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Designer Douglas
Cridland's Calgary home
marries rigorous design
with an air of repose.

Perfect

AGREEMENT

BY JENNIFER MACLEOD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT LEMERMEYER



OPPOSITE: The designers knew, early on, that they wanted the house to be "significant but understated." They created an unobtrusive, low-lying, linear front façade. However, at the back, seen here, the design breaks into multiple facets and architectural elements, with grand window expanses, an upstairs hot-tub deck and completely private patios. Architecture, Richard Lindseth Architecture; landscape architecture, Carlyle & Associates.

ABOVE: Homeowner and designer Douglas Cridland stands next to a David Robinson sculpture in his home's back foyer. Cridland says this is the most "mathematical" design he has ever done, with long views throughout ending in prominent features like artwork. Sculpture, Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art.

TOP RIGHT: Tall glass doors open wide from the breakfast nook onto the barbecue patio. Chairs, Knoll.



Step through the glass front doors of Douglas Cridland and Dan Wright's Calgary home and you are ushered into an environment of museum-like refinement. The house sits on a quiet, irregular-shaped lot embraced by a gentle curve in the Elbow River, which flows footsteps from the back door. Mature hardwoods shade the property. With its smooth, dark grey stucco and horizontal lines, the 5,500-square-foot house seems to nestle comfortably into the grassy earth.

"I love the step-down entrance," says Cridland, a noted Calgary interior designer. "I didn't want to look out over the river; I wanted to be at grade with it." The idea is consistent with Cridland's signature style: grand scale never gives way to ostentation; luxury is never showy — it is found in the details and the layering of materials and furnishings.

While living in their former riverside condominium located in downtown Calgary (featured in *House & Home*, September 1999), Cridland and Wright developed this home's design with architect Richard Lindseth, who was assisted by graduate architect Sean McCormick. Because of its central location, river views and sense of privacy, the group felt the site called for a contemporary design with plenty of glass, says Lindseth. "But Doug and Dan have



eclectic taste, so we knew this wouldn't be focused on one particular style or era. This house has a strong contemporary exterior, but it subtly alludes to various 20th-century styles on the interior," he says.

"I wanted it to be modern without being chrome-and-glass slick," says Cridland. The designers settled on what they call "Luxe Moderne" — the pared-down minimalism of modern combined with elements of Continental luxury.

From the corner of the L-shaped footprint, a light-filled foyer leads directly into the living room; a long *allée* paved with gleaming rectangular tiles extends straight

out to the right. Ceilings rise high above the field of view. The interior of this home resonates with visual harmony. "This is probably the most 'mathematical' interior I've ever done," says Cridland, crediting Lindseth for his visionary *enfilade* design, whereby rooms, doors and passageways are perfectly aligned in generous, long views ending in a prominent feature, such as a sculpture or mantelpiece.

A purposeful repetition of geometric elements contributes to the home's tranquility; for example, simple rectangles occur frequently: in the windows, in the French limestone tiling, in the patterned

hardwood floors, in the sleek 10-foot-tall doors (there are more than 50 in the house). The windows throughout are segmented into horizontal rectangular panes by elegant mullions stained to look like old world iron.

Circles provide another recurring motif. Big, perfect circles in the stained mullion motif decorate the front door. In the foyer, windows overlook a rectangular reflecting pond edged with an iron grille featuring the same large circles. Circular paving stones lie beneath the water. In the dining room, circles inset into the ceiling mimic the shape of the dining table and are repeated in the light fixture comprised of a

