



Image: Martin Knowles Photo/Media

THE SPECIAL 'VANCOUVER SPECIAL'

What's to be done with Vancouver's ugly-duckling Specials? Keep them, alter them, even – gosh! – restore them because, love 'em or hate 'em, they're the city's biggest affordable housing resource. The Vancouver Special evolved in the 1960s from the hipped-roof, stucco builders' cottages of East Vancouver. Those earlier houses from the 1940s and '50s typically had high basements and a main floor with two bedrooms plus living and kitchen spaces. Builders reckoned it made more sense to enter a house by going down a couple of steps rather than climbing a set of expensive front stairs (which no longer went to a porch anyway), and put the staircase inside the house. Signature elements of the evolving Special included a very low-pitched gable roof and sliding glass doors that opened from the living room onto a shallow balcony with an aluminum railing. The Specials became controversial when builders exploited a loophole in the bylaw (amended in 1974) and created sprawling, 3,000 square-foot houses on narrow lots where an 1,800 square-foot house was the intended maximum. Regardless, they were hugely popular, as the boxy design made them easy to convert into duplexes and adapt to complex family arrangements. The simple, undecorated style of the smaller Specials – originally to reduce costs – hinted at a kind of "poor man's Modernism" that appeals to many design-oriented people in the contemporary city. Builders moved on to a neo-traditional style (in its large form known as "the monster house") in the late 1980s.

adapted from Vanishing Vancouver: The Last 25 Years, by Michael Kluckner

VANCOUVER SPECIAL HOUSE TOUR

What is so special about the Vancouver Special? It is probably the most common residential house style in Vancouver and possibly the only one unique to our city. Love them or hate them, Specials represent an important aspect of our architectural heritage.

Tour inside five different and uniquely renovated Vancouver Specials! This one-day, self-guided tour is an opportunity to see inside these privately owned, lovingly updated Specials.

Saturday September 22, 1pm - 5pm,

\$30 + tax.

To purchase tickets for the VHF's Vancouver Special House Tour visit:

www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org

or call 604 264 9642

See inside laneway homes of modern design & heritage character.

Laneway House Tour

Laneway houses are stirring up neighbourhood debate. Are they a blight on our neighbourhoods or are they a creative solution to densification and a shortage of rental housing? The answer to the debate may lie in the design of the laneway house.

The VHF is once again opening a selection of laneway houses built behind existing houses so that you can check them out for yourself.



Saturday October 20, 1pm - 5pm,

\$30 + tax.

To purchase tickets for the VHF's Laneway House Tour visit:

www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org

or call 604 264 9642

MUSIC IN HERITAGE HOMES

Thursdays, 1-4pm, September 13th & 27th, October 11th & 25th



The VHF, in association with the Borealis String Quartet, presents a new concert series held over four afternoons in four different heritage houses, each followed by a high tea reception. The dynamic and world-class Borealis String Quartet

will interpret the music to suit the heritage houses where they'll be playing - these are sure to be special and unique performances!

We're happy to offer 3 ticket options. You may purchase a Series Pass for all 4 concerts for \$530 (includes tax) with a \$250 charitable tax receipt, any 2 concerts for \$285.60 (includes tax) with a \$140 charitable tax receipt, or any 1 concert for \$146.60 (includes tax) with an \$85 tax receipt.

Get your tickets (or ticket!) now!

VHF'S NEW LOOK!

You might have noticed that the Vancouver Heritage Foundation has a new look! After a re-branding process working with professionals and volunteers, we're happy to present to you our new logo with a new website to follow shortly!



VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

We are very excited about the new logo, while keeping in mind that it is only one component of the overall branding process. We think that the logo will fit nicely into the big-picture future for the VHF. The re-branding process will not dramatically alter our core business - we'll keep on doing what we're known and respected for, but with a fresh outlook that we hope our dedicated followers will appreciate and new followers will admire.

VHF's Evening Lecture Series

Enjoy evening talks that explore Vancouver's history!

