

WIN AN AWARD FOR YOUR ECO-FRIENDLY DESIGN P33

GARDEN DESIGN

THE WORLD'S MOST
INSPIRING
GARDENS

From Italian Vistas
to Indian Enchantment



gardendesign.com

JAN/FEB 2010 U.S.\$5.99





When in VANCOUVER

In an idyllic setting bounded by snow-capped mountains and a mighty sea, Vancouver, British Columbia, has made a plea to sustainability. Green technologies, abundant public spaces and lush gardens are paving the way to a good life. This February, Vancouver — often cited as the most livable city on the planet — takes center stage as the world gathers for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. — DAVE DEMERS

ROOFTOP DENIZENS Vancouver's dedication to sustainability is epitomized by its harborfront **Convention Centre** with its six-acre green roof — Canada's largest (vancouverconventioncentre.com). This titan of glass and native wood is topped with more than 400,000 indigenous plants. Minute *Brodiaea*, blue camas and beach strawberry turn the heart of this city of glass into a haven for birds, insects and four hives of bees. Humans, however, may look only from afar. The green roof slopes low offering a great view from the plaza and the restaurant attached to the Centre's west side. For a full-immersion rooftop experience, head to **Inform Interiors** in historic Gastown, where the likes of Atelier Vierkant planters and Heller's lipstick chair are showcased on the stark roof (informinteriors.com).

BETWEEN MOUNTAINS & WATER Grab your hiking boots and take a quick field trip over the bridge to leafy North Vancouver to first visit the studio of artist (and one-time landscape designer) **Brent Comber** (by appointment: 604-980-4467; brentcomber.com) who extracts modern urban forms out of ancient sources. His benches made of local cedar

Clockwise from left: Artist and former landscape designer Brent Comber's garden benches are made from local cedar. The Convention Centre's green roof is the largest in Canada and contains more than 400,000 plants. The rooftop of Inform Interiors in Gastown is a must for garden décor aficionados.

are highly elegant additions to outdoor spaces. Then, drive some 21 kilometers (13 miles) to **Lighthouse Park** in West Vancouver to see rare plants and fragile remnants of old-growth forest on a short hike spiced up with steep cliffs and outstanding views (vancouvertrails.com).

INTO THE WOODS Don't miss the lush native vegetation and gardens on the campus of the University of British Columbia (attractions.ubc.ca). Visit the Cornelia Hahn Oberlander landscape at the Arthur Erickson-designed **Museum of Anthropology**. In this minimalistic setting overlooking the Strait of Georgia, loose gravel beds meander around mounds of grasses and other ethno-botanically important plants. Weathered totem poles add drama to this grand setting. **The David C. Lam Asian Garden** at the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research, is a tremendous collection of temperate Asian plants. See impressive dove trees (*Davidia involucreata*) and broad-leaved rhododendrons (e.g., *Rhododendron sinogrande*) along a serpentine network of trails. Stop by Shop in the Garden to buy *The Jade Garden*, an insightful book co-written by three of the UBC Botanical Garden's curators. Nearby is **Southlands Nursery**, run by garden guru Thomas Hobbs. This jewel-box boutique retail nursery is Vancouver's most respected garden trend maker (6550 Balaclava Street, Vancouver, B.C.; 604-261-6411).