

“IT’S LIKE A BIG PIECE of Danish furniture,” says Victoria designer Bruce Wilkin, describing the modernist house he designed and shares with friend and business partner Ann Hillyer.

The two-level, four-bedroom, six-bathroom home sits on a rocky outcropping in the King George Terrace area of Oak Bay, overlooking the ocean. Its long and lean design—the home stretches nearly 50 metres—looks tailor-made for the lot, but it baffled neighbours when it was built two years ago.

Hardly in keeping with the mock-Tudor homes in the area, the front of the Wilkin residence, partially visible from the road, reveals little of the interior save for a series of tiny window squares. Some wags were prompted to compare it to a Costco facade.

Wilkin prefers to describe his house as “simple and mysterious.” He cites California mid-century architects Neutra and Schindler and the Bauhaus school as inspirations for his design, referring to the way they “simplified architecture to its basic elements, eschewing excess ornamentation.”

The mystery unfolds as you step inside the 5,500-square-foot home. It’s set at the back of the half-acre property, and all the rooms are oriented towards the ocean view. The use of natural light and open floor plans, both features of the mid-century



Breakfast Television A TV is inset low on the end of the kitchen island, the perfect height for anyone settled into the circle of authentic Eames leather loungers (not shown).



Fire and Water Two grey Cassina sofas invite fireside lounging. Guests can take in the breathtaking outdoor view or zone out looking at the colourful art glass from artist Mel Munsen, or the bold painting by Kim Dorland.