

## DESIGN Q&A | ROBERT BAILEY

# Producing an Opus

Vancouver interior designer talks inspiration for creating public and private spaces

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VANCOUVER SUN

**Q** Your most recent public project in Vancouver is the new bar/lounge at the Opus Hotel on which you collaborated with Craig Stanghetta. It's a dramatic transformation from the previous lounge. What was the inspiration?

**A** Our inspiration was a classic cocktail bar. Rather than the original Opus Bar, which was very 'look at me,' we wanted the new space to be almost the opposite and have an intimate, private feel to it. The primary design element, or big move, is the use of zebra marble that speaks to the exotic and glamorous aspects of Opus Hotel and its strong, personal fashion sense.

**Q** How do you go about merging your design vision with your clients' wish list?

**A** I'm all about bringing our client wish list to life. Our job is to fashion their desires, using our expertise, into a reality.

**Q** How would you describe your design aesthetic?

**A** Authentic: it's authentic to people, place, function and material.

**Q** What materials do you like to work with most?

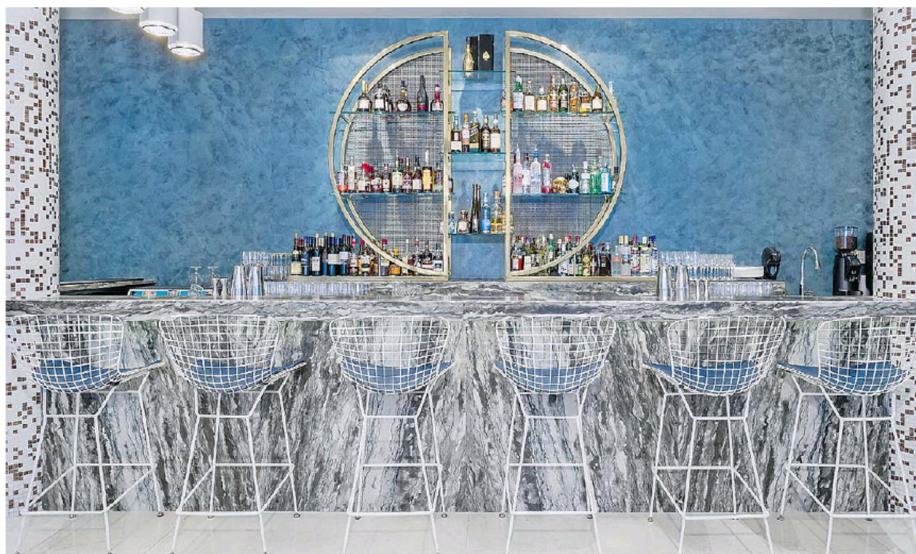
**A** Natural materials are the most interesting to work with because you're not completely in control but you have to create a framework for the unexpected to happen in a beautiful way.

**Q** Are you using any new applications for existing materials, be it wood, stone or tile?

**A** Every day we expand our vocabulary and our understanding to find new applications for existing materials.

**Q** Do you have any go-to colour palettes that you believe transform most any space?

**A** We typically create a feeling with our choice of colour palettes and often that feeling is all about simplicity and calm.



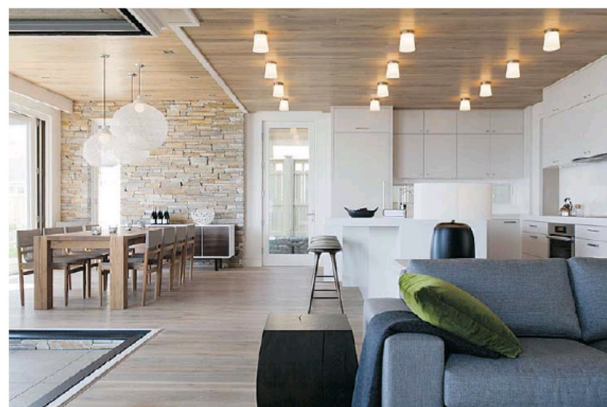
The newly renovated bar at the Opus Hotel uses zebra marble that evokes an exotic, glamorous feel.

**Q** You have projects that take you to different parts of North America. Does that present challenges to achieving your vision?

**A** Every project has challenges, most of what we do as designers is related to issue resolution, no matter where the location.

**Q** What trends do you see coming up that haven't been used outside the design community?

**A** I see a much more informed and layered application of lighting as being an upcoming trend, it is the most important element in interior design.



A private residence in Naramata designed by Robert Bailey.

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