



**OPPOSITE** The living area of this escape features interesting architectural elements like shiplap-clad walls, exposed ceiling beams and salvaged windows and doors (some about 100 years old).

DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE, Formwerks, formwerks.ca; CONTRACT-ING, Ronse Massey Developments; White Dove OC-17 WALL PAINT (throughout), Benjamin Moore; Ivoire SW 6127 DOOR & WINDOW PAINT (yellow, throughout), Jasper Stone SW 9133 DOOR & WINDOW PAINT (teal throughout) Sherwin-Williams: SECTIONAL. CF Interiors: COFFEE TABLE, Wayfair.ca; RUG (used as throw), Crate and Barrel.

LEFT In the dining area, slipcovered chairs and a casual tablecloth make for stressfree meals because spills can be easily cleaned up. "We wanted this place to feel comfortable for anyone who visits," says interior designer Jack Brown. "We didn't want anything to feel too precious."

DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS, Once A Tree Furniture.

## "Low-pulse."

There couldn't be a better way to describe this relaxed boat-access cottage in the spectacular setting of Keats Island in B.C.

And the person who coined the term is homeowner and architect Jim Bussey, whose playful approach and creative point of view were key to building such a charming and convivial space. "There's a very low-pulse atmosphere here," reiterates Jim, owner and president of the Vancouver architectural firm Formwerks, who purchased the heavily treed empty lot four years ago. "I wanted to create something that was friendly, homey, inviting and very relaxing. But I didn't want to have a place that was schlumpy or dumpy. I wanted something classic and chic yet extremely comfortable."

When working with clients, the Formwerks team prides itself on truly listening to the homeowners' wants and needs. So when it came to designing Jim's own  $\rightarrow$ 









**ABOVE** Layering natural textural elements, such as the sisal rug, wicker chair, rag rug (on the sofa) and linen toss cushions, adds depth and coziness to the living area.

ABOVE, RIGHT Salvaged leaded glass windows used as cabinet fronts lend the kitchen distinctive interest and old-time character. "My contractor said, 'I've got these old windows lying around, if you want to use them for your cabinets," explains

Jim. "They happened to be this buttery yellowy colour and I kept them that way to offset the stark white and the teal."

RIGHT Simple wall hooks by the deck door offer a convenient spot to hang bags and jackets. They also echo the carefree vibe of this cottage, where everything is unfussy and comfortable.











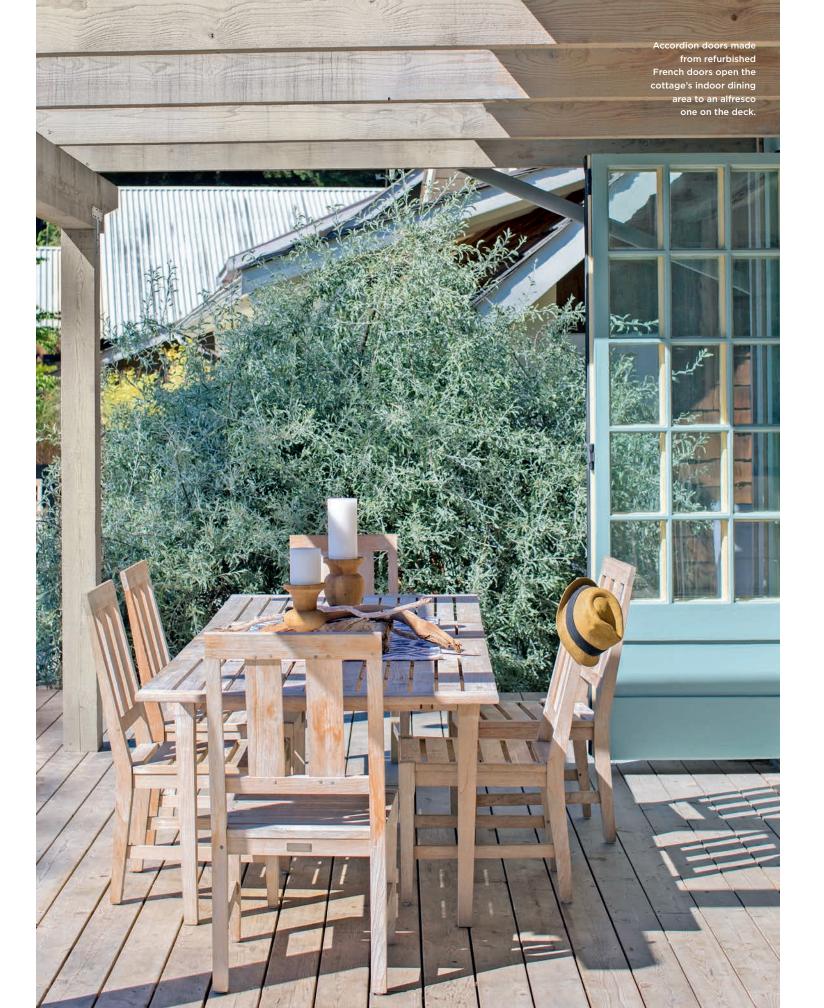
LEFT The guest bathroom's vanity has the same beadboard door fronts as the lower kitchen cabinets, offering continuity. The turquoise window frames achieve the same effect.

