



# A FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

*A 1958 split-level house is transformed into a contemporary family-centred home*

BY STEPHANIE WHITTAKER // PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK WHITEHEAD // STYLING: DERICK RODROZEN

**THE ABILITY TO VISUALIZE** possibilities is an important asset for anyone buying a home. In fact, it can be challenging to imagine the perfect nest when confronted with houses that are desperately in need of renovation.

So it was for Parm and Jason Hari, who bought a 1950s split-level home in First Shaughnessy that was still in its original state. Should the house be razed to make way for the contemporary-style home they wanted? they wondered. "It was in rough shape," says Jason.

"I went to see it," says their designer Derick RodRozen of RodRozen Designs. "It was full of wall-to-wall carpeting, had an old kitchen and smelled of cigarette smoke." 📷



But RodRozen saw beyond the warren of little rooms and small windows, beyond the fact that the structure was stuck in the design ethos of 1958. What he saw was spaciousness and plenty of potential.

Built for a large family, the house boasted eight bedrooms and three bathrooms in 5,350 square feet of space that was spread over four levels. And RodRozen knew he could transform it into the family-centred home his clients wanted. "I liked the view and its West Coast look on the outside," he says. "I knew we could do something amazing with it. The minute I walked into the house, I could see it and I told my clients what we

could do. A year later, the home is exactly what was planned in the 3D design."

RodRozen maintained the house's original footprint and enlarged the outdoor deck to 700 square feet. To create continuity with the interiors, it is clad in the same white porcelain tiles that cover the floor of the great room indoors.

The interiors were stripped down to the studs and the floor plan completely reimaged, albeit within the structure's original levels.

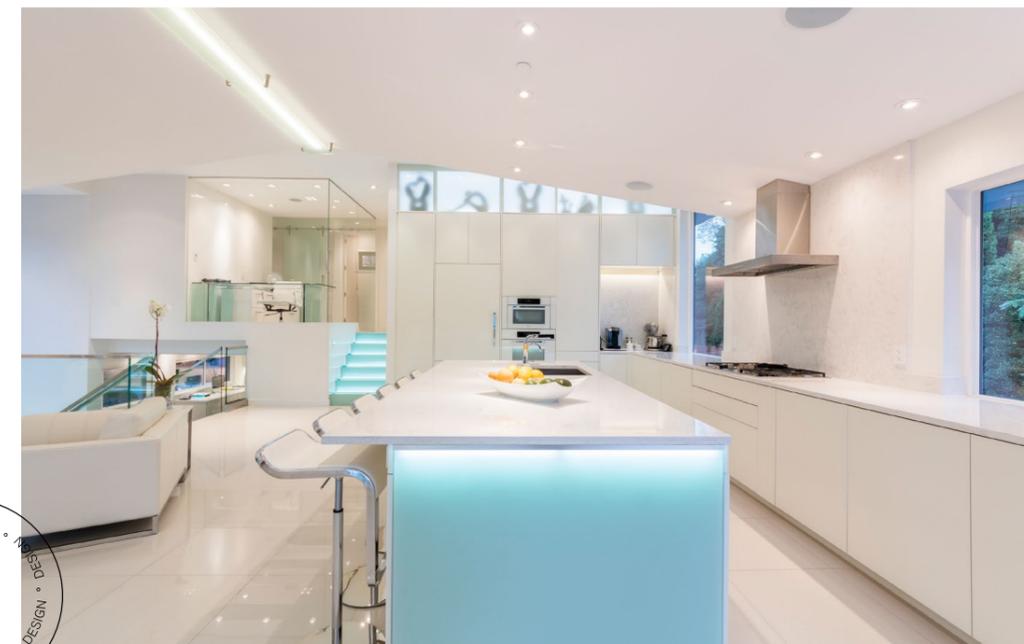
The Haris wanted a minimalist-contemporary architectural style with an open-plan layout. Parm requested a large, central kitchen, which would be the focus of the home.

"The lady of the house said to me: 'The most important thing is that, in the morning, I see my children coming out of their bedrooms to have breakfast in the kitchen,'" RodRozen says. "She wanted her home to be warm and family-oriented, a place that the children will live in and remember."

Another consideration, he adds, is that the family would use every square foot of the home; there would be no wasted space. "I'm not a fan of wasted space," says Jason. "We knew we wanted to optimize all the areas."

The top floor now houses a 600-square-foot master suite, the two children's bedrooms, 

*The interiors of the house were opened for a contemporary open-plan layout. The kitchen is the heart of this home. Jason's glassed-in home office on the upper level allows him to oversee all the activities in the house and view the landscaping outside. RodRozen used light to enhance the ambience in the house. Glass stair treads underlit with LED lighting lead up to the bedroom level.*





(Above) Designer Derick RodRozen says the white colour palette is the perfect antidote to Vancouver's grey days. The white porcelain tiles on the living room floor are continued on the deck outside. The furnishings were custom made by RodRozen Designs.



*“Most of my design is white because it’s so grey in Vancouver. We played a lot with the light and I designed the lighting throughout the house.”*

and Jason’s home office. And the main living area was opened; living room, dining area and kitchen all flow into each other and are the locus of family life. Windows were enlarged to bathe the interiors in light, sliding glass doors were installed for access to the deck, and the ceiling was raised to 16 feet in some areas.

On the lower level, where there once had been five bedrooms, RodRozen created an office for Parm, which she shares with the children, aged 10 and 11. An island houses shelves that hold baskets of toys and art supplies. A

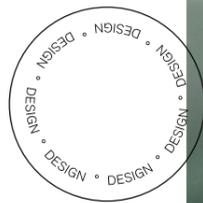
nearby playroom features a mirrored wall for the couple’s daughter, who is a dancer. Outdoors, the land was redesigned for family activities with a court that is used for volleyball, tennis, basketball and hockey. “The house is on a busy street so I put in a nine-foot waterfall near the new entryway to mask the traffic sounds,” RodRozen says. “We also planted more cedars around the perimeter of the property.” And because Parm wanted a kitchen garden, RodRozen created six raised beds, each measuring four by four feet, in which vegetables are now cultivated. ☞



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*This is a family-centred home. The children were given space with their playroom on the lower level. The mirrors were installed for the daughter, who is a dancer.*





(Above) In some areas of the house, the designer bumped up the ceiling to 16 feet.



One of Jason's favourite elements is his glass-enclosed home office that overlooks the main living area. "We wanted sightlines from every vantage point in the office," he says. "I can see the indoors and the outdoor landscaping from where I sit."

Throughout the home, the colour palette is muted, mainly white. "Most of my design is white because it's so grey in Vancouver," RodRozen says. "We played a lot with the light and I designed the lighting throughout the house." It includes a large Swarovski

chandelier in Parm's home office and warm LED lighting on stair treads and on the side of the kitchen's generously proportioned island.

The transformation of the house won the designer a 2016 Georgie Award for Best Residential Renovation over \$800,000.

Jason says the process was "collaborative all the way through. I was involved with the whole space." Now his family is also involved with the whole space, inhabiting every nook and cranny in a home that, with a little visualizing, is exactly what they imagined.

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