

# the Bachelor

A heritage space in Yaletown is transformed into a bachelor pad of high-tech toys and masculine decor.



### OFF THE WALL

This graphic riff on an Andy Warhol work was sourced at Mod Pod Art, a local gallery. Homeowner Bradley Friesen has a penchant for pop art and is currently wearing a different graphic tee-shirt every day.

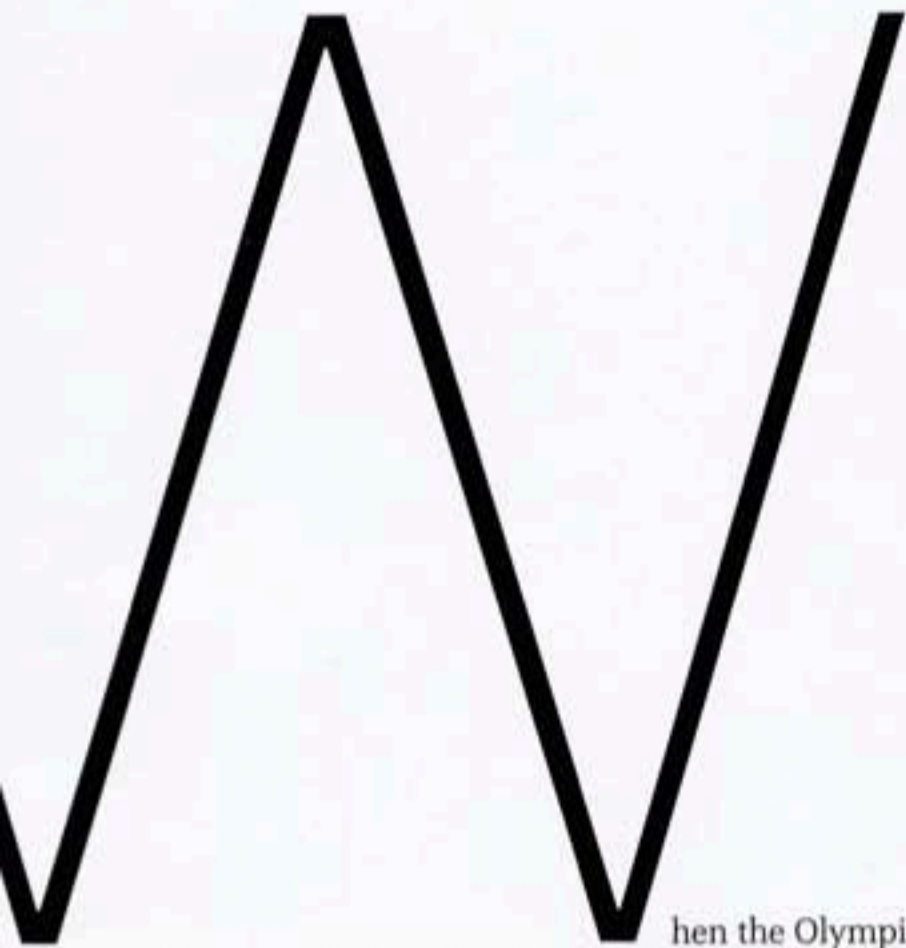


BY MICHAEL HARRIS | PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN TESSLER

### LOUNGE ACT

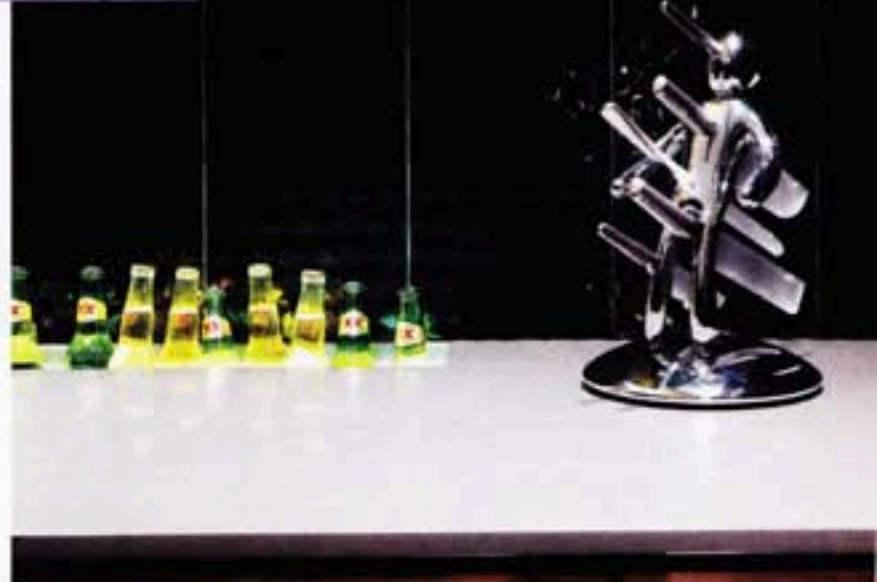
A Foscarini floor lamp, Metropolitan chairs by B&B Italia, and sturdy (false) beams are all in sync with the warm orange tones of the brick walls.





