

# SUNSET BLVD. NORTH

WEST  
VANCOUVER'S  
MOST  
EXCLUSIVE  
COMMUNITY

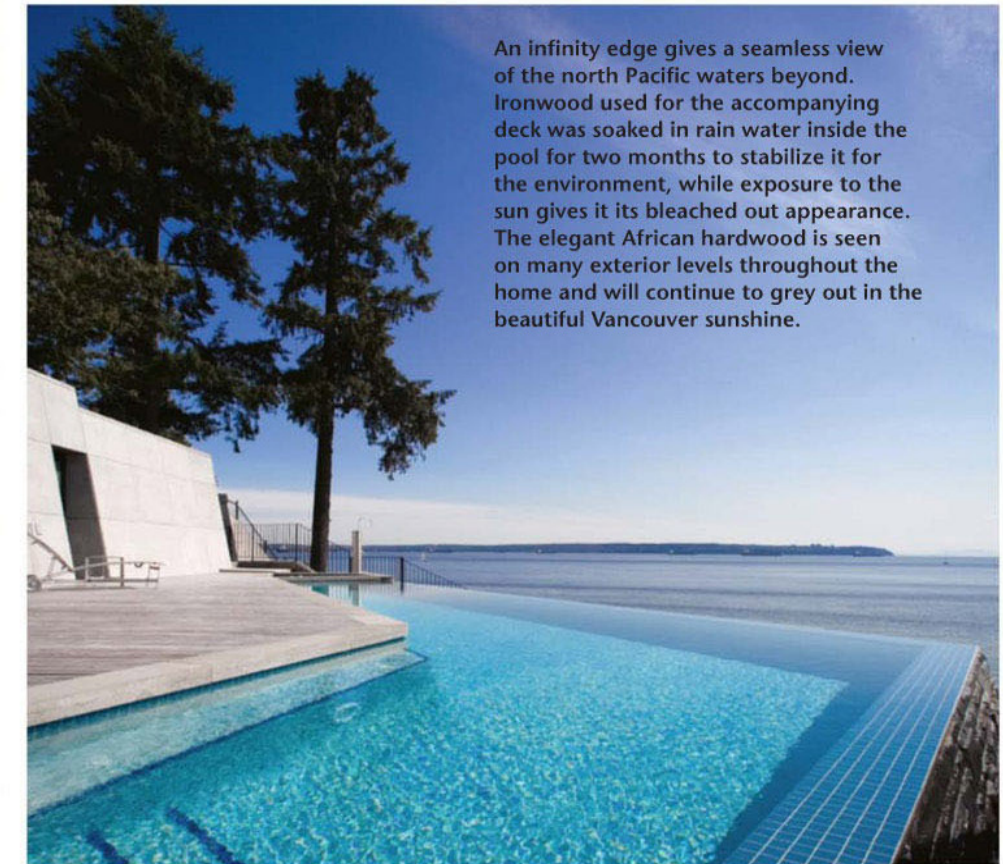


A luxurious seclusion designed for privacy. The sloping, zinc-covered roof is the only thing visible to upland property owners; while a three-tiered, Pennsylvania bluestone wall on the right acts as a privacy screen. It also contains a hidden barbecue build right into the bricks. The pincer-like pool enclosure creates its own micro climate, trapping heat and extending the swimming season by two months every year.

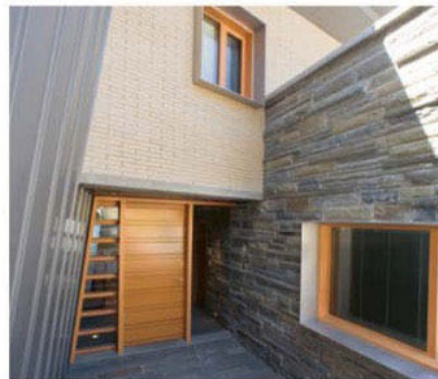
Zinc panels give a contemporary look to this ledge, while thick panes of glass provide safety to those looking at the beautiful view beyond. The entire home is incredibly bright thanks to the warm rays of sun bouncing off the ocean waters. In December, the amount of light coming in can actually create a heat gain problem, which is why each ocean-front window is equipped with motorized roller blinds.



An infinity edge gives a seamless view of the north Pacific waters beyond. Ironwood used for the accompanying deck was soaked in rain water inside the pool for two months to stabilize it for the environment, while exposure to the sun gives it its bleached out appearance. The elegant African hardwood is seen on many exterior levels throughout the home and will continue to grey out in the beautiful Vancouver sunshine.



