



Schreyer Construction

CREATING CONTEMPORARY CLEAN LINES AND HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL, YET SIMPLE, DESIGNS

by Isabel Eva Bohrer

Axel Schreyer's longtime experience in the construction industry has always been coupled with a fascination with custom production. Back in Germany, he began his construction career at age 19, specializing in custom production already during his apprenticeship. Schreyer subsequently moved to the West Coast of Canada to work on timber and high-end projects on Vancouver Island. "My other passion, skiing, brought me to Whistler, where I was working for five years for Whistler Blackcomb mountain with the building maintenance department, and learned a lot about all the remaining parts and systems that make up a well functioning building," he says. "Then my new life partner Katarina and I decided to start our own new construction company." It is then that the legacy of Schreyer Construction began.

Since 1994, the company has become well established, building a reputation on delivering their personal best to achieve the objectives of their clients.

Specifically, Schreyer Construction focuses on new high-end custom homes and high-end renovations. What characterizes their style, in turn, are "contemporary clean lines, highly functional, yet simple," according to Schreyer. Moreover he is convinced that his company's "genuine care for its clients" and the way in which Schreyer Construction provides "high quality with low impact on the environment," is precisely what makes their work unique and successful.

"A few years ago we did a remarkable transformation of a client's existing townhouse," Schreyer says. "The client was very much involved in the design herself." Schreyer proudly mentions "it was the first project ever that we decided to enter into the Georgie Awards. Although there was some stiff competition from all over the province, we entered the project and won 'The Best Residential Renovation' of the year."

The Khyber Home

The Khyber home "is a spec home, currently marketed (www.schreyerconstruction.com)," explains Schreyer, "therefore we have a wide range of potential clients." He is particularly proud of the "simple, yet inspiring, easy flowing living space that appreciates the environment at every turn." The main floor features local honed basalt floors, master in-suite features Jerusalem limestone with original fossils and pure wool carpet with organic underlay from Burritt Carpets (www.burritcarpets.com). All bathroom vanities and horizontal cherry kitchen cabinets are by Citation Kitchens (www.citationkitchens.com) and all appliances are Miele (www.miele.com). Featured products from blu bathworks (www.blubathworks.com) include: blu-stone freestanding pedestals, basins, freestanding tub with freestanding bath filler, hang wall toilets, faucets and showers, as well as bath accessories. Throughout the home, you'll find vast windows and doors (Eclipse Folding Door Hardware), that are connected to wrap-around decks, which are pre-wired for hot tubs and gas heat lamps. All in all, it's the epitome of a low footprint residence.



01
Vertically stacked stone and uniform cedar siding play an important role on the exterior façade and complement the home's natural material and colour palette

02
The home's light footprint preserves the natural vegetation of the surrounding forest

03
White tones were used through the house to give the interior a more sculptural look and sense of tranquility. Douglas Fir trim and doors are coordinated, complementing the ceiling, and the heated volcanic basalt floor

04
Unique kitchen features include a window back-splash that draws the eye toward beautiful greenery. Large folding glass door that opens out to wraparound decks and a spacious walk-in pantry

The transformation of this townhouse is not the only one of Schreyer's project that has received accolades. The Khyber Home, where the company sought to create "high energy efficiency without compromising design" has similarly been recognized. It received a Built Green BC award for "Highest-Rated Built Green BC Home", is a SAM (national) Award Finalist for "New Home Category" and is Georgie Award Finalist in two categories: Best New Kitchen and Best Home (the winners are to be announced in spring 2012).

That may all sound too good to be true. But in fact, every project also comes with challenges. In particular, Schreyer observes that it is not always easy "to find the right clients." For the future, Schreyer Construction hopes to "find more like-minded clients" to create unique projects.

Another challenge is the lack of governmental support with regards to sustainable construction. Specifically, Schreyer would like to "see more support from all levels of governments in



Contemporary bathware by Michael Gottschalk
Featuring BT0402 in blu-stone™ concrete

compact • capacity

59"L x 31 1/2"W x 23 3/8"H
Holds 300L/80G

blu

BATHWORKS™

where water meets modern™

1.604.299.0122
blubathworks.com



"When the opportunity arises, we like to take part in a designing process as well. That's when our inspirations get transformed into reality."

AXEL SCHREYER, PRINCIPAL

terms of green building, such as in the form of tax breaks and other incentives." Despite this lackluster governmental support, Schreyer Construction is committed to "consistently building well-designed, high-quality dwellings, with low [carbon] footprint."

As for the inspiration behind these sustainable, high-quality buildings, Schreyer says that "we love to travel." Inspiration derives from "lots of places, great homes, books, magazines. Ideas come from anywhere really," he says. "You can sit on a beautiful beach looking at the vast ocean or stare at the snowy mountain tops in their sunset glory after a good ski day." He adds that although his company specializes in high quality construction and renovations, "when the opportunity arises, we like to take part in a designing process as well. That's when our inspirations get transformed into reality."

In terms of his company's design and construction process, Schreyer says that the clients are "absolutely involved at all stages and/or as much as they can." He adds: "Generally, we describe for a potential client the building process, services and fees. We get some idea of how knowledgeable they are about the whole process, what stage are they at in terms of design and actual plans of their future place and whether or not we feel it is realistic." But that isn't everything; "We also are interested in their personality. It is like a marriage. You want to have a strong foundation for a successful relationship."

It is Schreyer's own "love for creating something beautiful and functional and an appreciative homeowner" that initially made him want to become a builder and designer. And this love and appreciation still comes through in every one of his projects. ■

A MESSAGE FROM BLU BATHWORKS
Vancouver-based contemporary bathware design house and manufacturer, is a Canadian brand increasingly specified on the international stage. Their range of European-inspired bath fixtures and fittings are equally at home in five-star luxury resorts and distinctive residences worldwide. Having had the pleasure of personally working with Schreyer Construction on such projects, Blu's founder & CEO, Michael Gottschalk, extends his appreciation to Axel and Katarina Schreyer and the team for their superior approach to construction and the quality of their workmanship over the years and continued success for the future.