



The Beamer Residence

Bowen Island

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STUNNING ISLAND HOME WALKS THE SUSTAINABLE WALK

BOWEN ISLAND, B.C. These days, it seems you can't open a newspaper without coming across another "green building" project. But sometimes the color only runs skin deep. Then there's the Beamer Residence, which takes ecologically-aware construction practices to a whole other level.

Back in 2002, Beamer began sketching out a vision for a family home that would use as much locally sourced material as possible. Over the subsequent five years, the artist and builder hand-selected dozens of massive fir and cedar trees that had been cleared for development elsewhere on the island. Working with several skilled craftsmen, he custom milled the timber to create all the posts, beams, framing and sheathing he would need for the home.

"I wanted to build my 'dream home,'" says Beamer, "And for me, that means thinking as locally as possible and leaving a lighter residential footprint. The result is a home that uses more local timber than anything built on the island in decades"

With a background in large-scale development projects and an artist's eye, Beamer, 42, sought from the outset to minimize impacts and anticipate the structure's full "life cycle"—the consideration of long-term impacts and efficiencies across the lifetime of the building. Working with Bowen Island's own Dan Parke, principal of Salal Architecture and a Canada Green Building Council Accredited Professional, Beamer invested two years studying models while prepping the site to accommodate this 2,600-square-foot home and guest cottage within the 1.89 acre site.

In addition to using local timber, Beamer designed and fabricated all of the metal structure and railings throughout the house. "Whether it is working with metal, wood, or rock I enjoy solving the functional elements of my projects in ways that bring out the natural beauty of the material I am working with," says Beamer. The result of his artist perspective is evident in the cantilevered staircase, exterior railings and rock terraces.

To further reduce the property' impact on precious Island water resources, Beamer installed a 1,500 gallon underground rain catchment tank. Knowing the extent of the landscape and garden Beamer had the foresight to bury the tank into the landscape as he built the house.

Bowen Island Artist/Contractor/Builder Stacy Beamer grew up in the Lower Mainland and followed the path of both his father and grandfather into the Civil Construction Industry, and in 1998 he moved to Bowen Island with his young family. His work can now be found in many public and private spaces around the island and across the Lower Mainland.

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