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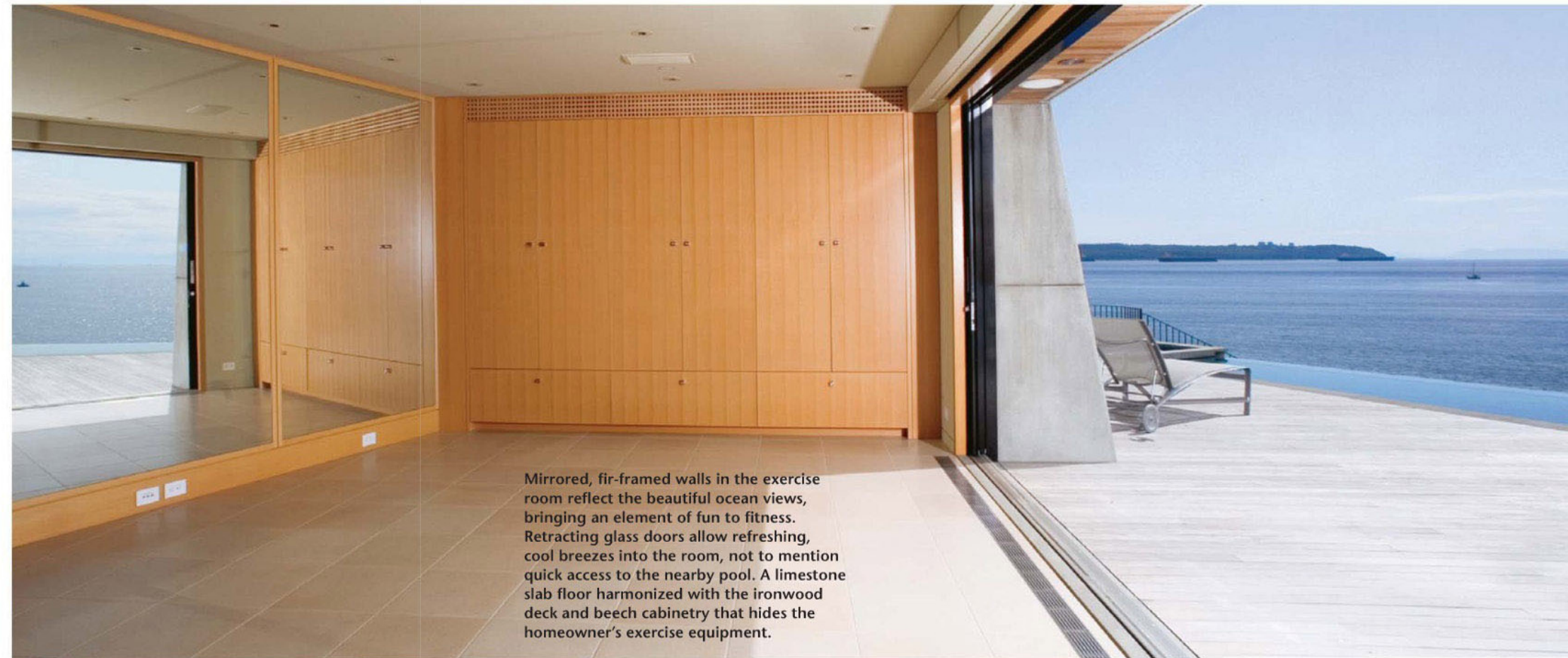


#### It's the tourist attraction that wasn't meant to be.

Traveling through West Vancouver's exclusive Altamont neighbourhood is a bit like driving along Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard. Sprawling mansions all making a statement to the world. Each homeowner showcasing a unique luxury others only dream of.

How odd then that this 9,000 square foot estate isn't even visible from the laneway, like most other homes in the exclusive area.

"It has a very elegantly resolved fence and gate that signals this is something out of the ordinary as you drive by," says architect Paul Grant. But aside from that, the only really interesting things to look at are the tall, ancient evergreens, or if the time is right, the Whistler Mountaineer rolling along the nearby CN rail line.



Mirrored, fir-framed walls in the exercise room reflect the beautiful ocean views, bringing an element of fun to fitness. Retracting glass doors allow refreshing, cool breezes into the room, not to mention quick access to the nearby pool. A limestone slab floor harmonized with the ironwood deck and beech cabinetry that hides the homeowner's exercise equipment.

And what a tourist attraction it would be, were the general public allowed to see this ultra-modern home; which could have a double life as an art gallery.

