

INVITING DESIGN

Eagle and whale partition screens with Andy Everson

Designer Sabina Hill collaborates with leading First Nations artists

by Elaine Morrison
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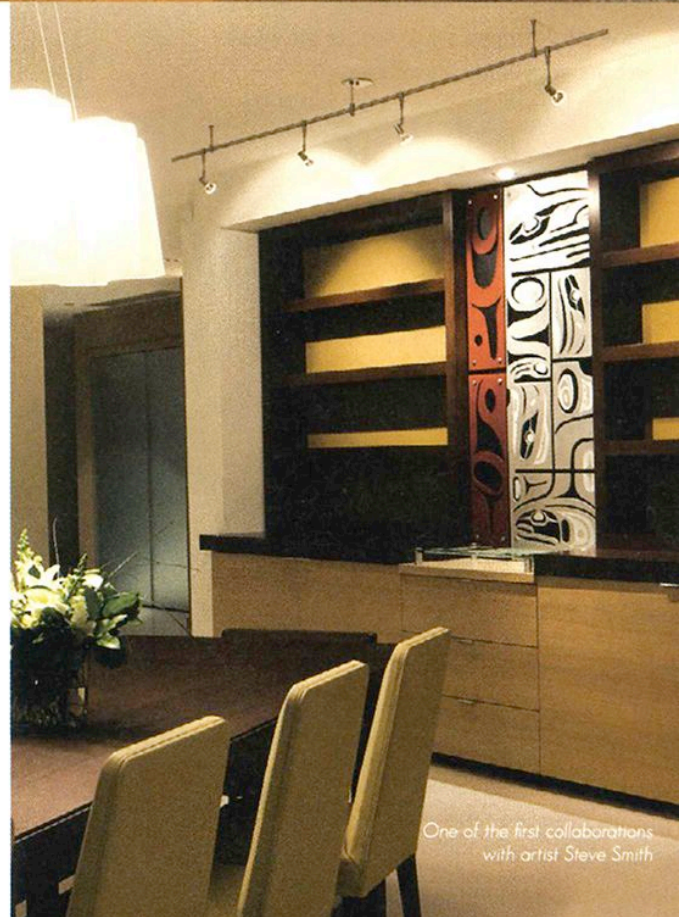
If there ever were a marriage made in heaven, the one B.C. design professional Sabina Hill has forged with Canadian First Nations artists would indeed hold promise of a golden anniversary.

And it's likely that marriage would be highly functional, a hallmark of the Vancouver-born Hill's designs.

"I can bring my training and background to any scale project," Hill said. "I do this by collaborating with the artist who is designing the motifs to be integrated into my work, and by drawing on my expertise in how to best install a piece, in selecting materials and deciding on the proportions that best suit the project."

She's an artist in her own right as well, it's just that in her world, art is interior design. In fact, the Vancouver-based designer's career has evolved to become one of the nation's most prestigious mergings of art and design.

Among her credentials is a bachelor of architecture with }



One of the first collaborations with artist Steve Smith

[honours from the University of British Columbia graduating the top student of her class, earning her the American Institute of Architects' Henry Adams Medal and Certificate.

She's complemented that education with a bachelor of environmental studies from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Architecture and studies at Vancouver Community College, Vancouver Vocational Institute and the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.

In her early years as an architect, the 47-year-old approached her furniture designs with both beauty and functionality in mind. As her work evolved, so did her desire to incorporate Northwest coastal influences.

"My vision was to create something that was very unique to the West Coast," Hill said.

"I wanted it to be very iconic...and I believe its sensibility is very West Coast."

That desire led her to extend invitations to some of Canada's leading First Nations artists such as Andy Everson, whose fresh, clean designs combine beautifully with Hill's contemporary aesthetic.

Her works include a multitude of home interiors, and commercial projects as well as private commissions. Hill's impressive portfolio features wall art, and functional art such as tables, cabinets, wall partitions and more.

Her original custom furniture and art are handcrafted from solid woods, local and imported, which are enhanced with precision cut metal and glass.

This spring, Hill unveiled her Dwell Collection of highly sculptural tables, with motifs cut into thick walnut with ebonized inlays and organic-shaped glass tops.

Other works include the New Spirit Collection, launched in 2007, and her Formlines Collection, which featured limited and open edition pieces.

Hill has also gained her share of recognition in the commercial world. She's)



Sabina Hill with the ovoid coffee and side tables in collaboration with artist Andy Everson.



Bear wall panel with Andy Everson

[Sabina Hill continued

recently completed four large scale, mixed media art pieces for the new Sheraton Hotel in Langford on Vancouver Island, where she's also put her stamp on numerous other projects.

On the eastern side of the country, they're also wanting to get closer to Hill's work. Her Prow coffee table—with beaver motif by Tlingit artist Mark Preston—has been requested for showing at an exhibit, Force of Nature: Artistic Expressions of Canadian Flora and Fauna, which opens in September at the University of Toronto Art Centre.

As for the finished product, Hill can sum up her emotions, as well as her clients', in a single word.

"Happy."

For more, visit www.sabinahill.com ⓘ