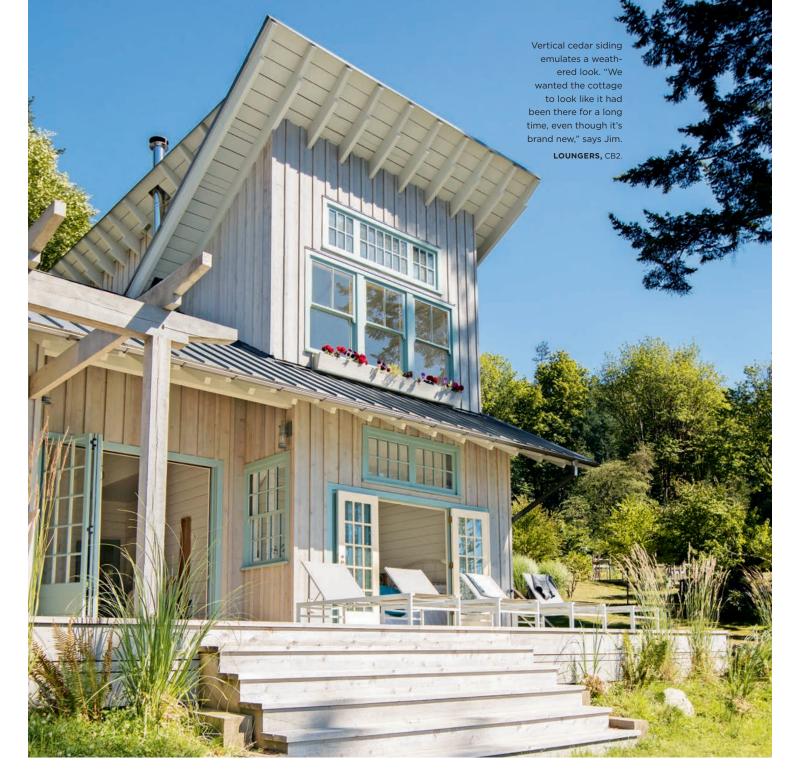
ABOVE A mid-centurystyle desk and a rustic stool are paired with a white-painted wroughtiron bed in the master bedroom, creating an eclectic mix. The desk provides a punch of blue, "so the room is not just a big white box, and it's cohesive with the rest of the house," says Jim.

## ABOVE, LEFT & OPPO-SITE The clothes stor-

age in the master bedroom exemplifies Jim's keep-it-simple attitude. "We really only need a few things when we're here - a couple of nice outfits, bathing suits and old sweaters and jeans," he says. "So we didn't want a full walk-in closet." Vintage kantha quilts add pops of colour.







director of interior design. "We wanted a rustic cabin feel," says Jack, "with nothing too polished or city-like."

Achieving that rustic-chic balance meant combining an uncomplicated open floor plan, clean lines and a minimalistic sensibility with character-filled elements like shiplap wall panelling, exposed ceiling beams, wide-plank hardwood floors and salvaged windows and doors. "I was renovating a client's 100year-old house in Vancouver and all these doors and windows were coming out. So I thought I'd repurpose them and refresh their existing offbeat colours - buttery yellow and turquoise,"

Working with Jim to inject character was Jack Brown, Formwerks's says Jim. (Serendipidously, Jim's contractor also offered a set of old leaded glass windows in the same buttery hue that were used for the kitchen cabinetry.)

> The bright colour scheme keeps things fresh and relaxed, while layers of soft elements and textiles add to the coziness. An eclectic mix of accents – a comfy sectional from a past project, artwork found at flea markets and colourful quilts picked up while on vacation – lends a laid-back vibe. But, perhaps most importantly, those elements reflect Jim and his family, who are interesting, relaxed and well-travelled. "It was really important to capture who they are," says Jack. Mission accomplished.