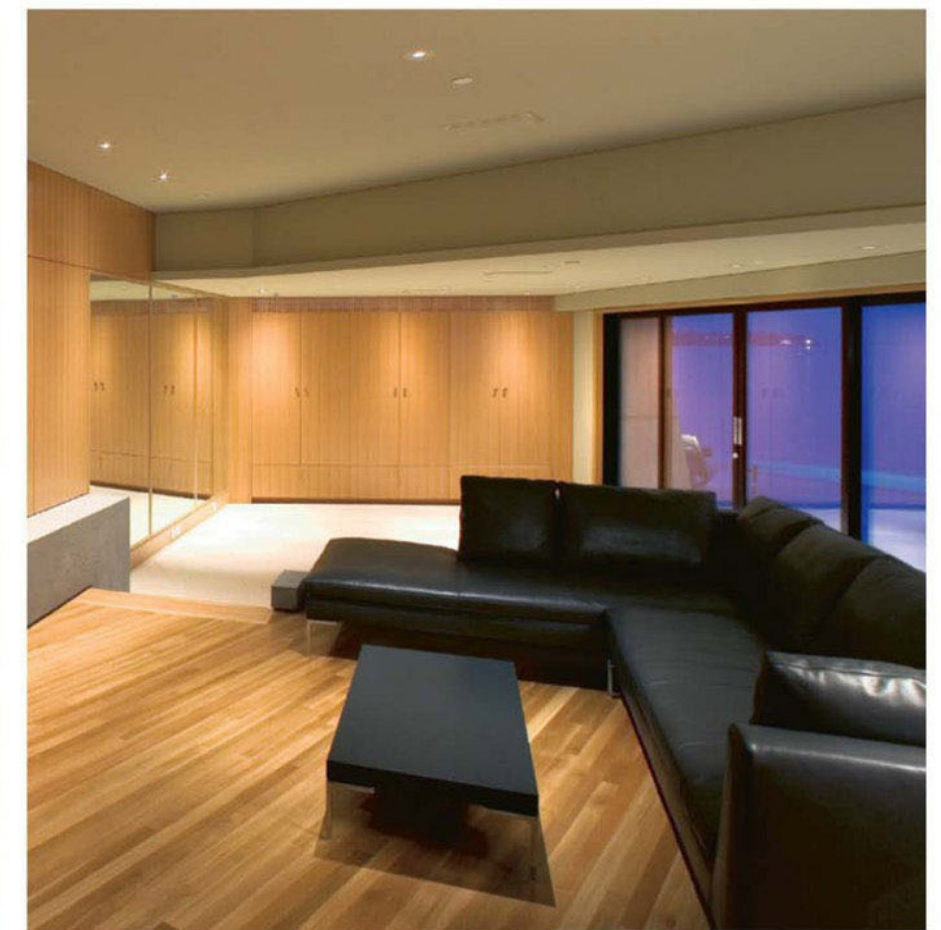
A contemporary, bright yellow and green sculpture of a woman by German artist Wolfgang Thiel captures your attention as you enter the living room.

In the courtyard, a large stone Buddha by sculptor Boaz Vaadia attracts your eyes, one of many pieces by the Israeli artist acquired by the homeowner. Each piece was incorporated into the design before the project was even built.

"The client has a very good art collection and we took that all into account beforehand; photographed and digitally scaled it all, worked it into the elevations of the drawings as they proceeded," said architect Paul Grant. "(We) found places for them, art niches, holes in the wall, places on the floor, hanging spaces and then lit the building accordingly; both in the natural light sense and an artificial sense."

You could say the building itself is reminiscent of the early work of Dutch graphic artist, M.C. Escher. He's famous for creating architecturally impossible buildings with odd scales and infinitely-looping staircases, like the ones in his works, *Ascending and Descending* and *Relativity*.

A contemporary, bright yellow and green sculpture of a woman by German artist Wolfgang Thiel stands in contrast to the natural hues of the Pennsylvania bluestone walls, beech wood acoustic ceiling panels, white oak flooring and concrete architectural accents. A floor-to-ceiling wall of seamless, single glaze glass stretches across the living room and dining room, providing a gorgeous, southern view of English Bay in West Vancouver. Tempered air from the geo-thermal heating system rises up from hidden ducts at the base of the windows, ensuring they are fog free year-round.