#### LUSH LIFE

A concrete eating bar (above) and a Caesarstone counter with beer trough (below) complement a kitchen full of Gaggenau appliances. An exposed, smokeless flame flickers (left) against original concrete thanks to an Eco Smart XL burner.



When the Olympics came to Vancouver last winter, Bradley Friesen invited the world into his condo. Over 1,200 bottles of beer were consumed (many of which were chilled in his kitchen counter's custom-built beer trough). About 80 litres of bellini mix also went down the hatches, mixed in his industrial-size bellini machine. "I don't actually like them, myself," says Friesen as he shows me his place. He pats the hulking machine and shuts a walnut door. "But apparently girls love 'em."

Friesen's photos show grinning sports fans lolling on his B&B Italia sectional and chairs, and you wonder if he wasn't secretly filming a beer commercial. It's a cinematic portrait of high-glamour good times, and Friesen is living the life.

But his home wasn't always the ultimate bachelor pad. When he bought the 95-year-old Yaletown space in the spring of 2007, the 1,150-square-foot condo was a mess of mediocre millwork and drywall. "One morning," he tells me, "I just woke up and started tearing things down. I had no plan." Just 37, Friesen's already comfortably retired—so he had plenty of time (and plenty of resources) to devote to a massive redesign.

Behind that drywall, he found 60 square feet of unused space, plus original brick and concrete walls that previous generations had undervalued. Once everything was stripped to the bones, though, he needed help. Friesen went through two decorators before discovering Kelly Reynolds (at the time with Fruition Design) in 2009. "How about you start with the bathroom," he told Reynolds. "And then we'll see."

It didn't take long for Friesen to be wowed. Reynolds took him to Vancouver's venerable furniture store, Inform, and showed him a sublime (and \$15,000) Agape bathtub, made



### SWEET DREAMS

The bedroom is a manifesto for masculine design. A nighttime image of L.A. streets by Jeremy Crowle acts as a headboard for the B&B Italia Tufty Time bed. Strokes are still visible in the floor's custom concrete finish.

of crushed marble that's been set in resin. Fast-forward a few months and Friesen's showing me the oversize bath in his recently finished condo. "When we were bringing it in," he grins, "all the girls were going, 'Where is that tub headed? I want a bath in that.'"

It's hard not to be impressed by Friesen's toys. The masculine yet decadent level of design that Reynolds brought to the renovation has given the space an aesthetic strength that would make anyone hope for an invite to one of Friesen's parties. Those brick and cement walls were left raw to great effect, and a series of fir beams has been meticulously installed on the ceiling. (They're purely decorative, but appear load-bearing, thanks to muscular metal brackets where they meet the walls—it's an effect that enhances the condo's vintage cred.)

Much of Reynolds's work is an accommodation of the bachelor lifestyle that Friesen lives. The day he showed me around, Friesen had been out gallivanting till the wee hours the night before. The floor was still wet from his shower—under a \$25,000 showerhead with multiple waterfall, rainforest and chromotherapy settings that are "the perfect hangover cure."

"I wanted to build a mood," says Reynolds, "of a big industrial city, raw in some areas but clean and sophisticated in others." Thus, the place has hits of rough elements. Jagged, beaten aluminum walls that look like aged steel were inspired by a scene from the serial-killer drama *Dexter*, which Friesen likes watching. But most surfaces are impeccable—many are done in a high-gloss black lacquer.

Like many bachelors, Friesen is gadget-happy. There's the Eco Smart fireplace in the living room—the kind of smokeless, open-flame deal that terrifies young mothers. Omer Arbel's 22-series electrical outlets (which eliminate the need for cover plates) sit like chic versions of standard plugs in the walls. And all is controlled by Friesen's ever-at-hand iPhone. "The house itself is my alarm," he says. "I tell it I want to wake up at 10, say, and the lighting gradually increases, the music slowly turns on, the eucalyptus steam in my shower gets ready, the coffee maker does its thing. And the TV in my bathroom shows me traffic cameras and stock reports, so I don't waste time."

All design elements here serve a greater need. They all help Friesen to be one of the most envied bachelors in town. His kitchen—which he's actually cooked in, once or twice—is decked with luxe Redl cabinets and Gaggenau appliances. But it mainly serves as an elaborate beer-opening zone. The party's the thing. The one wall that touches a neighbour's condo has been fortified with two layers of drywall and professional sound-proofing, so Friesen's soiree in the sky can continue without attracting the cops. And there's one more gadget, naturally: motion sensors in the entranceway automatically turn down the music each time the door swings open. **GONDO**



#### WATER WORLD

The washrooms may be the home's most decadent spaces. A powder room flashes with tile work by Mosaico Dialoghi; the multi-spout shower system includes chromotherapy ("the ultimate hangover cure," says owner Bradley Friesen); and the half-egg shaped bathtub is the *pièce de résistance*—a \$15,000 sculpture made of crushed marble set in resin (the Spoon XL tub, by Agape).

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