



THERE ARE COUNTLESS REASONS WHY THE RESORT VILLAGE OF Whistler in British Columbia, Canada, is a favourite tourism mecca in North America – its breathtaking vistas and views being chief among these reasons. Situated among the old growth forest and astounding sun-exposed Coast Range mountain views of Whistler, the Kadenwood Estate is a distinctive real community that blends seamlessly with its surrounding environment, offering the beauty of nature and comforts of luxury all in one.

**SIMPLY
UNIQUE**

FROM TOP
Warm sophistication; Bright interiors add a touch of class
OPPOSITE
Open plan living at its best

Among the many luxurious properties in Kadenwood, one particular home within its development has a Malaysian connection, and *Malaysia Tatler* was fortunate enough to discover its existence. Belonging to a prominent Kuala Lumpur-based investor and his wife, this stunning holiday home in Kadenwood is indeed the epitome of contemporary perfection.

Fondly christened as 'La Clairiere', this holiday home is situated 1,000 ft above the valley floor. "In French, La Clairiere refers to a clearing in a wooded area, where the sun's rays directly strike the ground and create an area of glowing light in the forest," explained the owners, who chose Kadenwood for its privacy and location. "Kadenwood is the only project that is served by its private gondola that links this mountainside to the village below," they elaborate further.

Having fallen in love with the place the moment he laid eyes on it, he made up his mind to purchase the land when his wife shared the same sentiment as he did. "We acquired the land in 2005, and we picked it because of its position on a small sunlit plateau halfway up the mountain and with a great view down to the lakes," he explains of the neighbourhood.



Art Meets Alpine

NATURE AND ART COME TOGETHER HARMONIOUSLY AT **LA CLAIRIERE**, A HOLIDAY HOME SITUATED IN THE PRIVATE KADENWOOD ESTATES OF WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, LEARNS DEMIE TAN

■ PHOTOGRAPHY GEOFF LETCHFORD AND RAEF GROHNE

HOMES

Private
Lives

INTERVIEW

TASTEFUL FLAIR

FROM TOP
A tranquil
ambience
dominates the
night; A work
of art



As it is located halfway around the world, a visitor to La Clairiere will have to fly to Vancouver and embark on a two-hour drive to the home. Along the drive, you will be privileged to view a string of postcard-perfect views – the ocean, the snow-capped mountains as well as rivers and waterfalls. “It really is one of the most beautiful sceneries to view in the world as you drive,” chimes in the lady of the home, who has worked in the finance industry.

From afar, the façade of the home stands out from its neighbours due to the efforts of its owners to avoid the usual rustic look associated with a mountain home. Built with love, La Clairiere is characterised by its bright and clean look, with a minimalist edge in design. Even so, the property manages to retain the warmth of a country home, something much needed during winter. Walking up the polished concrete pathway leading to this home, one can tell its

HOMES

Private
Lives

INTERVIEW

homeowner is an enthusiastic art collector. “We wanted to create an art gallery feel in the house so art is everywhere,” he shares. “To us, it’s a cross-over between an art gallery and a cosy home, even though others have described our home’s concept as ‘modern mountain!’”

According to the homeowner, the design plan was to create a relatively neutral exterior, within which one could create a very contemporary voluminous interior, distinguished by double height and galleried areas, as well as a lot of glass. One then starts to question, where then does the influence of Canada’s country homes play out? “We used a lot of limestone both inside and outside the house, as well as large wooden beams on the interior and cedar shingles for the roof tiles,” he explains. “These are all essentially with reference to Canadian mountain homes.” The couple also incorporated First Nations pieces of art and furniture in the home in reflection of the indigenous people’s art and culture.

The homeowner received help in the form of Openspace architect Don Gurney, whom he credited in helping to realise that vision, aside from his charming wife, of course. The architect is responsible for some of the most beautiful homes in the Pacific Northwest and Japan and is notoriously difficult to engage, given the demand

*“It’s a crossover between
an art gallery and a
cosy home”*



BEAUTIFUL AESTHETICS

**CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP**
Mur lumiere –
wall of light;
Savour wine in
the comfort of
luxury; La
Clairiere exudes a
welcoming air

HOMES
Private
Lives

LIFE

CHIC TOUCHES
CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP
An informal
setting for social
purposes; An eye-
catching wonder;
Modern
furnishings for the minimalist



for his genius. “We did a lot via teleconference, but also used the house as an excuse to nip over to Vancouver, where Openspace is located,” he says. “And together with our main contractor Brad Homes, we had a great team going. In fact, we remain very close to the whole team to this day.”

An oversized bronze door set in limestone façade stands in the way of entering the home. When opened, one comes face to face with a massive artwork framed in steel, courtesy of Francois Chapuis. Consisting of several resin and

