

2017 WOOD DESIGN AWARDS - WINNER

Residential Wood Design

Bo Helliwell and Kim Smith, Helliwell + Smith | Blue Sky Architecture, West Vancouver

Arbutus House, Victoria



“Wood makes a stunning statement in the interior and exterior design of this home. Clean lines and detailing exemplify the beauty of the cedar and Douglas fir used and create a form that blends seamlessly with the landscape. Incredibly thoughtful architecture.”

- jury comments

Photos – all Courtesy:
Wood Design Awards in BC
High resolution images
available. Please e-mail
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On the exterior, this house and studio are a series of curving red cedar clad walls punctuated with rectangles of intensely coloured glass tiles and folding glass walls. The intensity and high quality of the cedar siding, combined with a thin horizontal Galvalume strip gives the outdoor walls a feeling of fine furniture in the arbutus forest. The bones of the buildings are a robust Douglas fir timber frame and raftered floating fir ceiling. Windows and doors are custom built, and framed in Douglas fir. The entry door is a Douglas fir frame with red cedar panels and horizontal glazing strips to match the walls. A single laminated red cedar handrail snakes around the northwest facing terrace. All timbers were sourced locally from the owner’s mill.