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## West Coast Modern Oasis IN NORTH VANCOUVER'S EDGEMONT VILLAGE

by *Derek Grech*  
ANGELL HASMAN & ASSOCIATES

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# A CONVERSATION WITH ARTIST & BUILDER MAHDI HEIDARI

adding a touch of art & perfection



***Tell us how you got started in building.***

When I was growing up, I had four brothers, and we shared a bicycle. I was the mechanic for that bicycle. Every time it broke, I was the one to fix it. As a teenager, I got involved in construction with my dad; he was a builder in Iran. From there, I moved to Netherlands, and then to Canada, and began studying electrical engineering in Montreal.

In university, I had a couple of friends whose families were builders, and I went to job sites and looked around. At some point, it sparked in my mind that that's what I wanted to do. Later on, I took a few courses, and then just took a risk and bought my first property in West Vancouver in 2010.

***What type of home was it?***

It was a little smaller, around 4000 square feet. I approached a builder and asked to work under his supervision. I didn't want to do it alone for the first time. We worked together, and I built up that confidence, and took pages of notes on ways to do things properly, so that for the next project, I could do it on my own.

***What is your design philosophy? What design styles are you more drawn to – modern, traditional?***

You can create something beautiful with both, and I don't limit myself. This home is very modern and Californian, but my next project may be more traditional West Coast, with some modern elements.

***This property is spectacular; how did you approach the building?***

One thing that's in my nature is I don't like to follow others; I like to create my own path and learn from my own experience, to do something new and different, and this is what I did with Greenwood. I am a very detailed person. If I do something, I have to do it right. A lot of builders try to cut corners, and I wanted to prove you don't need to; you can create something beautiful but still have it be profitable and functional.

***You've been on quite a journey: from Iran, to Netherlands, to Montreal, now you're over here. Is there a place that particularly speaks to you?***

I love the West Coast, and I really like this city. I love nature and I'm an outdoors person. I first came out here for a visit in 2004 and just fell in love with the nature.





***What do you like to do in your own time, when you're not working? What do you enjoy?***

I have to do some type of physical activity every day. I also always enjoyed painting. An artist who was a Canadian native introduced me to their style of painting, so now I do a lot of that – native-style paintings like eagles, bears, and learning what they all symbolize, because in their culture it all has symbolic meaning. And I also write children's books.

***Wow! Can you tell us more? How did you get into it?***

When I was little, my grandpa would always tell us a story before bed. I was always fascinated by his stories, and then it occurred to me, that I could do that too. When I moved to Vancouver, I met a children's book illustrator, and we became very good friends. We did

