

MODERN BOHO

# COLOUR THERAPY

ARTIST BOBBIE BURGERS' SERENE VANCOUVER HOME BLOSSOMS WITH EXUBERANT COLOUR.

A felt chair by Patricia Urquiola does double duty as sculpture and seating in the principal bedroom. A deck beyond the full-height glass doors overlooks the lush landscaping. All windows, Superior Glass. **RIGHT:** Homeowners Bobbie Burgers and William Wishloff in the living room of their Vancouver home with children (from left) Isabella, Annaka, August and Tajana. Lamp by Marcel Wanders for Cappellini, Inform Interiors.



**N**OBODY DOES colour quite like Vancouver artist Bobbie Burgers. Whether it's in her art — she's known for her large-scale floral paintings — or at home, she goes full-out with lively splashes of intense colour. In fact, Bobbie's work both inspires and anchors her decorating, providing colour, pattern and texture to white walls and minimalist furniture. The result is a home that's as fresh and vivid as her paintings.

Set on a lush corner lot in a historic seaside village 20 minutes outside of downtown Vancouver, the house is 2,800 light-filled square feet of easy family living, with Bobbie's art studio on the main floor. She and her husband, William Wishloff, a furniture designer, had always wanted to buy the 1930s abode, which was just a few doors down from their old place, and finally got their chance in 2009. Their site-sensitive renovation preserved the lot's collection of unique-specimen old-growth fruit trees, which now look striking against the house's contemporary stucco walls.

Their rejuvenation of the house was family-focused. With four children, aged five to 15, the couple needed flexible space for everyone to grow, as well as a large home studio. Bobbie's brother, architect Cedric Burgers, spearheaded the redesign, and her mother,



**ABOVE:** A big, low settee gives an almost gallery-like feel to the living room, adding flexible seating without blocking sight lines. **Settee** by B&B Italia, **Inform Interiors**; **artwork** by Bobbie Burgers.

the redesign, and her mother, Marieke Burgers, worked on the interior design. They stripped the house back to its original footprint by taking down a bad 1980s addition and then revitalized it with clean, modern lines and mammoth windows.

Huge glass doors roll back onto each other to open the living space right up to the surroundings, including a large, moat-like pond that wraps around the east side of the house, enveloping it like a houseboat. "It feels like being on a canal," says Bobbie. The dramatic water feature, replete with floating plants and koi, was inspired by Japanese gardens. "It has a very Zen feeling to it; it's natural yet formal," she says. "It was important for us to be able to spread our wings outside. We entertain a lot out here; we have a bocce court, and the kids love to play in the tree fort and in the ponds."

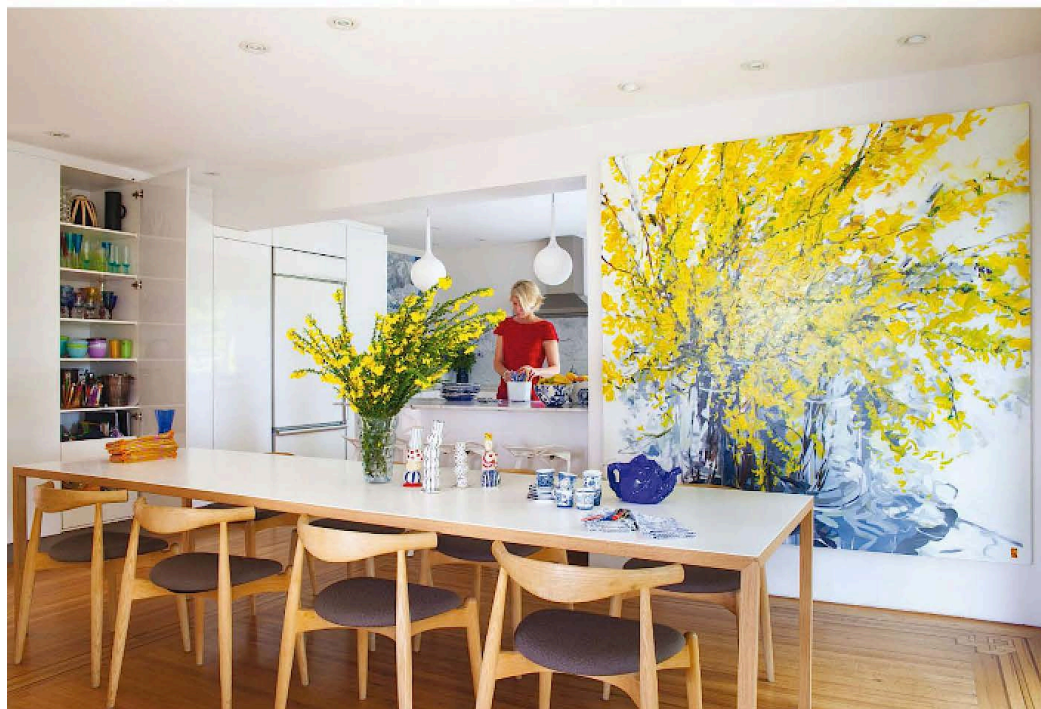
Inside, they saved the original oak floors, which have a natural golden hue. "I might have chosen a lighter, whiter floor, but I felt that these were a big part of the house." That honey tone was the jumping-off point for the colour schemes throughout the house. "I took away any oranges, and went with a clean white with some navy blue. It's a bit like a ship," says Bobbie of the nautical touches that appear from room to room.

