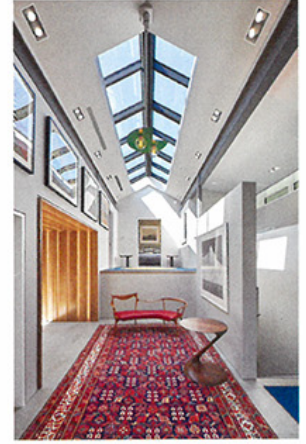
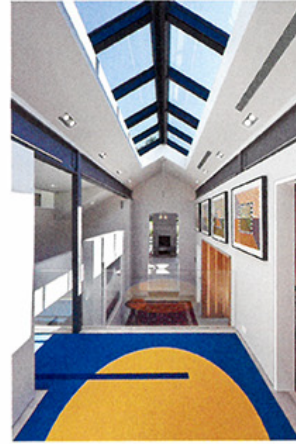


DESIGN + DECOR



DAVID SPENCE
WINDIGODESIGN.COM





With roots on the eastern coastline deeply ingrained since the bicentennial year of 1976, Windigo Architecture has made an indelible impact in the areas it faithfully serves. The firm has a strong foothold in high-end residential, commercial and institutional architecture, taking great care to treat each project with a personal touch. Indeed, its philosophy is reminiscent of the words of English author/poet/artist John Ruskin: "Fine art is that in which the hand, the head and the heart of man go together."

"Successful design satisfies the need but also moves the spirit. Architecture has to solve the problem, but in a way that moves the spirit," says David Spence who has been with the company since 1998 and took over in 2005 after the original owner retired. "A lot of technological advances solve a lot of issues, but they don't always move the spirit. We have to adapt to that technology, but also make it a part of the design—not as a plug-in."

David and his team keep themselves updated beyond the necessary prerequisites through continuing education and "Lunch and Learn" meetings with vendors (which have become Zoom presentations during the pandemic). The team remains steadfastly connected to social media such as Pinterest and Instagram, sharing information with past and present clients, and also finds magazine articles to be a valuable resource. Education is a constant in their rapidly chang-

ing industry, says David. "It's interesting," he notes. "Years ago, we didn't have the resources to see what was out in the world. Now, it's almost like too much information, but it's amazing. Everything we saw back then was through books; now we're seeing some really cool architecture throughout the world that, in the past, we'd only see if we went there."

As the building industry moves into the future and grapples with a post-COVID-19 world, David sees more home and office integration creating a better life/work balance. He would also like to see an environmentally conscious society with less petroleum-based usage and waste, which, he says, "are not good to have in the home or the landfill. Soy- or plant-based plastics are better. They're out there, but they're just hard to find. There are enough people out there who would prefer not to have petroleum-based products."

Architect

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