIER ADD GLAMOUR TO THE DINING ROOM.



VIEWS OF THE NORTH SHORE FROM  
THE DINING AND LIVING AREAS.

NOT A STRANGER TO LUXURY RENOVATIONS, (her roster includes high-end residential projects and revamps of retailers including Helmet Salon and eateries Q Shi Q and Anh and Chi), Karin approached this overhaul the same way she does the others. “We start with a blank canvas and never reference a previous space,” she explains.

Karin’s eclectic design esthetic is influenced by diverse cultures and eras, including the Chinese and German heritages of her mother and father, respectively. “I’m inspired by nature, fashion, film and set design. I look at things that are not interiors so the projects don’t end up looking like the photos we picked out.”

For this penthouse, the inspiration for the colour palette and design came mainly from the view; the spectacular outdoor landscape seen through the floor-to-double-height-ceiling windows. While the unique geometric pattern of the onyx and marble stone flooring in the foyer and the kitchen is a nod to the jagged shapes of the majestic North Shore mountains on display in the distance, the completely white onyx bathroom and naturally coated white oak in the kitchen offer a contemporary, soothing West Coast ambiance with a bit of a ’70s vibe.

Custom furniture in rich materials and earthy hues designed by House of Bohn offsets the subdued cream, tan and white colour palette of the millwork. Blown-glass statement lighting by Bocci in the living room and a Ralph Bucci copper-sheet



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— KARIN BOHN

chandelier over the dining room table add interest to the otherwise minimalist décor.

Though the finished product is spectacular, like most renos it didn’t come without its challenges, which included concrete pillars, making a layout change near impossible. And then there were the pea soup green floors that the client was adamant about installing, but didn’t fit with Karin’s vision for the colour palette.

With its sky-high price tag, the buzz this project garnered has bolstered Karin’s design notoriety, which she’s worked hard to develop over the last ten years. Along with a hefty Instagram following, Karin now has a YouTube channel with two shows—one called *Bohnafide* which is documenting the renovation of the North Vancouver townhouse she and her husband hope will be completed in January 2018—and there is talk of a TV show on the horizon. And a very stylish horizon it is.

[Houseofbohn.com](http://Houseofbohn.com) ■

## Get the Look: **WEST COAST RETRO GLAM**

DRAMATIC STATEMENT LIGHTING, BRASS ACCESSORIES AND MINIMALIST FURNITURE IN WARM NEUTRALS PLAY OFF THE SPECTACULAR NATURAL BACKDROP OF THIS PRICEY 31st FLOOR PENTHOUSE.



Bocci 73.11 Standard.  
Price upon request at  
Bocci, [Bocci.ca](http://Bocci.ca)

Marmo Cocktail Table  
by Daniel Rode.  
Price upon request at  
Roche Bobois,  
[Roche-bobois.com](http://Roche-bobois.com)



Catherine Regehr Rock  
Crystal Gemmed Linen  
Cushion. \$2,590 at *Provide  
Home, [Providehome.com](http://Providehome.com)*

**"KNOWING THE CLIENTS WERE FROM BEIJING AND  
THAT THEY TRAVELLED A LOT, WE WANTED TO DO  
SOMETHING THAT WAS INTERESTING AND EXCITING  
IN TERMS OF LAYERING AND TEXTURE AND SHAPE.  
OUR JUMPING OFF POINT WAS LOOKING AROUND  
AT THE AMAZING MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE."**

—KARIN BOHN

Martha Sturdy brass sculpture  
and bowl. Price upon request at  
Martha Sturdy, [marthasturdy.com](http://marthasturdy.com)



Axel Leather Sofa.  
\$3,919 at *West Elm, [westelm.ca](http://westelm.ca)*