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THE RADIUS' VICTORIA, BC

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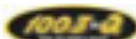
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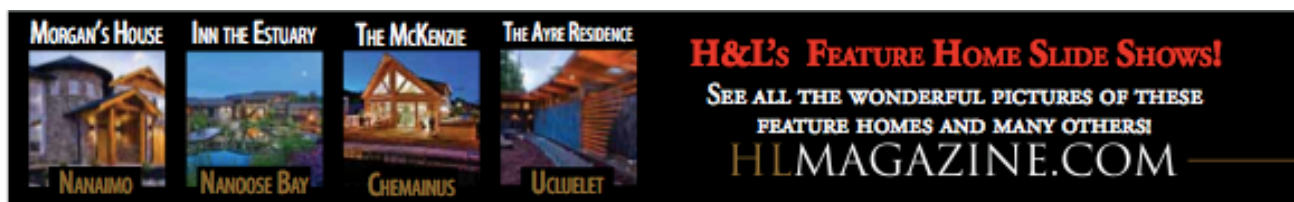
H&L'S  
**FEATURE** *Home*  
THE RADIUS *By Goody Niosi*



A photograph of a modern, multi-story house at dusk. The house features a prominent wooden exterior on the left and a large glass facade on the right. The interior lights are on, creating a warm glow that is visible through the windows. The sky is a deep blue, and the ocean is visible in the background. The foreground shows a paved patio area with some potted plants.

**Mike Miller** is no stranger to building award-winning homes. He has amassed local, provincial and national recognition for his bold designs and quality construction. When he built his own home on Victoria's crescent shaped Gonzales Beach, he broke the mold. His constraints were simple: city bylaws and the size of the land.

Photo: Vince Klassen | [klassenbc.ca](http://klassenbc.ca)



Other than that he let his imagination run free. The result is a 7,500 square foot home that in 2007 won five Gold and two Silver CARE awards from the Canadian Home Builders Association on Vancouver Island, as well as three Gold and a Silver Georgie provincial award.

Mike Miller, president of Abstract Developments, describes his home as a personal interpretation of a Malibu West Coast beachfront cottage with a Victoria spin. Those who work with Mike say that he pushes boundaries with every home he builds. One of his unique talents is being able to see a home complete in his mind's eye before a shovel ever hits the dirt. When the empty lot on the oceanfront at Gonzales Beach went on the market, it was overgrown and covered in brambles – a far cry from the transformation wielded much later by Duane Ensing Landscape Design. Most people might have passed it by, but not Mike. He showed it to Will Peereboom of Victoria Design Group and together they sketched a home concept on the back of napkin. “For the most part, that’s what ended up being built,” Mike recalls.

*“A personal interpretation of a Malibu West Coast beachfront cottage with a Victoria spin.”*



Photos: Vince Klassen [klassen.bc.ca](http://klassen.bc.ca)

Another long-time colleague, Robyn Meredith Bryson of Robin Bryson Design Associates also collaborated on the creation of one of Abstract Developments’ most spectacular contemporary homes. The name, Radius, stems from the way the home is built with four significant engineered fir beams that hold up the roof structure radiating from the centre point of the home out to the water. Echoing the curves of the home are all the circular details: curved stairs in the circular foyer, curved interior doors, curved kitchen cabinets and even curved concrete beams.



The focal point of the home is the view, directly across Juan de Fuca Strait to the Olympic Mountains in Washington State. That view holds centre stage from almost every room in the home and is given full play through immense engineered, laminated curved glass Loewen windows seemingly void of support. Custom over-height fir doors fold back into the wall offering full integration of indoor and outdoor spaces. Unique features of the home? In a home built of cedar, glass, aluminum, copper and concrete, it's more to the point to question what *isn't* unique. However, certain details demand special attention: low voltage and dimmable lighting with multi-zoned controls; CAT5 networking; built-in intercom; multi-zoned programmable stereo, alarm and video system all by Simply Automated, Victoria's experts in home automation. The kitchen by Swiftsure Woodworkers is absolutely outstanding and comes complete with fully-integrated Wolf double oven, two Bosch dishwashers, Sub Zero fridge and freezer drawers and Miele cappuccino machine. Appliances were supplied by Coast Wholesale Appliances, Western Canada's preeminent supplier to builders, designers and homeowners.

The Radius isn't the first Abstract Developments home Swiftsure Woodworkers has collaborated on. Swiftsure president Peter McCutcheon explains, "We have a reputation for tackling jobs that most companies shy away from. We take pride in specializing in things that are out of the box. Even when we do multi-family kitchens, they're all one-offs and that goes for both the design and the manufacturing."





Photos: Vince Klassen [klassen.bc.ca](http://klassen.bc.ca)







**The master bedroom** overlooking Gonzales Bay with ultra quiet electronically-controlled window treatments, by Simply Automated

The theatre room by Simply Automated is outstanding! Simply Automated is Victoria's premier designer and installer of custom home theatres. Company owner Larry Druet points out that the theatre at The Radius works because it was designed from the ground up.

The Radius presented some unique challenges, particularly in the kitchen where the cabinets had to be curved. "Wood doesn't come curved, so it has to be manufactured," says McCutcheon. The curved surfaces were created from a heavy figure Makore, a dense, fine-textured hardwood from West Africa used in fine furniture, boat building and wood carving. Responsibility for the unique beauty of the home's cabinetry belongs to a team of people that was spearheaded by interior designer Robyn Bryson and Mike Miller.

