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THEN



Sky Bungalow The show home that inspired western living (and *Western Living*) still flies at 50.

The talk of the town when it went up on a paved lot in Vancouver, Fred Hollingsworth's Sky Bungalow was profiled in the July 1957 *Western Homes and Living*.

In architecture and interior design as in life, timing is everything. By the end of the 1940s, after two decades of unbroken austerity and war, the time was right to demonstrate a new look and sensibility for domestic design. When it opened in 1950, the Sky Bungalow, a temporary show home set up on a downtown Vancouver parking lot, featured the latest in modern furniture and "labour-saving domestic appliances" to a public hungry for change. An astounding one-tenth of the city's population toured the building, co-sponsored by the Hudson's Bay Company and the developer of the Capilano Highlands neighbourhood, each paying 10 cents for the privilege. Those who walked through saw its "kitchen, dining and living areas only *informally* separated," as a breathless account of the period described it. The details were just as revolutionary: "Exterior wood finishes were carried inside the house as well, [exploiting] the decorative possibilities of construction lumber." There was even an abstract Lawren Harris canvas on one wall.

Fifty years later, the architect who designed the Sky Bungalow continues to thrive even as does his creation, which was barged across Burrard Inlet and then trucked to a permanent site in North Vancouver by the Nickoloric family in 1950. At 83, Hollingsworth still pursues his

two passions, architecture and building indoor model airplanes, from a stunning house of his own design just blocks away from the ground-breaking bungalow.

With its horizontal cedar siding, cantilevered deck and extended eaves, the Sky Bungalow is Fred Hollingsworth's homage to his hero, Prairie School genius Frank Lloyd Wright, and more specifically to the work of Wright's architect son, Lloyd. Hollingsworth modified some of its original features when the house moved to the North Shore. The forward-thinking Nickolorics commissioned him to design a low, built-in "hi-fi and TV cabinet," then continued furnishing the interior with high Modernist flair: Danish and Eames chairs; hanging lights by George Nelson; abstracted shoji screens.

It's no coincidence that within a few years of the Sky Bungalow's debut, Ron Thom, Arthur Erickson and others were building even more radically Modern designs, the first private gallery in western Canada dedicated solely to Modern art, the New Design Gallery, had been founded, and a new magazine had been launched featuring contemporary architecture and interior design. It was *Western Homes and Living*, the direct predecessor of this magazine.—Trevor Boddy

EXTERIOR: GRAHAM WARRINGTON | INTERIOR: SELWYN PULLAN