PUBLIC TRANSIT: SHAPING VANCOUVER'S URBAN FORM AND SOCIAL CHARACTER FOR 100 YEARS

September 25th / with author & historian Henry Ewert

VANCOUVER'S ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY: 1886 TO TODAY

October 2nd / with Heritage Consultant Donald Luxton

CATALOG SHOPPING FOR HOMES: EARLY VANCOUVER HOUSES

October 30th / with author and historian John Atkin

Location: University Women's Club at Hycroft, 1489

McRae Avenue, Shaughnessy

Tuesday evenings / 7.15-8:30pm / \$12

Register at www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org

Attend all 3 lectures and earn a general elective towards an Old School Certificate in Heritage Conservation. AIBC non-core credits available.



A packed house enjoyed fascinating talks such as Neon in Vancouver at the VHF's Evening Lecture Series at Hycroft in January, February and March this year.

HERITAGE BUILDING WORKSHOPS; OLD SCHOOL

Everything you need to know about working with old buildings.

Heritage Building workshops and lectures teach homeowners and industry professionals about working with both heritage and older buildings. Professionals in their fields deliver these sessions in lecture and out-in-the-field formats.

This fall will offer the opportunity for a walk-about with former city staffer John Atkin giving his zoning walking tour (originally designed for new planners at City Hall) to the public for the first time. Wood Windows will be offered again by heritage industry professional Jim Stiven, and our November symposium will bring heritage industry professionals together to talk about the current state of heritage in Vancouver and discuss the implications of City Hall initiatives including affordable housing, density, deconstruction, the density bank, the COV Heritage Register, and heritage tools.

PHOTO RECAP OF SPRING COURSES



Master painter Colin Griffinson showed workshop attendees how to prepare and strip interior paint on February 13th.



Shingles, Shiplap & Stucco: Your House Exteriors Explained workshop on June 23rd led by heritage consultant Jeannette Hlavach and architect Eric Pattison. Neighbourhood walkabouts allowed attendees to see real world examples.

Volunteers update

2012 has been another year of great volunteer involvement. 165 volunteers helped make the 10th Annual Heritage House Tour a great success on June 3rd, and over twenty volunteers came out to the Richmond warehouse before, during and after to help set up and run the salvage sale in May! A few dozen more will help with the upcoming Vancouver Special and Laneway House Tours.

SAVE THE DATE! We look forward to thanking and honouring our volunteers this year on the evening of **Tuesday December 4th** with a reception and talk about the fabulous stained glass at the Canadian Memorial Church at Burrard & West 16th – more information will be coming your way in the Fall!

And finally, the new t-shirt is here! Vancouver Special volunteers will get the first peek at the new Volunteer t-shirt, for use at all events, designed with the VHF's new look!

SCHEDULED COURSES FOR FALL 2012

NEIGHBOURHOOD ZONING: HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

September 15 / 10am-1pm / \$30

Walk with John Atkin from Mount Pleasant to Strathcona to compare and understand zoning regulations.

WOOD WINDOWS

October 6th / 9am-5pm / \$125 / Mission to Seafarers, 401 E Waterfront Rd.

Jim Stiven will disassemble and repair painted-shut, double hung wood windows with broken sash cords.

HOW TO RESEARCH THE HISTORY OF A BUILDING

@ City of Vancouver Archives

November 14th / 6.30-8.30pm / \$15

@ Vancouver Public Library

November 21st / 6.30-8.30pm / free (registration required)

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER VISIT: www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org

Looking for Continuing Education Credits? We're pleased that the following organizations offer credits to their members for Old School courses: AIBC, PIBC, BCLA, AIBC, BOABC

Did you know: 2 seats per course are free to VHF volunteers! One of the many benefits of volunteering for the VHF - sign up to become a volunteer now!

Look out for...

HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN VANCOUVER: WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED & HOW DOES IT FIT INTO CURRENT PRIORITIES

November 16th / 9am – 2pm / \$100 / SFU Segal Graduate School of Business.

A heritage symposium to convene people from across local government, industry, academia and the general public to discuss strategic issues for heritage conservation in Vancouver. This event will mark the 26th year of the COV Heritage Conservation Program. The Vancouver Heritage Foundation will present its white paper findings carried out by a public policy analyst offering a 'state of the union' look at the recent past, present and possible future for heritage conservation in Vancouver. A day not to miss for anyone that values architectural heritage.

INTERESTED IN A CERTIFICATE IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION? VISIT: www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org

fall walking tours

We've had such fun on the walking tours so far this year! Thanks to those that have joined us on a tour or three or five already! Make sure to catch one of the remaining tours this year in our Fall season. Walks are still only \$12 inclusive of tax.

