

home decor & renovations

intermind
DESIGN

MILA DJURAS DESIGNS
AND BUILDS HOMES
FROM THE MIND AND
FROM THE HEART

**BESPOKE
ABODES:**

**BUILD YOUR CUSTOM
DREAM HOME OR RENO
YOUR CONDO**

**LIFE
ALFRESCO:
CREATE A
VERSATILE
OUTDOOR
HAVEN**



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SPRING 2020

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Published by

NEXTHOME

nexthome.ca

Advertising Call 1.866.532.2588 for rates and information. Fax: 1.888.861.5038

Circulation Highly targeted, free distribution system aimed at homeowners looking to renovate using street level boxes and racking, plus door-to-door insertions in key audience segments. Call 1.866.532.2588 to discuss distribution opportunities.

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MILA DJURAS USES PSYCHOLOGY TO OPTIMIZE LIVING
AREAS AND REFLECT RESIDENTS' UNIQUE PERSONALITIES

by STEPHANIE MACDONALD





Walking into an interior designer's own home isn't always an option, but those who have the opportunity to visit Mila Djuras' home office in New Westminster will appreciate the sparkling personality and practicality of her own professional and personal spaces, balanced by a warm inviting ambiance that personifies this talented designer and builder. Mila is also consummately professional, with specialized training in design

as well as building practices, a combination which sets her company, Intermind Design, apart from most other homebuilding and renovation companies. The results of this driven personality coupled with a creative mind are obvious in all her projects: stunning out-of-the-box design solutions that reflect her clients' unique personalities.

"A home should not necessarily look like a picture in a magazine.

A home should reflect the values and aspirations of the people who live in it," says Mila. Whether it's designing and building a custom from the ground up, to making a squishy, dated condo chic and efficient, Mila has the diverse training and experience needed to take a project from conception right through to completion.

This integrated approach is enabled by Mila's unusual background, starting as a student in science in Europe, then studying architecture and design, and finally being certified as a general contractor. For many years she was married to a contemporary artist, whose work illuminated and investigated social and cultural issues, and who also battled Multiple Sclerosis. This strong relationship influenced Mila's eclectic aesthetic, empathetic approach to her work, and taught her the intricacies of how to design for accessibility as well as style.

Mila delights in creating homes that stand out, and look anything but ordinary. Getting to know her clients, she learns not only about their aesthetic preferences, but also their lifestyle, aspirations, values and histories.





I think of home design as theatre. My job is to set the stage, turn on the lights and music, and let life happen.

This leads to spaces that blend antiques, family heirlooms and salvaged items to create bespoke spaces that can never be replicated, and create homes that nurture people's practical lifestyle needs, as well as their emotional needs, so they will feel perfectly content and at home in their surroundings.

The Intermind approach to design is remarkably transparent, with each stage carefully worked out from the beginning, so clients know what to expect at each stage of their project. From the first consultation to the finished product, Mila is right there, working through the construction stage using her building team she has worked with for over 25 years. These relationships, with clients, and with her building team and contractors are what makes working with Intermind such a rewarding experience for both Mila and her clients. Client Leila Loua says "Intermind Design listened to our ideas and designed a beautiful, functional space for us. Mila was very skilled at explaining the rationale behind ideas and concepts. We are very pleased with the work done by Intermind Design".

Gathering awards is not the focus of Mila's career, but that has not stopped her from collecting an impressive, and growing, number of professional accolades within



her diverse portfolio of completed projects including Homebuilders of Vancouver's Ovation Awards for Best Renovation under \$250,000, and Best Renovation \$100,000-\$250,000; and Canadian Homebuilders Association of BC's prestigious Georgie Awards for Best Accessible Design and Best Renovation under \$250,000, as well as making it to the finalist circle numerous times a year.

She is the kind of person you may feel compelled to make up a project

question just because you want to call up and chat with her, but this genuine warmth belies a sturdy professionalism and dedication to getting her work done on time, and on budget. "I met Mila from Intermind 8 years ago, says Joanne Renwick, "and have employed her to implement the design on two major renovations and 4 smaller projects. I have been amazed at Mila's superior knowledge of design as well as of the whole realm of the construction industry".