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# VITA

*She's Back*  
Barbie's *comeback*  
has coloured  
everything from  
*fashion to beauty*  
to *home décor*

The  
*October*  
Issue

## INSIDE *the* ISSUE

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FASHION **Run the gauntlet** in gloves that are long, *dramatic* and statement making

BEAUTY How does cancer *and* treatment *impact* skin and hair?

DÉCOR **Celebrating B.C.'s coolest** furniture designers and makers

TRAVEL **Wymara Resort and Villas** Turks and Caicos *is the tropical escape to take now*

# Home Base

There's a chic new space in the city that celebrates the coolest B.C. furniture designers and makers

BY ISABEL ONG

When you step into Provide Design Gallery, you might look around and wonder if it's a furniture store or an art gallery. The answer? It's both. Founder David Keeler describes the 1,700-square-foot store in Vancouver's Armoury District, which opened in April this year, as an "elevated space [with a] realistic living environment so that people can imagine these pieces in their homes."

What else sets it apart: its strong focus on locally designed pieces from brands like Studio Sturdy and Brent Comber. Provide Design Gallery was created, Keeler elaborates, because he perceived that local furniture designers and makers were not being represented well.

"We make things to order and often ship them off, so nobody gets to see them. To have a showroom for Studio Sturdy is really exciting," says Jessica Anderson, who helps the renowned Vancouver-based brand and is thrilled to have her pieces available in Provide Design Gallery. Keeler describes Studio Sturdy offerings as "classic, minimal designs that never go out of style." The brand primarily uses resin and steel to create sleek and stylish tables, stools, bowls, vases, platters and more. "Unlike marble or stone, resin is warm to the touch; it has a softness that you don't necessarily find in those other materials," explains Anderson.

The console tables are one of the brand's most popular pieces, especially since they can be made in different sizes, heights and hues. They also often use a technique known as dual pour, where any two colours appear at once to produce a striking result. The console and another bestseller, the floating coffee table—which Anderson describes as "modern, functional art"—are available at Provide Design Gallery.

Brent Comber is another local and internationally recognized artist and designer at Provide Design Gallery whose pieces are, in his own words, "sculptural, story-based [and] slightly evocative." They also emphasize the importance of place as he uses indigenous woods like Western red cedar, maple, and Douglas fir, sourced from arborists, homeowners and local businesses. All of Comber's pieces are designed around a story and are also highly sensorial. Take Tafoni, a solid wood bench with a "beautiful sinuous pattern [that evokes] how waves will erode soft sandstone cliffs, like [on] Galiano Island," Comber reveals. His Alder series, which includes coffee tables, a bench, a cube stool and wall art, uses a particular varnish to make surfaces feel silky to the touch.

And then there's Cording, his newest sculptural series. "It's a swirling mass of roots that I made freehand using yellow cedar and a special finish to give it an ivory-esque look and feel," he explains. "I added neon light so it creates a beautiful glow."

**"We make things to order and often ship them off, so nobody gets to see them"**

Besides Studio Sturdy and Brent Comber, you'll also discover up-and-coming B.C. brands like Origins, which offers contemporary furniture "with a handcrafted feel that's been technically made with perfection," says Keeler, and Quake Studio, whose furniture references the natural world through intriguing cut-out elements on its tabletops. Provide has also teamed up with another local brand, Lock & Mortice, to create a new furniture range comprising a sofa, daybed, shelving unit and a bed, all with a rounded, asymmetrical feel.

"Vancouver has needed a good curator of furniture and art to showcase local artists for a long, long time," Comber muses. And so far, responses to this creative retail concept, brimming with understated luxury and a laidback West Coast vibe, are encouraging. "People are loving the whole mood of the space; it has a comforting, calming effect," Keeler shares. "They're really responding to the fact that a lot of the furniture is local. They want to support local." [Providehome.com](http://Providehome.com) / [Thearmourydistrict.com](http://Thearmourydistrict.com)