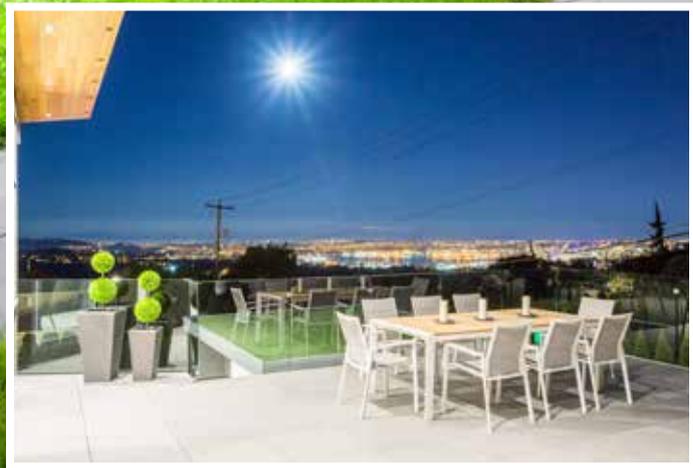
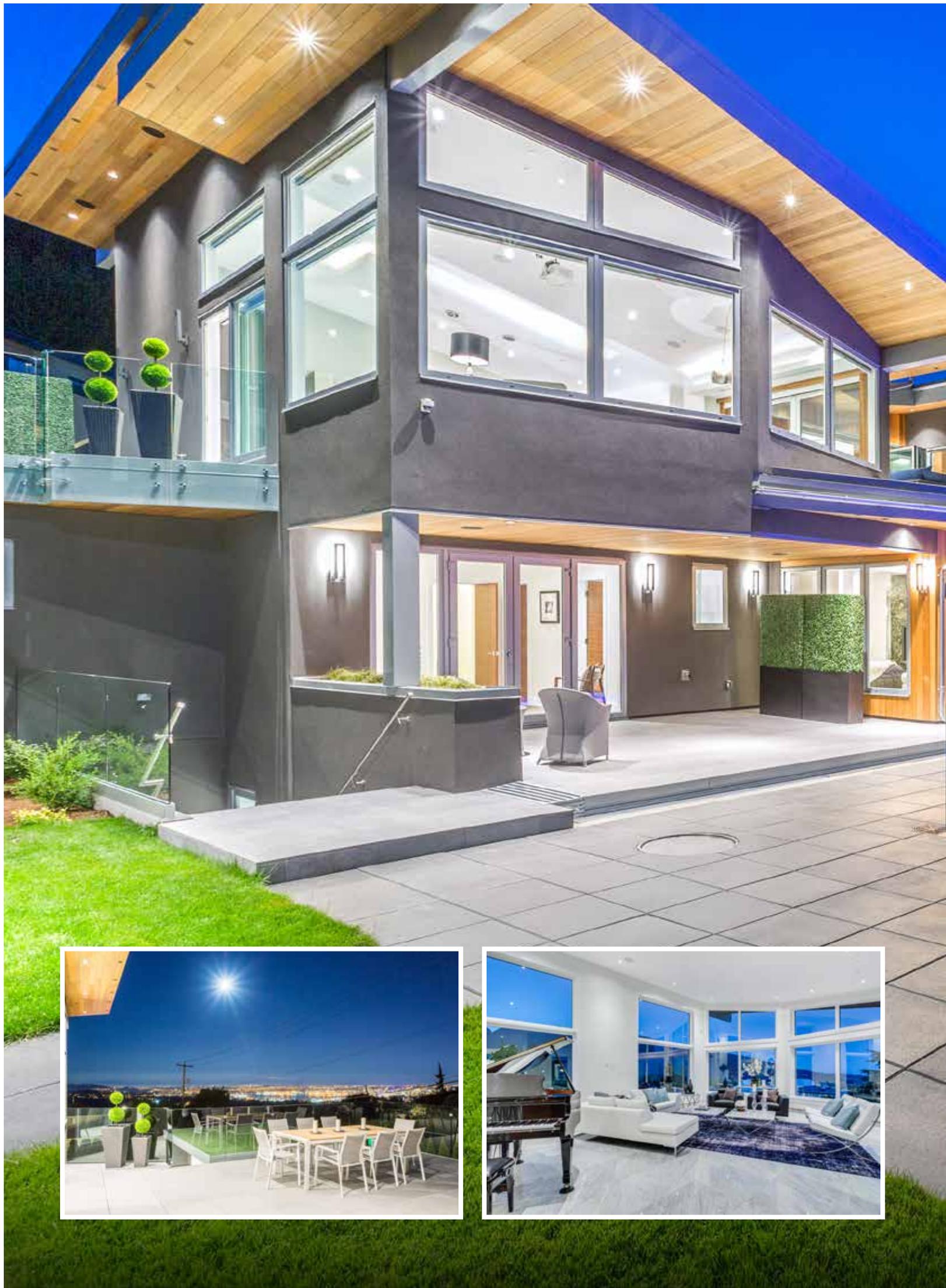
a project together for one of his books, and that's how it started.

***What's next for you?***

To still be involved in construction, using my experience to build better spaces for clients. I also want to expand and do other projects, maybe multi-family units.