Bobbie moves her paintings around about once a year to shake things up, and to inspire herself artistically. "It's not about matching or being in style; I play around with things like the flowers, pillows, throws and artwork." Much like the apple, fig and quince trees outside, the house is continually growing and evolving. For Bobbie, working from home has many rewards. Taking a break to recharge means walking out to the vast gardens, picking some kale or simply taking in the endless view — no doubt the inspiration for her next painting. *For tips on integrating art and decor, see page 134.*



Bobbie reupholstered a pair of Scandinavian teak chairs she found curbside in a rich, royal blue (they're actually vintage pieces by France & Søn). Stylized florals on fabrics by Josef Frank for Svenskt Tenn and by Marimekko are the perfect complement for the bold palette of the oversized painting. **Artwork** by Bobbie Burgers; **wall colour** (throughout), Decorators White (CC 20), Benjamin Moore.

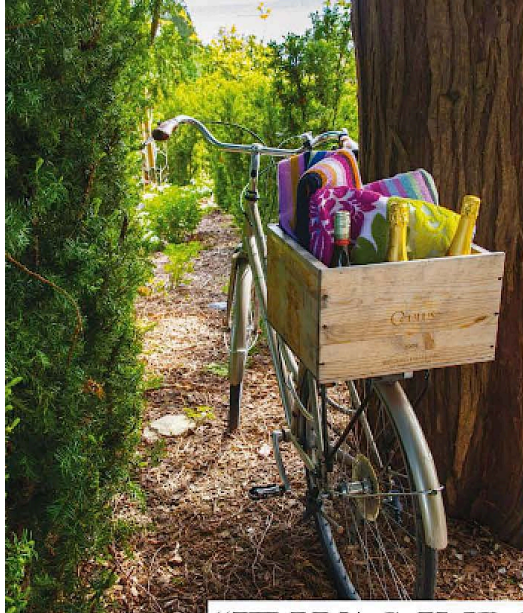
**BELOW:** On the narrow but extra-long dining table, a vase of forsythia is a cheeky nod to the standout art, amplifying the work's sunny hue. Dappled light bounces into this room off the ponds outside (opposite). **Chairs** by Hans J. Wegner for Carl Hansen & Son, **Stim table** by Berigun Pot for Arco, **Inform interiors, cabinets, Citation Kitchens.**



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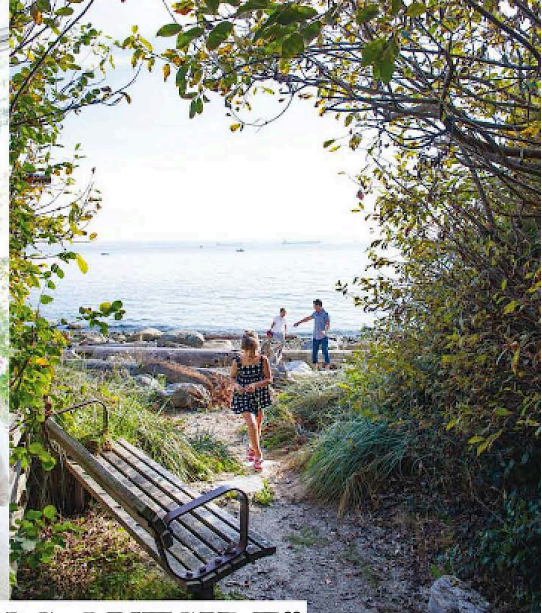
Taking a water feature to the next level, wide ponds run around the east side of the house and literally bring nature to the home’s doorstep. **Pond design, Burgers Architecture.**



Designed with Bobbie's mother, interior designer Marieke Burgers, the kitchen is streamlined and modern. **Cabinets, Citation Kitchens; marble backsplash, counter, Atlas Stone; stove, Fisher & Paykel.** **LEFT:** Beach must-haves get stashed in a bike basket.



In Isabella's room, a work by Bobbie acts as a headboard. Its moody palette gives the bright space a cosy feel. **Throw, David Fusseneegger; bed, Ikea; ikat pillows, ABC Carpet & Home.** **RIGHT:** The Pacific Ocean isn't quite in the backyard... but it's close.



**"IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO ... SPREAD OUR WINGS OUTSIDE"**



In the principal bath, a soaker tub sits next to the window for a feeling of alfresco bathing. **Art by Bobbie Burgers; towel, Pachomama; planter (on cart), Ikea; planters (outside) by Luisa Bocchietto, Serralunga.** **LEFT:** August and William like to explore the rocky shore.



Annaka crafted colourful origami butterflies and affixed them to the wall above her desk as a dynamic art piece. **Desk, Ikea; chair (at desk) by Marcel Breuer for Knoll; chair by Eero Aarnio for Adelta, Inform Interiors.**



A pergola partially shades the large patio, evoking vineyards in the South of France. **Table by Massimo Morozzi for Edra, Inform Interiors; chairs, Ikea.**