

# SUNDAY HOMES

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HARDIP JOHAL (EDITOR) • 604-605-2782 • hjohal@theprovince.com | SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009

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## Stunning renos designed to inspire

**PARADE OF RENOVATED HOMES:** 17 homeowners show off work of expert builders

### The facts

**What:** Parade of Renovated Homes, featuring 17 professionally-renovated homes.

**Where:** Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley

**Open:** Today, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10 (Pay at the first house you visit and you'll receive a passport to tour all 17 homes.) Free for children 17 and under.

**More info, including descriptions of homes on display at, at [www.gvhba.org](http://www.gvhba.org)**

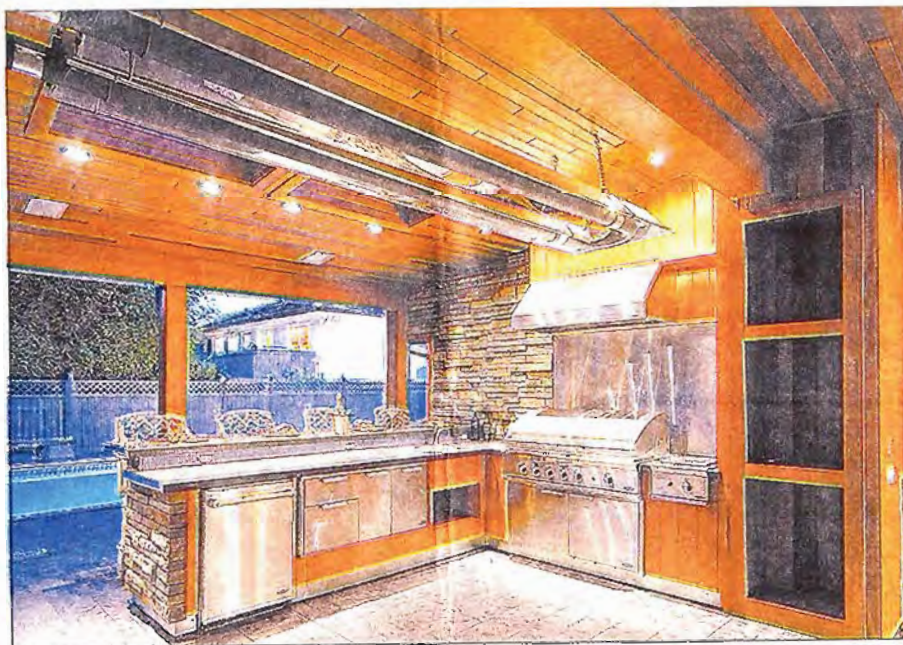
BY LENA SIN  
STAFF REPORTER

For all those home-interior voyeurs who are forever peering into newly renovated homes, here's your chance to finally walk right in.

Seventeen homeowners in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley are opening their doors to the public as part of the Parade of Renovated Homes today. The projects on display range from a \$70,000 kitchen renovation in North Vancouver to a \$700,000 transformation of a 1950s New Westminster ranch-style home into a modern masterpiece. The event, in its 16th year, is organized by the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association. "The main reason we want to put this on is to promote professionalism," says Peter Simpson, CEO of the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association. "Our message to consumers is don't go to a fly-by-the-night builder. You won't get the same results."

The parade is also a great resource for new ideas, especially with the experts on site to answer questions. With a record number of homes on display, Simpson recommends prioritizing a list before heading out. Descriptions are available online at [www.gvhba.org](http://www.gvhba.org).

Following are three that caught our attention:



The outdoor kitchen features concrete counters and and natural stained cedar ceilings.



The chill and grill outdoor kitchen, designed for year-round entertaining thanks to heaters and an outdoor fireplace, was created in a formerly bare yard (left).



### Chill out and grill!

861 Kelvin St., Coquitlam

This award-winning outdoor kitchen is all about luxurious al fresco dining.

The design brief for the house, formerly the home of a venture capitalist, was simple: Create an outdoor kitchen and pool area for entertaining clients, but keep it warm and welcoming for extended family as well.

Luckily for Todd Senft, owner of reVISION Custom Home Renovations, he had a blank slate to work with.

The yard featured nothing but a barbecue. "And a 10-by-10 garden shed," says Senft.

In keeping with a West Coast theme, the "chill and grill" outdoor kitchen features concrete counters, ledgestones and natural-stained cedar ceilings. The space is outfitted with heaters and an outdoor fireplace so it can be used all year round. There's also an eight-person hot tub for a pre-barbecue soak and a Bose surround-sound speaker system hidden in the kitchen area.

"No expense was spared," says Senft of the \$150,000 outdoor kitchen project.

Senft, who has been in business for 12 years, says he's been getting many more requests for outdoor kitchens since this one has won so many accolades, including the 2007 SAM Award in the home-renovation category and a 2007 Georgie nomination.

The owner himself, however, has since moved on — but is having second thoughts.

"He's regretting selling the home with all this sunny weather we're getting," says Senft.

■ For more information, visit [www.revision-renovations.com](http://www.revision-renovations.com)

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