



Mila Djuras

INTERMIND DESIGN INC.



Mila Djuras embraces the principle that a house mirrors its occupants and should be a giving, accommodative and interactive habitat for the owner's self. She understands that the house reflects its occupants, and in turn she interprets and comprehends what it is communicating—ultimately acting on what the house is striving to portray. Mila believes that design should be a pure and fluid reflection of the self, creating environments that encourage a holistic interaction of clients' physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.

She innovates—never mass produces—through the design-build process. While Mila has respect for tradition, she is not in favor of repeating or embracing it. Present-day creative contemporaries should filter tradition, re-interpret it, possibly incorporate its timeless or universal values, but always reinvent it so that the final product reflects today's thoughts, values and accomplishments.

Both architecturally and spatially, Mila creates comfortable spaces and makes the design process a smooth and enjoyable journey. By considering the formation of a stairwell, the dimensions of a living room or the manner in which natural light floods through particular windows, Mila facilitates environments for interactive living within the limitations of the space.

Mila often works with artists to enhance a space's interior architecture through colorful, graphical and sculptural elements. Mila believes that architectural interior or exterior can be neutral, yet not inactive—again, rhythm, texture, color and symbols should deliver a message. Clients are included in every step of the design process with Intermind Design. Mila's inclusive approach to design is facilitated by her interest in design and social psychology—there is a will to guide each client into a renewed sense of self.

ABOVE

The pattern created by walnut wood flooring on the top of stairs and reflective stainless steel on the risers is complemented by natural light from a skylight and a striped mural inspired by Sol LeWitt.
Photograph by Luis Pascual

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The art display wall inserted unit with stainless steel background contains ethnic inspired sculptures, masks and pottery from local, Asian and African artists.
Photograph by Luis Pascual



Her projects have an impressive variety, showcasing an intuitive understanding of what a space and its inhabitants require. For one project, a large-scale children's indoor playhouse, Mila researched child behavior patterns and color coding that would encourage proper, balanced brain activity during extended play sessions. By having visual transparency throughout the entire space, parents and children had a constant connection to each other.

While she approaches every project with the highest level of professionalism, Mila tries to incorporate a sense of humor when possible. For an exhibition at BC Place called "Ultimate Dog House," she designed an ultimate male garage with a toilet situated on top of a staircase so that sports results can still be viewed from the half-open bathroom. Along with this haute couture toilet is a shower that uses the same mechanics as a car wash—shampoo and soap automatically dispense from the shower and by pressing another button, water rinses its occupant clean. This project sets itself apart as an example of Mila's unique customization and fearlessness in devising untraditional solutions.

Mila notes that colors in nature flow, that nothing seems out of place in an environmental setting—there is always a captivating element. This is the same approach she takes with her projects. Whatever the area within a home, there should be multiple activities taking place to provide complexity and variety without being overwhelming. One

LEFT

A Thai spirit house and indoor yellow sand garden are placed on the mezzanine level, separating the stairway and accenting a mid-century Eero Saarinen tea table that is surrounded with traditional black Chinese chairs.

Photograph by Luis Pascual

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This sitting area is made complete with an elongated white Italian sofa and organic transparent coffee table along with a feminine Dutch Leolux chair. The home library is located one step up next to two-story windows that face Victoria Park.

Photograph by Luis Pascual





way in which she incorporates an organic approach is to introduce a material—stainless steel, for example—in unexpected ways. Yes, an oven or refrigerator could be expected to have some form of stainless steel, but to provide balance, Mila might incorporate the same material into stairs, dropped ceiling or wall treatment as well.

In a more traditional, full-scale re-build renovation, Mila delivered a home-sanctuary that incorporated high functionality of contemporary design with the client's cultural and spiritual values with an emphasis on diverse ethnicities within Vancouver's growing international status. Mila designed the exterior with post-modernist colors to showcase key features by incorporating two-floor, 18-foot front windows. Inside the home, she opened the floorplan and separated spaces by using platforms, columns, drops, beams and displays. Mila chose glass doors, walnut flooring, countertops and steps made of polished stone along with glass and acrylic furniture in order to provide complete visual transparency indoors and projecting outdoors.

Whether she is working on a house or commercial space, Mila considers the distinct elements that each room needs to embrace so that clients feel physically and psychologically comforted.

RIGHT
Industrial Italian tiles in several patterns are used to create a neutral palette as the contrasting background for dynamic wall sculpture made by Mila's husband, artist Branko Djuras. Result is Zen alike feel with an abstract interpretation of centrally placed tree.
Photograph by Luis Pascual

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An open interior plan is created by platforms, ceiling drops, customized built-ins, columns and beams. Visual transparency is confirmed with the repeated use of glass doors and walnut flooring; polished stone on counters and steps; stainless steel on stair risers, appliances, lighting and bathroom fixtures; as well as glass and acrylic furniture and chandeliers.
Photograph by Luis Pascual