"My hat is off to Mike," McCutcheon says. "From the beginning he has allowed professionals to get into the mix and has allowed innovative ideas to be presented and produced."

Aaron Roworth, general manager of The Finishing Store in Victoria also has high praise for Mike Miller's work, noting that in the years he has worked with Mike on various homes, he has often sourced materials not immediately available in the showroom. That is just one of the services provided by The Finishing Store, Aaron says. "One of the fun parts of my job is finding these unique items. We are a specialty store that focuses on wood. If you're needing hardwood in your home, you should hire a hardwood store – and we're the hardwood store."

The uniqueness of The Radius meant sourcing some very top quality and unique fixtures. But McLaren Lighting is in the business of providing unique lighting solutions. With a gorgeous showroom and catalogues from over 64 manufacturers, a quality conscious client like Mike Miller can find what he wants.

For many visitors to The Radius, the greatest attraction is the garage. The garage? Oh yes. Mike wanted room for his collector cars but he didn't want to detract from the site. What he created is a 40x45 ft. underground garage with an elevator to bring vehicles up to street level.

The master bedroom is a retreat that appears to almost float above the water of the bay below. No walls – the custom designed bed stands in the middle of the room facing that glorious view. When needed, electronically controlled window shades, from Simply Automated quietly drop to shade the room from sunlight.

To create a home like The Radius requires a dedicated team of professionals and Mike says he's so grateful to be working with some of the best suppliers and to have such a superb team of carpenters, headed by Pete Robillard.

Three years after completing his dream home, Mike Miller says, "If I were to be asked 'what would I change?' The answer is 'nothing.'"

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Photo: Vince Kassen Kassen/bcca

*Three years after completing his dream home  
Mike Miller says, "If I were to be asked 'what would I change?'  
The answer 'is nothing.'"*



# The Radius - Resource Directory

**CUSTOM CABINETRY:** Swiftsure Woodworkers Ltd.  
250-381-3574 [swiftsurewoodworkers.com](http://swiftsurewoodworkers.com)

**APPLIANCES:** Coast Wholesale Appliances  
250-475-0277 [coastappliances.com](http://coastappliances.com)

**LIGHTING:** McLaren Lighting  
250-475-2561 [mclarenlighting.com](http://mclarenlighting.com)

**FINISHING MATERIALS:** The Finishing Store  
250-384-3003 [finishingstore.com](http://finishingstore.com)

**HOMETHEATRE & ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED WINDOW TREATMENTS:** Simply Automated  
250-479-7877 [simplyautomated.com](http://simplyautomated.com)

**PLUMBING FIXTURES:** Cantu Bathrooms  
250-382-1252 [cantuhardware.com](http://cantuhardware.com)

**LUMBER AND BEAMS:** Slegg Lumber  
250-478-5509 [slegglumber.com](http://slegglumber.com)

**CARPET:** Fuzzy Wuzzy Carpets  
250-380-9000

**IRRIGATION:** College Lawn Sprinklers  
250-721-5296

**LANDSCAPING:** Duane Ensing Landscape Design  
250-881-0706 [landscapesolutions.bc.ca](http://landscapesolutions.bc.ca)

**WINDOWS:** Loewen Windows  
250-544-1553 [loewen.com](http://loewen.com)

**ROCK WALL:** Strongback Contracting  
250-386-7399 [strongback.ca](http://strongback.ca)

**ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN:** Victoria Design Group Ltd.  
250-382-7374 [victoriadesigngroup.ca](http://victoriadesigngroup.ca)

**PLUMBING AND GAS:** Specialized Plumbing and Gas Works Ltd.  
250-883-5613

**INTERIOR DESIGN:** Robyn Bryson Design Associates  
250-480-1884 [robynryson.com](http://robynryson.com)

**GARAGE DOOR:** Tedford Overhead Doors & Gates  
250-727-6811 [tedforddoors.com](http://tedforddoors.com)

**CONCRETE SUPPLIES:** Butler Brothers  
250-652-4484 [butlerbros.bc.ca](http://butlerbros.bc.ca)

**CONCRETE SEALING:** Rada Resurfacing  
250-391-9919 [radaresurfacing.com](http://radaresurfacing.com)

**CONCRETE FINISHING:** Mallory's Concrete  
250-642-6955

**GAS FIREPLACES:** Pacific Energy  
250-544-6769 [pacificenergy.net](http://pacificenergy.net)

**GLASS:** Island View Glass Ltd.  
250-652-6374

**STEEL RAILINGS, POSTS AND CURVED STAIRS:** Harjim Industrial Services  
250-381-5515

**GLASS RAILINGS:** Escalabor Glass & Aluminum  
250-652-3833

**STRUCTURAL STEEL:** VI Steel Inc.  
250-475-3883

**ROOFING:** Mark Haley Roofing  
250-721-5345

**PAINTING:** T&T Painting  
250-642-1774

**TILE INSTALLATION:** Team Campbell  
250-896-5814

**ELECTRICIAN:** Al Slater of Slater Electric  
250-883-0056

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# Radius

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