***Any other dreams or goals that you still wish to accomplish?***

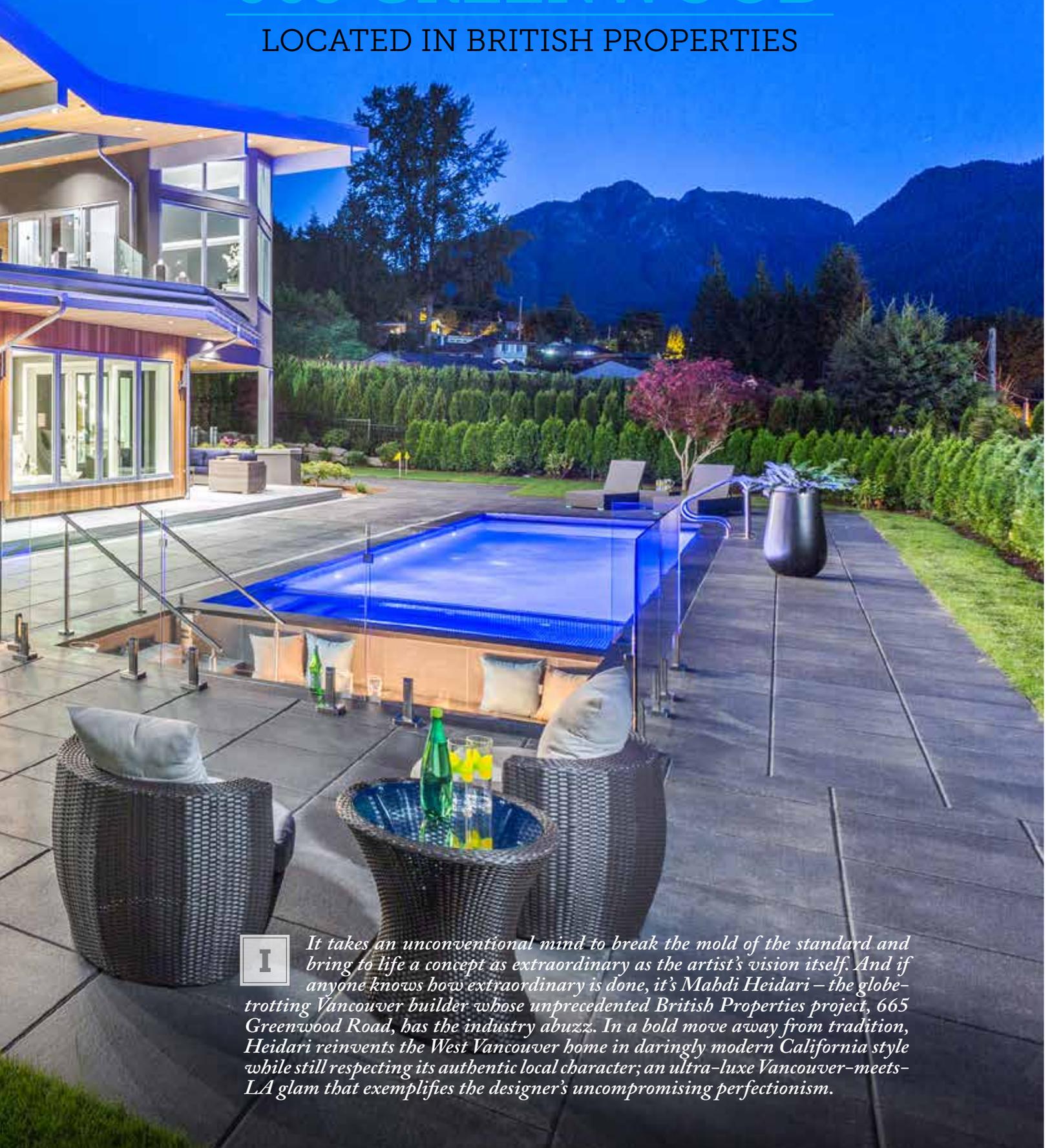
One thing I would like to do is create a charity, a foundation of some kind. I think as human beings we all want to help, but a lot of us don't have the time; yet we love it if someone else creates something where we can contribute to those in need. I want to create something that's meaningful, that will help people in the future, not just in the moment.



# ULTRA-LUXE VANCOUVER MEETS LA GLAM

## 665 GREENWOOD

LOCATED IN BRITISH PROPERTIES



**I** It takes an unconventional mind to break the mold of the standard and bring to life a concept as extraordinary as the artist's vision itself. And if anyone knows how extraordinary is done, it's Mahdi Heidari – the globe-trotting Vancouver builder whose unprecedented British Properties project, 665 Greenwood Road, has the industry abuzz. In a bold move away from tradition, Heidari reinvents the West Vancouver home in daringly modern California style while still respecting its authentic local character; an ultra-luxe Vancouver-meets-LA glam that exemplifies the designer's uncompromising perfectionism.





Sprawled across a lush 16,000 square feet in one of Vancouver's most prestigious neighbourhoods, the spectacular three-level residence is a marvel of modernism, overlooking spellbinding vistas of the city, ocean, and mountains from Mt. Baker to Vancouver Island – the stunning natural setting that first drew Heidari to the city. The soaring, sloped roofs, geometric lines, and abundant glass and cedar all speak to unmistakable Pacific Northwest contemporary flair. Walk through the two-storey entrance, and you're transported down the coast, to the world of warm California beaches and Hollywood shine. A formal living and dining room stretch out in a sparkling expanse of Carrera marble, flanked by a sleek gourmet kitchen, and a second Chinese kitchen tucked off to the side. A temperature controlled glass-encased wine chamber shows off vintages in all their glory, and a family media room invites easy evenings. Wrapped around the entire main floor, floor-to-ceiling windows open up to summer terraces for seamless indoor-outdoor transitions.

On the lower level, leisure opportunities abound, with a billiard room punctuated by a one-of-a-kind glowing onyx wet bar, a casino room, and home theatre. An exercise room and health spa offer poolside rejuvenation. Seven bedroom suites, including a private nanny suite, fit flexible needs. The master suite, set on the main floor and equipped with a marble-clad bathroom, opens up to a fireplace-lit sitting area and into a personal poolside terrace, creating a private-resort ambience.

Outside, gardens and walk-out decks line the swimming pool and cabana, complete for warm-weather entertaining with a covered lounge and a unique sunken sitting area centered around a fire pit. Immaculate landscaping, intimate lighting and water features, and a putting green complete the experience.

Meticulously thought through and impeccably refined, Heidari's masterpiece is a testament to his principle of no detail being too small, and a brick-and-mortar manifest of his creative spirit.

This property was built by C2C Construction Inc. and listed by DJ Denner of Angel Hasman & Associates Realty for \$9,880,000.