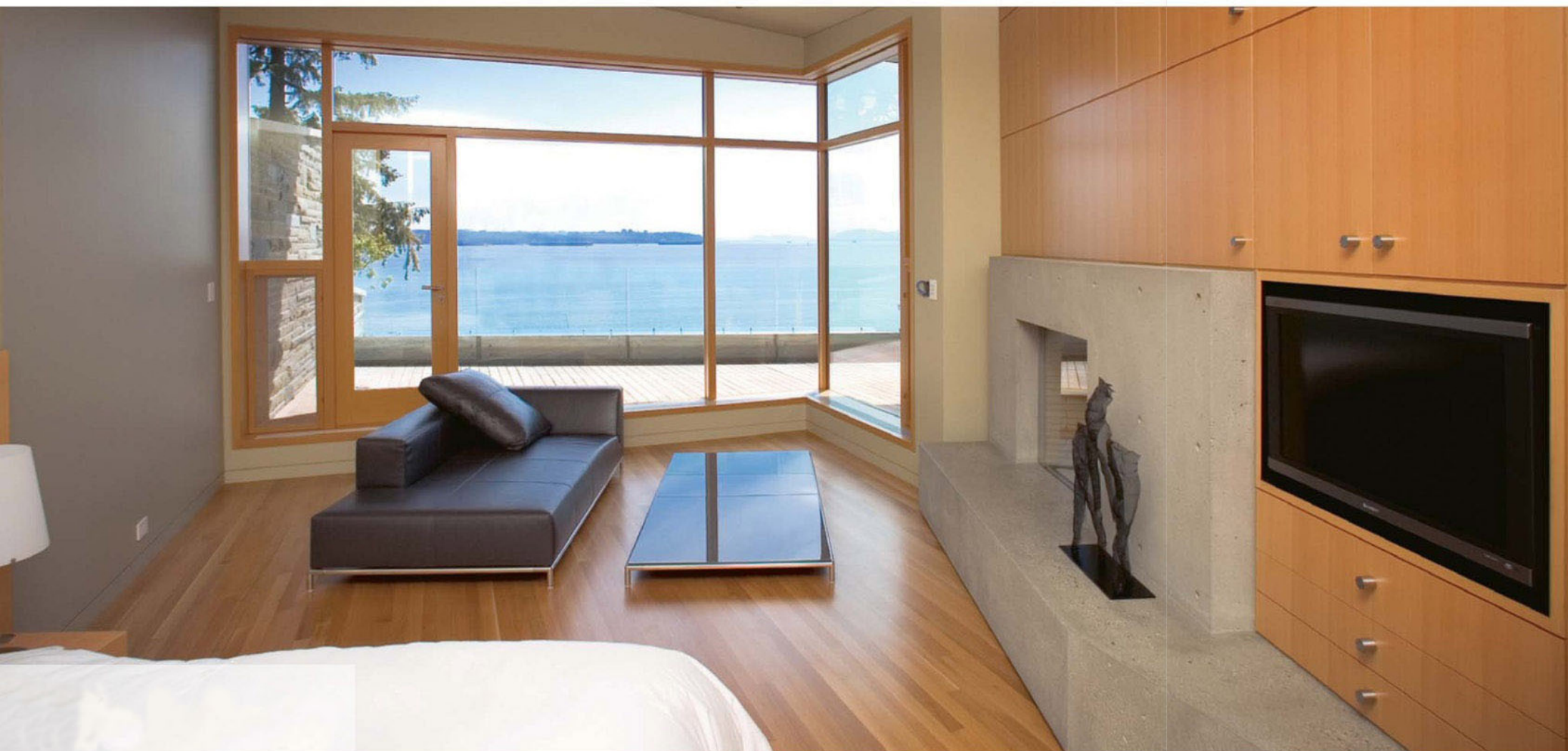
Making things even more challenging, says Rudd, was incorporating so many different materials into construction; like brick and Pennsylvania bluestone walls, and Douglas fir windows. Each has its own distinct shape and flavour. "It's one of the toughest window jobs I've done...not in size, but in difficulty of angles. There are no real windows that are very similar to each other."

Other features, like the custom-built ceiling panels proved so challenging to build, some workers couldn't take the pressure of such precision mill-work. To make each panel, small slats of beech had to be individually cut with 5/8-inch grooves to fit together like a comb. Each panel is also acoustically engineered with tiny holes to create a peaceful environment; resulting in hundreds of thousands of cuts. Overall, it took six weeks of work by two people to build less than a hundred panels. "We went through a few guys. It was pretty monotonous," says Rudd.

As well, builders had to contend with the sustainable features of the home, which uses rainwater collection, solar panels and geothermal heating. Beneath the home lie twelve 250-foot deep wells, powering the geothermal system and replacing the need for natural gas.

While it may not be accessible to the public, this state of the art home is being noticed on an international level. Recently, an advertising scout for German luxury automobile manufacturer Audi discovered and used it for a commercial that will air in Europe.

Alas, the advertisement is not designed for Canadian eyes, much like the home itself: a true private collection. ♣



The beauty of water is a common theme throughout the home, even extending into this powder room sink by Agape. A glass stopper lets you see the water's edge as you fill the sink, while the bowl itself resembles a calm ocean wave. Above the sink, steel tie-rod holes left over from the concrete construction process were actually incorporated into the design to give the room a more Spartan feel.