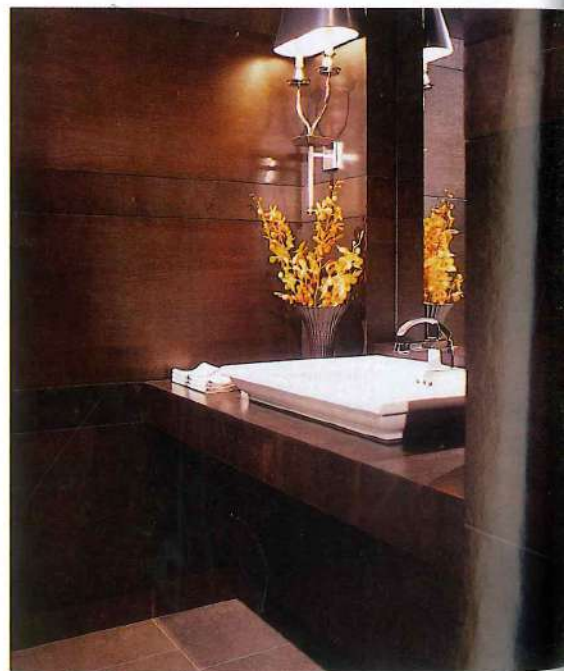
OPPOSITE, LEFT: A perfect enfilade prospect leads from the foyer through the card room to the media room's serpentine marble mantelpiece from Paris topped with a mask by Eliza Mayhew and a John Kenneth Esler painting. Chairs (in card room), Knoll; suede on chairs, Robert Allen.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT: Dark panelling and commercial-grade carpeting give the media room an informal air. All floral arrangements, Anne Patersons Flowers; sculpture (in bookshelf), Clint Roenisch.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT: Polished marble, classic linear edges, steel balusters and floor-to-ceiling glass create a museum-like air of cool sophistication in the foyer. The effect is counterbalanced by the soft grey-taupe wall colour and the flood of natural light streaming through the windows. Limestone flooring, Universal Slate; steel balusters, Mystic Forge Ironworks; Ben McLeod sculpture, Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art; wall colour, Silver Mink (2291), Pratt & Lambert.

THIS PAGE: In the living room, Cridland juxtaposes traditional and contemporary elements: a classic-look ottoman and antique Biedermeier chairs are combined with steel chairs and a glass-topped coffee table. Herbert Siebner painting (on left wall), Wallace Galleries; painting below by John Snow; large painting by Douglas Haynes; Biedermeier chairs, Uno Langmann; rug, Safavieh; steel chairs, coffee table, Knoll; sofa, ottoman, Arthur Greenwall Fine Furniture.





cluster of glass spheres.

There is serenity in the geometry — a fundamental certainty in the plan. Employing his favoured “prairie palette” of dusky neutral tones, Cridland used a soft grey-taupe colour throughout, which adds to the interior’s quiet aplomb.

When it came to putting on the “luxe,” Cridland and Wright were inspired by a recent trip to France. Two antique marble fireplace mantelpieces brought back from Paris act as focal points in the living and media rooms. “I’ve always loved the tension created by juxtaposing traditional and contemporary elements,” says Cridland,

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OPPOSITE, LEFT: Sunlight floods through the kitchen's generous windows, reflecting off polished-granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and the high-gloss finish of the aneigre-wood cabinetry. White glass fixtures add a sleek, contemporary highlight. Downsview cabinetry, Empire Kitchen & Bath; light fixtures, Zaneen Group; granite countertops, Alberta Marble.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT: With its ample banquette, the breakfast nook off the kitchen provides a quiet and private space in which to lounge and read the paper or peruse recipes. Doors open onto the barbecue patio. Banquette, Arthur Greenwall Fine Furniture; banquette fabric, Designtex Group; chairs, Knoll; pendant light, Zaneen Group; Don Kottman bowl, Paul Kuhn Gallery; bookcases, Empire Kitchen & Bath.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT: In the downstairs bathroom, the ebony-stained mahogany panelling and the 1940s-style square sink gives this room a glamorous air. Panelling, Northmount Industries; sink, faucet, Royal Flush; floor tile, Universal Slate.

THIS PAGE, TOP: Motorized mesh blinds cover the corner-wrapping windows in the master bathroom. Black agglomerate marble on the walls and "mod" 1950s-style circle-patterned wallpaper (not visible) give the room a sleek edge. Sinks, faucet, tub, Royal Flush; granite, Alberta Marble; hardware, Italyca Hardware; vanity, Northmount Industries; blinds, Casablanca Interiors.

BOTTOM LEFT: Doors from the main bedroom open onto a south-facing deck. The bedroom has an adjoining skylit wardrobe room that leads, in turn, into an exercise room. Drapery, bedspread, bed skirt, all sewn by Casablanca Interiors; wall colour, Silver Mink (2291), Pratt & Lambert; headboard, ottoman, Arthur Greenwall Fine Furniture; side tables, William Switzer & Associates.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The bedroom's peaceful reading corner is wrapped in windows offering a wide-angle view of the Elbow River. Drapery fabric, Tello & Cie; chair, Arthur Greenwall Fine Furniture.



pointing to the Biedermeier-style chair sitting near a '60s wire chair by Warren Platner in the living room.

