



**ROXTON**  
by Mosaic Homes  
3437 Roxton Ave., Coquitlam

**“ORANGE IS A HAPPENING COLOUR, ADDS VIBRANCY AND ENERGY. YOU ARE HAPPY IN THE SPACE BECAUSE OF THE COLOUR.”**  
Tara Wells, Portico Design Group

**CUSTOM ART:**  
jillpilon.com

**CUSTOM SOFA AND TABLES:**  
Calibri Design

**ACCENT CHAIR:**  
Carbon Chair at zuomod.ca

**STANDING LAMP:**  
Industrial Revolution on Granville St.

**FLOOR RUG:**  
Interior Surfaces

**DESIGNER SECRET:**  
Art should be hung for the use of the space. Hang at eye level in the living room or put art in a bookshelf to add a splash of color and interest.

# LIVING ROOMS TO LOVE

by JANINE MACKIE

**DO YOU LOVE YOUR LIVING ROOM?** A generation ago, this space was often off-limits to kids and the family pet, and reserved exclusively for adult guests and cherished heirlooms. With much relief, contemporary living has ushered out stuffy formality and replaced it with relaxed everyday comfort. When you're ready to unwind, curl up with the Kindle, watch a sitcom or hang out with friends, the living room should be a place that can support relaxation and entertainment in a family-friendly setting, while also being a space to show off your style. Well-planned living rooms often require a little inspiration...

Here's a showcase of four fabulous living rooms, and insight from the interior designers who created these inviting yet lavish living room spaces. Want to know where to buy the essentials, what items to splurge on, how to arrange furniture to enhance conversation

and the most up-to-date trends to bring your living room to 2013 and beyond? Step inside these local showhomes and discover the building blocks to great decor.

"A young hip couple that loves to entertain," was the personality profile designer Tara Wells of Portico Design Group was given as she styled the model home at ROXTON in Coquitlam's Burke Mountain community. Obsessed with design, the developer Mosaic Homes has made their mark by creating homes that pack a lot of function into their square footage while also making a big design statement.

"The furnishings are very Urban Modern," describes Wells. "The living room has that fun downtown vibe, yet is extremely comfortable, without being presumptuous."

Taking centre stage is the oversized sectional in stylish neutral gray wool and injected with bold hits of tangerine orange on toss

cushions and accent chairs. The look is absolutely ravishing against the warm tones of the maple wood coffee table. Local art and a custom-made clock are the creative touches needed to pull this dramatic space together.

"This family can use the room for anything from kids' play dates to dancing on New Year's Eve," says Wells.

Multi-functional furniture equips this future-friendly space. The sofa pieces move for flexible seating arrangements, the tables are on casters, and the brilliant accent chairs are light and mobile.



**PRIZE HOME, BC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHOICES LOTTERY,**  
 built by Pavilion Homes  
 20129 1st Ave., South Langley

**"I WANTED A ROOM THAT HAD TRADITIONAL TOUCHES WITH A CONTEMPORARY FLAIR,"**  
 Debbie Heale, Sunrae Designs.

**FURNISHINGS AND ACCESSORIES:**  
 La-z-boy Furniture Galleries

**DESIGNER TIP:**  
 Create a conversation area and a focal point. A focal point can be an architectural detail, a fireplace or artwork. Arrange the furniture around the focal point, and define the conversation area with a dramatic area rug.

Each furniture piece is attractive in its own right, and cohesively arranged within the 6,300-sq.-ft. prize home offered as one of several choices to the winner of the BC Children's Hospital Lottery this year. Interior designer Debbie Heale was inspired by the traditional architecture of the High Point Estates home and the rolling countryside outside the window.

"I love the feel of the front living room. It is inviting and warm," describes Heale, who applied symmetry to polish to this space. "The monochromatic color scheme in combination with the textures and the black in this room comes off as both comfortable and current."

This living room has a time-honored arrangement: a charcoal coloured sofa with fine white flecks paired with two matching chairs in a handsome "glen check" suiting fabric, placed at 90 degrees, with traditional black side tables and matching lamps for each. Natural elements are echoed in the rug pattern and lamps as well as accessorizing with ostrich eggs, birds and wooden plates. Luxurious velvet drapes complete the room with a sense of panache and sophistication.



Toss trends to the wind and choose natural tactile materials over that which are shiny or precious is the strategy of interior designer Naudia Mache who carefully chose all of the major furniture pieces and art for BLANC MODERN's forward-thinking showhome in Kitsilano.

"I love the feel of this living room. The style is relaxed modern. It is very clean and minimal yet still exudes warmth," says Mache.

High-end pieces were married with affordable decor items and a round coffee table intentionally added to create a free-flowing atmosphere that encourages friends to linger as they lounge back in the deep-seated sofa.



**BLANC MODERN**  
 by The Airey Group  
 1891 West 2nd, Vancouver

**"THE LIVING ROOM SPACE IS SO FORWARD THINKING. IT'S EASY, MODERN AND RELAXING. NOT TRENDY."**

Naudia Mache, interior designer

**SOFA:** Living Space (Living Divani Neowall)

**SIDE TABLE:** Handcrafted by local designer Tanja Hinder

**ART:** Monte Clark

**CHANDELIER:**  
 IKEA, copy of famous Noguchi light fixture

**DESIGNER ADVICE:**  
 Buy the very best sofa you can afford. If you put a chunk of wood in front of a great sofa it still works.



Having a large open space in your home – a Great Room, which functions as several rooms at once is a wonderful luxury, but for some can prove to be a decorating challenge. With a combination of natural and white wood furniture and pops of turquoise, interior designer Kim Anderson creates a living room that integrates harmoniously with the kitchen at The Heights, a new townhome development in South Surrey.

She defines the space with large statement lighting, a gorgeous area rug, wall shelving, over-sized accessories and, of course, a fabulous chaise lounge.

"Because I envisioned it as a family space, I made sure it was a space where people could put their feet up and really relax," says Anderson.

From modern and bold to traditional and cosy, how you decorate your living room says a lot about who you are. By giving your room a focus, creating a conversation area, supersizing your accessories, adding symmetry and giving attention to lighting, custom art, and the best sofa you can afford, you're well on your way to turning living room dilemmas into a living room you'll truly love to live in.

**THE HEIGHTS**  
 by Lakewood Management  
 2845 - 156th St., South Surrey

**"I WOULD CALL IT ECO-CHIC. IT IS A RELAXED, MODERN STYLE WITH SOME WOOD ELEMENTS TO GROUND THE SPACE AND LOTS OF TURQUOISE ACCENTS TO GIVE IT PERSONALITY."**

Kim Anderson, Home Reworks Design

**WALL COLOUR:**  
 Martha Stewart, "white picket fence"

**SOFA:**  
 Urban Barn

**COFFEE TABLE:**  
 Brian Gluckstein for Home Outfitters

**SIDE TABLES:**  
 Roost

**LIGHTING:**  
 Urban Barn, Design Lighting

**ACCENT CHAIRS:**  
 Style in Form

**DESIGN SUGGESTION:**  
 Decide on the coffee table after you've selected the sofa and chairs.