

Get Outside

TOP 5 INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIVING IDEAS

- Placing windows to frame the best views.
- Maximizing the amount of natural light inside with a huge skylight and walls of glass.
- Using glossy polished-limestone and-wood floors to bounce light around rooms.
- Creating ample terraces with extra-large doorways for easy access.
- Planting an herb and vegetable garden on the terrace for fresh produce anytime.

Modular leather sofas by Pascal Mourgue flank Niels Bendtsen glass coffee table in the sparsely furnished living room. True to the design of the house, the wood-burning fireplace, and its twin log storage cubby, have a clean-lined look; Clinton modified a prefabricated fireplace unit, removing its faux-brick insert to give it a cleaner look. The artwork is by Alberta-born artist Laurie Steen.

Ligne Roset settees, LivingSpace table, Inform Interiors; Judy Ross Textiles throw pillows, Provide.



BELOW: The partially walled back terrace captures the sun all afternoon and offers respite from the typically busy street out front. Back here, you can't hear the traffic, and the children feel housed and contained, says Clinton. *Table, chairs, Ikea; landscape architecture, Elizabeth Watts.*

BELOW: Minimal furnishings throughout the house put the emphasis on the views outside. To add dimension to the interior spaces, Clinton adopted what he calls a "scale of textures" that includes the rough granite wall, the glossy bamboo floor and the smooth limestone floor beyond. The full-height slatted stair "rail" (background) is beautiful in its simplicity, like a minimalist sculpture.



BELOW: Clinton worked with landscape architect Elizabeth Watts to create a green "foil" that diminishes the modern home's striking presence on its traditional street. Just steps from the kitchen, an orderly vegetable garden alongside the back terrace lets the family pick their own produce in summer and fall. *Concrete pavers, Mutual Materials; stone installation, East Wind Landscaping.*



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An "experiment,"

for most of us, means testing an exotic new recipe or a redder lipstick. For Vancouver architect Clinton Cuddington, it meant building a strikingly modern house with an avant-garde environmental agenda in one of the city's most staunchly traditional neighbourhoods — and with money borrowed from family. Quite an undertaking. Particularly for someone who recently left a cosy life of steady commercial work at a big firm (Vancouver's Bing Thom Architects) to open his own practice, as Clinton did in 2007. He called his new shop Measured.Architecture, but "measured" seems the last adjective anyone would use for such a plan.

Yet experiment he did. And from where he stands now, he reckons the winnings were huge. Just look at the place. You can't argue it's not spectacular. "It is absolutely a dream home," says Clinton, when the "dream or nightmare" question is put to him. "It was scary, but at the end of the day, it met all our demands."

The 6,500-square-foot house, which he built for his own young family, is a 3-D portfolio for Clinton, a bricks-and-mortar expression — to future clients, to staff, and even to himself — of what modern architecture can be. But he and his wife, interior designer Monica Berdin, who met at the University of Manitoba as undergrads, also yearned to build a truly green home: literally groundbreaking in the strictly regulated Shaughnessy neighbourhood.