Other rich details include the Art Deco cornice frieze of scalloped vertical bars topping every painted wall throughout the house. Layered gradations create straight lines beneath the cornice. "I like the way the layers catch the light and play with the tones," notes Cridland. "It provides a lot of visual interest even though the entire wall is painted in the same colour."

Murano glass light fixtures and the patterning of the umber-stained hardwood floor, which Cridland says reminds him of a

"Paris *appartement*," introduce touches of '30s and '40s glamour. The bathrooms recall the look of "hotel chic," particularly the downstairs bath, which boasts ebony-stained mahogany panelling, an oversized '40s-style square sink and mellow lighting.

A collection of Western Canadian art — which favours pieces from the '50s and '60s, and ranges from small works on paper to grand canvases — is dramatically displayed throughout the home. Most furnishings hover in the neutral zone: black, white and grey. Warm, dark yellows are introduced through jardinières, throw cushions and wooden antiques. "I wanted the colour to

come from the outside," says Cridland, nodding toward the windows, which look out over the outdoor greenery.

The home maintains a constant connection with the outdoors. The linear front façade gives way to a multifaceted back elevation that provides almost every room with sweeping river views. At the same time, interior vistas that end in art-filled niches and the delicate tinkle of water from the reflective pool create contemplative moments inside the home.

In all, this is a design that places grandeur and subtlety, exuberance and meditation, together in refined balance. **HSH**

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Slate, Calgary (403) 287-7763 or 1-888-67-SLATE; steel balusters, Mystic Forge Ironworks, Cochrane, Alta. (403) 851-0709; Ben McLeod sculpture, Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, as above.

Page 173: Living room: Small painting, Herbert Siebner (top), Wallace Galleries, Calgary (403) 262-8050 or www.wallacegalleries.com; steel chairs in Edelman leather, Knoll, as above; antique Biedermeier chairs, Uno Langmann, Vancouver (604) 736-8825 or 1-800-730-8825; sofa fabric (mohair), Beacon Hill, as above; steel chairs, coffee table, Knoll, as above; sofa, ottoman with bolsters, Arthur Greenwall Fine Furniture, as above; antique candleholders, Junktiques, Calgary (403) 263-0619 or www.junktiques.ca; vase, Holt Renfrew, Vancouver (604) 681-3121, Calgary (403) 269-7341, Edmonton (780) 425-5300, Winnipeg (204) 942-7321, Toronto (416) 922-2333, (416) 789-5377, (416) 621-9900, Ottawa (613) 238-2200, Montreal (514) 842-5111, Quebec City (418) 656-6783 or www.holtrenfrew.com; lamps, Douglas Cridland, as above; rug, Safavieh, visit www.safavieh.com for information. **Page 174:**

Kitchen: Light fixtures, Zaneen Group, Toronto (416) 247-9221 or www.zaneen.com; cabinetry, Empire Kitchen & Bath, Calgary (403) 252-2458; Impala granite countertops, Alberta Marble, Calgary (403) 287-0944. **Breakfast Nook:** Banquette, Arthur Greenwall Fine Furniture, as above; banquette fabric, Designtex Group, call 1-800-221-1540 or www.dtex.com; lamps, Artemide, Montreal (514) 323-6537, Toronto (416) 628-6718 or call 1-888-777-2783 for retailers; chairs, Knoll, as above; pendant light, Zaneen Group, as above; Don Kottman bowl, Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary (403) 263-1162 or visit www.paulkuhngallery.com; bookcases, Empire Kitchen & Bath, as above.

Downstairs bathroom: Panelling, Northmount Industries, Calgary (403) 243-0200; sink, faucet, Royal Flush, Calgary (403) 228-2934; limestone floor tile, Universal Slate, as above; table, Douglas Cridland, as above. **Page 175: Master bathroom:** Carpet, Colin Campbell & Sons/Studioline (trade only), Vancouver (604) 734-2758, Calgary (403) 245-9222; sinks, faucets, tub, Royal Flush, as above; granite, Alberta Marble, as above; hardware, Italyca Hardware, Calgary (403) 291-2383; vanity, made by Northmount Industries, as above; automated roller shades, Casablanca Interiors, Calgary, (403) 252-4645, (403) 256-6591; mirrors, custom through Douglas Cridland Interior Design, as above. **Master bedroom:** Chair, headboard, ottoman, Arthur Greenwall Fine Furniture, as above; drapery fabric, Têlio & Cie, as above; planter, Douglas Cridland Interior Design, as

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