HOMES
Private
Lives

LIFE

COSY
AMBIENCE
FROM TOP A
picture perfect
view; Simple
elegance

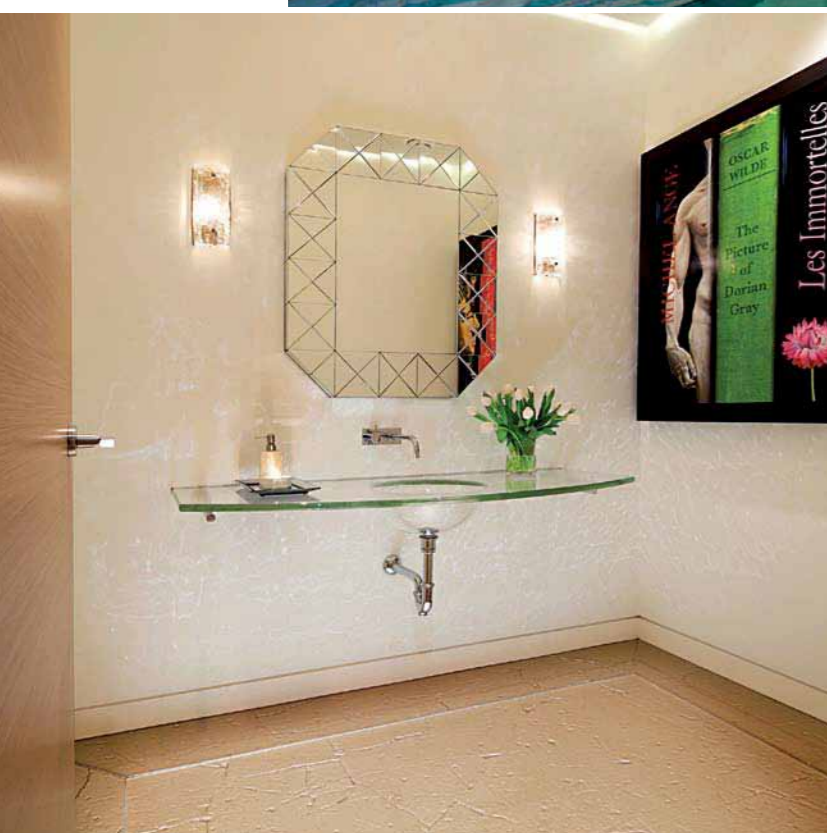


translucent panels, each about 12 ft high and 6 ft wide, it produces an effect known as ‘Mur lumiere’ or a wall of light. Adds the homeowner, “Francois Chapuis was a specialist in using coloured resins instead of glass and became an expert after the Second World War because he was charged with inexpensively replacing all the bombed-out stained glass windows in France’s churches and cathedrals that had been damaged during the war. The irony is that 60 years later, his works are priceless!”

From this explanation, we surmised that the owner of the home is a man who possesses impeccable knowledge when it comes to artwork.

Navigating along and around the wall, the living room is the next space to greet the eye. Standing in an open plan with a ceiling as high as 30 ft, it is very well indeed the heart of the home. Looking around, one might feel like they’re





"It really is one of the most beautiful sceneries in the world"

PERFECTION AT A GLANCE
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

Colourful settings for the young at heart; White walls and sunshine awaken the senses; A fancy artwork provides a polished finish

staring at a giant picture frame of the outdoors. It's got 270-degree views of the surroundings, up to Whistler Peak on one axis, down the valley to the Tantalus Mountains and a particular peak known as Black Tusk on another, and up the valley and over the lakes on yet another.

Moving down to the basement, the owner is proud to talk about his extensive wine cellar. A gem of a room, he calls it, with limestone walls and floors complete with a steel and oak racking system. "I wanted a temple to wine. If it wasn't chilled to 16 degrees, I'd spend all day in there!" he exclaims.

Walking up the glass stairwell to the second floor, the master bedroom sits on the right. The room also produces a breathtaking view of the

mountain's scenery. Ever the minimalist that he is, the bedroom is decorated with modern furniture, clean and crisp. The children's bedroom on the other hand is very colourful and visual, with an added loft for extra sleepover space with friends. But their favourite place it seems is not the bedroom but the hot tub located out in the garden.

Reflecting the amount of time spent on landscaping the garden, a Buddha head overlooks the house, providing some sense of security. The hot tub and also swimming pool, sits between the house and a relaxing terrace that has an external fire pit. Retaining walls and glass panels surround the area to prevent people from falling off the edges of the cliff.

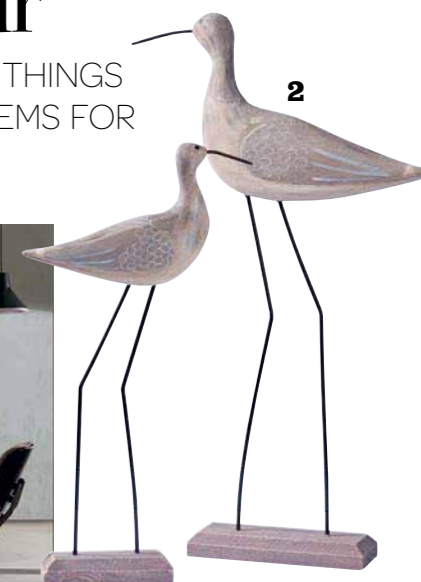
One catches a glimpse of scenic wonder every time one looks out of the glass panels. It's truly one of the most beautiful sites of snow-capped mountains, lakes and rivers. It is no wonder then, that La Clairiere – despite being halfway around the world from their base in Kuala Lumpur – is warmly considered as a wholesome home. **1**

Rustic Grandeur

GOT A PERSONAL LOVE FOR ALL THINGS EARTHY? TRY SOME OF THESE ITEMS FOR A HINT OF OLD STYLE CHARM



3



2

1. STURDY CONTRAST Taking a cue out of this set-up featuring an Acerbis Wall Unit, dark brown colours inject warmth into an otherwise crisp white wall
SPACE FURNITURE, INTERMARK MALL

2. PETITE PIECES When in doubt, start small with something along the lines of these wooden birds decoration. Experiment around the house to see what works best **DA VINCI LUXURY, JALAN SULTAN ISMAIL**

3. EYE-CATCHINGLY BEAUTIFUL This curio stand is a combination of dark earthy tones and simplistic fine lines **IWANNAGOHOMES! SURIA KLCC**

4. STANDING PROUD Bulky items like bookshelves shine when they're used as the centrepiece of a room **AUTHENTEAK, GREAT EASTERN MALL**

5. SIT ON THIS Make a statement with compact volume, sleek lines and elegance like those from Minotti **XTRA FURNITURE, THE GARDENS MALL**

4



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