

WOOD
TOWN



✦ **PHOTOGRAPHY** Ema Peter
WORDS Keith Flanagan

LIVING SPACE

'We chose the two Jan Kath rugs to echo the warmth of the Douglas fir ceiling onto the floor - it really helped to focus the palette and provide a neutral foundation for all the layering,' say Chad Falkenberg and Kelly Reynolds of interior design studio Falken Reynolds.

Endless **sofa**, Bensen. Deep Thoughts **lounge chair** (left); Cleon **ottoman**, both Blu Dot. Emmeline **throw**, Wallace & Sewell. Vintage MP-91 rosewood **lounge chair** (centre) by Percival Lafer. Artwork 19 **rug**, Jan Kath. Glo-Ball **floor lamp**, Flos. 28 copper **light fixture**, Bocci



This industrial warehouse apartment in Vancouver's hip Gastown neighbourhood is packed with personality

LIVING SPACE

A custom cable-supported shelving system is lined with Ian's favourite things, pulling together a colourful, curated collection of books, vinyl and various mementoes.

Custom shelving by Integrity Woodwork



As far as clients go, Ian Patrick is very refreshing. The finance professional (right brain) and hobbyist DJ (left brain) was busy looking at real estate in Canada's Montreal before the perfect listing lured him back across the country to Vancouver. 'I flew home and on seeing this apartment in person I couldn't help but imagine all kinds of possibilities,' he recalls.

Ripe for a change, the corner loft, replete with sandblasted bricks and old timber beams, was tucked within a converted industrial warehouse in Vancouver's hip Gastown neighbourhood. Ian sought an interior firm that might take his space in a different direction – he found Falken Reynolds, led by Chad Falkenberg and Kelly Reynolds, serendipitously just down the street. Falken Reynolds knew their client was keen to entertain fellow music enthusiasts at home and wanted his space to expand and contract accordingly. The main room speaks volumes with its kitchen, dining and living all in one, but they took it up a notch: a new zone takes shape as a separate reading nook, while a central drop-down projection screen can transform the loft into a screening room at the turn of a chair (or two).

The building had, nearly two decades earlier, undergone a design conversion by local firm Alda Pereira Design and Falken Reynolds maintained key elements from that revamp while thinking bigger. But beyond the structural tweaks, it's Ian's commitment to uninhibited personality that's hard to miss. The original files he sent Falken Reynolds for inspiration, he admits, were bursting with bold colour and pattern every which way. 'Chad and Kelly adroitly reined in those impulses of mine and channelled them into areas that work for the space,' he says.

Referencing Ian's love of electronica, this idea is perhaps most pronounced in the open-plan en suite, a daring design from Alda Pereira's original intervention. Pablo Muñoz, the project's contractor, plotted a buzzy arrangement of 14 different tiles in digital patterns across the exposed tub and walk-in shower, bringing energy and movement to the space. 'We debated putting the original frosted glass back on the shower half-wall,' says Ian. 'But we couldn't bring ourselves to hide Pablo's work!'

Falken Reynolds layered the loft with playful accents, art and a range of warm furnishings; in the reading nook alone, light pours through large windows onto a custom shelving system that pops with old and new objects, from coveted vinyl to curious artefacts. 'When viewed as a whole, it feels very lived-in,' says Ian. 'You can enjoy the thoughtful placement of everything, the curated selection of objects that bring joy and life into the space, which is otherwise just a slab of concrete with some nice old timber holding it up.' And with such an open-plan space, though zoned for live/work, Ian says he's not afraid to move things around, like adding a proper office if life demands: 'But in the meantime, who doesn't appreciate a generous dance floor?'

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falkenreynolds.com

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THE DESIGNERS

Chad Falkenberg and Kelly Reynolds of Falken Reynolds, a Vancouver-based studio, created this NYC-style loft for Ian Patrick, a finance professional and music lover.

THE PROPERTY

A live/work loft space within a former industrial warehouse built in 1909 by architect Edward Evans Blackmore. There is a living/dining/kitchen space, with a separate cloakroom. A privacy wall separates the bedroom, while the open-plan en suite – a statement from the building's 2004 redesign by Alda Pereira – was maintained, but playfully rebooted.

ENTRANCE

A giant graffiti-inspired triptych, left by the previous owner, set the tone for the loft's colourful palette. 'During the buying process, I added clauses into the contract that ensured the painting was included in the purchase!' reveals Ian.

Triptych painting by Gabriel Dubois



READING NOOK

The aim here was to create a distinct, more contemplative space within the larger main living space.

Spectrum Pantano **rug**, Jan Kath. Field **lounge chair** and **ottoman**, Blu Dot. Pluto **side table**, Ben Barber Studio. Civil **bench**, Cassina. **Art** by Scott Sueme

KITCHEN

The room's steel-framed cabinetry, part of Alda Pereira's 2004 design for the loft, got a lift with new shelving and zigzag tiles - extra functionality plus a little bit of fun.

Splashback in Tape Series White, Grainy Blue, and Zigzag **tiles**, all by Mutina. Steelwood round **table**, Magis. Stax stacking **chairs**, Bensen. Vine 3 **pendant**, ANDlight





BEDROOM

'It made sense to lean into the original Alda Pereira design, with the signature bathtub-in-the-open concept. I figured, why throw up a bunch of walls and break up this grand room - especially given that space is so hard to come by in this city?' says Ian. An open closet lets the striking wood ceiling shine and the simple hanging rod pulls the eye up but keeps the space feeling open.

Spacecrafted 11 rug, Jan Kath. Spine stool by Fredericia. Brix bedside table, Bensen. ThuThu stool (opposite) by Patty Johnson for Mabeo at Inform



home truths

THE COLLECTIBLE YOU JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF?

I get an unusual number of compliments on my glassware by Ichendorf Milano. There's no way you can make glassware so thin and featherweight if you aren't a master of your craft.

BEST VINTAGE ITEM YOU OWN?

My grandmother's old red seal cedar chest from Honderich Furniture Company. Elegant and indestructible, just like she was.

FAVOURITE CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE DESIGNER?

Eero Aarnio. For as long as I can remember, I've always wanted one of his Bubble or Ball chairs.

AN OVER-THE-TOP HOME FEATURE YOU THINK IS TOTALLY WORTH IT?

An outdoor shower. Once you've tried one, it's impossible to argue against it.

EN SUITE

Meticulously placed graphic tiles make this a focal point within the main bedroom.

Diarama tiles, Hella Jongerius at Mutina



PABLO MUÑOZ'S WORK ON THE BATH AND SHOWER TILES IS EASILY THE HIGHLIGHT - HE PUT SO MUCH TIME INTO PLOTTING OUT THE ARRANGEMENT

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