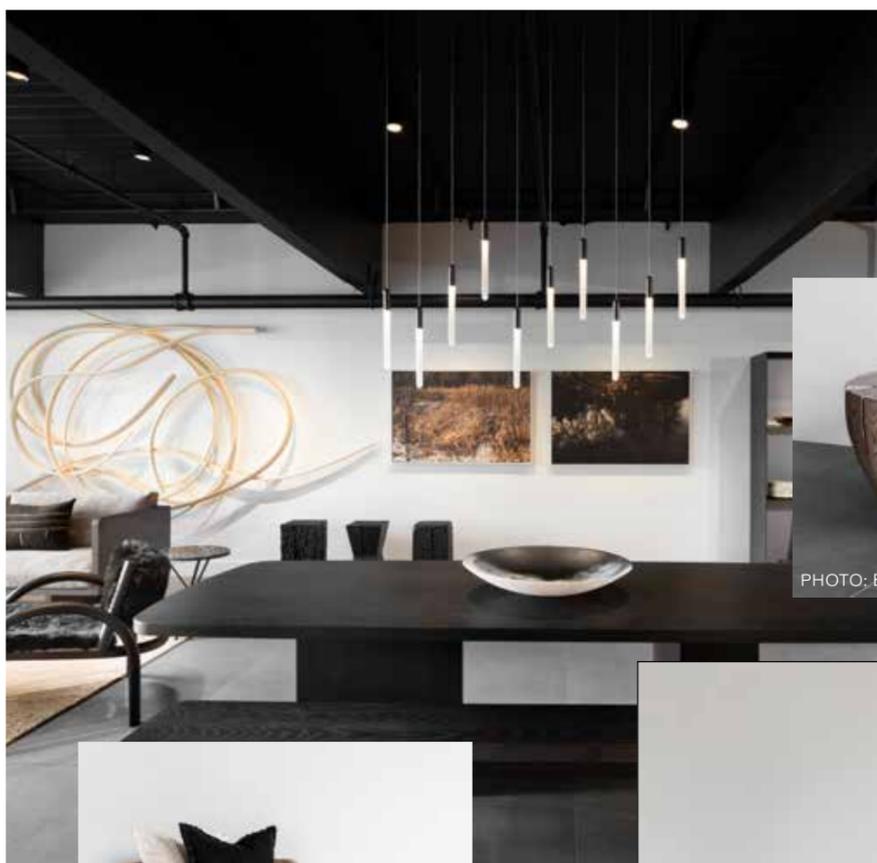


PHOTO: BRENT COMBER

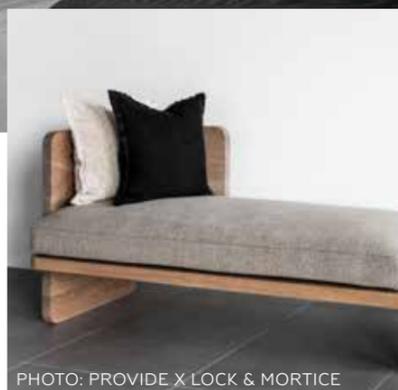


PHOTO: PROVIDE X LOCK & MORTICE



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# Paradise Found

Set on Grace Bay, named the world's best beach in 2022 by *Tripadvisor*, Wymara Resort and Villas Turks and Caicos is the tropical escape you've been searching for

BY NOA NICHOL

## STAY

Wymara owner Bruce Maclaren is not your run-of-the-mill hotelier. An Ottawa native who developed his construction chops Down Under, Maclaren's attention to detail when it comes to his Turks and Caicos luxury hotel and villas—not to mention, willingness to do what it takes to achieve perfection, even if it means getting his hands dirty—is admirable and, frankly, unique.

"Everything about the Wymara design is about creating perfection and comfort for our guests," he explains. "After living in the resort myself for eight years, and now five years in one of our villas, I'm constantly wanting to improve the experience in line with what I learn about the properties. So, when you come stay with us you are benefiting from so many aspects of the design."

From the gorgeously appointed (and newly renovated) hotel to, a short drive away, a collection of private and secluded luxury villas, Maclaren has taken his personal experiences after 30 years of combined island living in Australia and Turks to consider sun, shade and breeze in his designs, so that there are always multiple areas to enjoy the outdoors on property—plus, multiple amenity areas to keep everyone in the group engaged and content.

"We strive to have our guests keep coming back for more, while constantly improving each experience," he says, adding that there are several top-secret upgrades to the villas property, in particular, in the works, that will soon be revealed. "We want to wow our guests from the moment they arrive until they depart."

Maclaren's vision is to create the perfect home away from home. A place where owners and guests can get an emotional high from the beautiful turquoise waters and perfect weather Turks and Caicos is renowned for. A place to recharge their batteries and enjoy quality time with their loved ones. "We want



everyone who visits to feel part of our Wymara family with our wonderful staff and caring and attentive personalized service," he says.

Truly, Wymara Resort and Villas is an unequivocal oasis for all—and countless details make it so. Among our favourite below-the-radar features: fresh-baked banana bread at breakfast, Dyson hair-dryers in each room and, at two of the seven multi-bedroom, multimillion-dollar villas, a salt-water slide that shoots you directly into a must-be-seen-to-be-believed crystal-clear Caribbean Sea. Don't sleep on this impeccable escape. *Lower Bight Rd., The Bight Settlement, Turks and Caicos Islands, 888-844-5986. Wymararesortandvillas.com*



## SAVOUR

No need to leave resort grounds to get good grub. Wymara's on-site Indigo restaurant and (newly expanded) Zest beach bar let you indulge in local and delicious Caribbean treats with a modern twist. Executive chef Andrew Mirosch is, essentially, a magician in the kitchen (how else do you explain the World's Best Ice Cream, which does not "melt" like the normal stuff?!), sharing recipes inspired by his Australian roots and the tropical flavours of Turks and Caicos. Top tries include the crispy pork belly tacos, fried plantain tostones and a delightful curried soup made with roasted pumpkin and coconut. Insider tip: check the hotel schedule to join in on a lively, weekly, al fresco beach barbecue, featuring live music and a bountiful buffet served up under the night sky, on the white sands of Grace Bay.



## SNAP

Ever wonder how travellers obtain those perfect shots of themselves floating, seemingly isolated, in a bluer-than-blue ocean? The Looking Glass Watersports & Adventures offers clear-bottomed "crystal" kayak rentals, plus aerial drone photography services to boot, to produce the most incredible, Instagrammable shots. Your social media feed will look like a stock photo gallery, in the best possible way. *TheLookingGlass.tc*

## SPA

There's only one organic-certified spa in Turks and Caicos, and it's at Wymara. Signature treatments utilize luxe, biodynamic products by beauty brand Eminence; try the After Sun facial to calm and repair skin after a day at the beach, or the Caicos Coco Calmer head-to-toe massage with a soothing, smoothing coconut body polish. Then, take time to meditate in the relaxation garden, or join a Pilates, yoga or HIIT class at the fitness centre to round out your journey to wellness.

## SHOP

There's definitely a paradise vibe to be found on Turks and Caicos—an energy that one fashion label, Okaicos, describes as Feelin' #Okaicos. Wymara's on-site boutique carries, among a range of luxe beachwear and gifts, a curated collection of this feel-good brand's fun, positive and stylish wares. Our top picks include a classic white embroidered crewneck and, for him, Mojito Mint Aztec swim shorts. Turks and Caicos may have inspired this brand but, thanks to its designs, you can take the feeling of the island back home with you. *Okaicos.com*



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