

WEDNESDAY, 16/11/22

Monocle Minute On Design



Design for life

This week we stop into a restored home by **Canadian architect Bob Lewis** (*pictured*), visit a Zürich **exhibition on timber architecture** and talk with **German artist Thomas Demand** about the importance of architectural follies. Plus: we get cosy in a smart, **modular sofa from the 1970s** and wrap up in a blanket by **Denmark's Rawaii**. First, Nic Monisse on the design agenda for architects in 2023.



03/07

THE PROJECT / RANCHER HOUSE, CANADA

Home comforts

Tucked out of sight, in a densely wooded corner of suburban North Vancouver, sits the newly restored Rancher House – a fine, single-storey family home built in 1958 by architect Bob Lewis. The designer, whose homes were once prevalent across Vancouver, was one of British Columbia's most significant mid-century architects, pioneering the West Coast Modern style that defined residential design in the city after the Second World War.

Its significance is not lost on the current owners, Diana Gehriger, a former manager of television and film actors in Los Angeles, and her husband, architect Daniel Hawreluk, who have undertaken a painstaking, decade-long restoration of one of the few remaining examples of Lewis's work. "Every handle, every material choice was chosen as a response to the personality we felt from the house and its relationship with nature," says Gehriger. "This has been a passion project that has resulted in something that feels like a retreat in the city."

The restoration has retained several of the five-bedroom home's most notable features: a family room encased in walnut panelling and fitted with Cado shelving, as well as the original old-growth fir beams. It's a project that has breathed fresh life into the home and one that is set to be enjoyed by new owners, after Gehriger and Hawreluk recently listed the house through specialist mid-century estate agents West Coast Modern. For the lucky buyer, it presents the opportunity to own the work of an influential architect whose residential designs once defined this corner of the Pacific Northwest. westcoastmodern.ca