Downtown Vancouver Public Art Walking Tour / September 8 / 10am-noon / inaugural guided public art walk with Rachel Lafo, art curator, writer, consultant and lecturer: An opportunity to visit great public art works and hear the stories behind them and their impact on the art world and Vancouver.

Art Deco / September 14 / noon-1.30pm / with Maurice Guibord: From the iconic Marine Building to lesser-known examples in the downtown core, come explore this fascinating architectural style.

Burrard Street / September 28 / noon-1.30pm / with Maurice Guibord: Home to the city's financial district as well as many historic structures, come experience the hustle and bustle of the Burrard Street corridor.

Nelson & Thurlow: West End Apartments / October 13 / 10am-noon / with John Atkin: The West End is known for its high rises, but the neighbourhood also possesses some exceptional early apartment houses dating to before and just after WW1.

Nelson & Thurlow: West End Houses / October 27 / 10am-noon / with John Atkin: There are still a number of fine houses to be found nestled amongst the towers in the West End, despite development over the years.



Thank you to our 2012 Walking Tour Sponsor:



Brown Bag Lunch & Learn

Come learn about the City's development through provocative presentations by people changing, preserving and documenting Vancouver's architectural story. Hear about programs that have been saving heritage in Vancouver, the continuing story of Gastown, and one architectural historian's look at Vancouver.

Where: BCIT Downtown Campus, 555 Seymour St.
 When: 12 noon – 1:30 pm
 Cost: \$12 includes hst

Date: **Wednesday, September 19th**
 Topic: 'Planning tools to help conserve heritage: a look at revitalization projects'
 Speaker: James Boldt, COV Heritage Planner

Date: **Wednesday, October 24th**
 Topic: 'Gastown Revitalization: Against The Grain'
 Speaker: Mark Brand, Mark Brand Inc

Date: **Wednesday, November 21st**
 Topic: 'Exploring Vancouver: The Architectural Guide, 4th Ed.'
 Speaker: Author Hal Kalman

VHF 2013 Granting Programs

Application deadline: February 1, 2013

The VHF offers four different grants to heritage building owners to assist with the ongoing maintenance and repair of buildings listed on the COV Heritage Register. Heritage homeowners are the recipients of the bulk of our grants, but in 2012 the Japanese Language School and the Manor Housing Co-op were also recipients of grants for heritage restoration work. Two houses received True Colours grants to restore the houses' original paint schemes from the time of their construction. Grants were also offered to assist with projects such as a new roof, a sleeping porch repair, and the complete restoration of a lost historic porch on a BC Mills prefabricated cottage.

Grants available:

- True Colours: \$1500 and free paint from Benjamin Moore to paint your house in its original construction-era paint scheme
- Restore It!: up to \$2000 to the maximum of 50% of the cost of a repair or restoration project
- Get on the Register: up to \$500 to a maximum of 50% of the cost of a Statement of Significance for application to the Vancouver Heritage Register
- House Call: up to \$500 to a maximum of 50% of the cost of a site visit and drafting of a Conservation Report for the long term conservation of a house

Applications are available online along with more information about each grant program: vancouverheritagefoundation.org



PLACES THAT MATTER

A commemorative plaque project marking Vancouver's 125th Anniversary.

Get involved and discover Vancouver's history! 2012 has been full of exciting plaque presentations and installations all over the city.

Join us at any of the public plaque presentations each month until the end of November 2012. The list of upcoming presentations is constantly updated on our Places That Matter webpage. Follow us on twitter @VanHeritage #PlacesThatMatter or visit our Facebook page to also find out about presentation details.

We've added a QR code to the plaques so that smartphone users can go directly to the Places That Matter webpage on the VHF's website. There you'll find detailed information about each nominated site.

Support the Project!

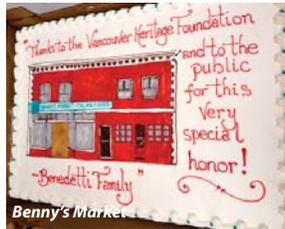
Over 30 independent sponsors have supported the Places That Matter plaque project by sponsoring a plaque in their name or in the name of someone special to the site. If you are interested in sponsoring a plaque, please contact the VHF at 604-264-9642.

Thank you for being a part of Places That Matter!

For the past year I have had the privilege of meeting people from every neighbourhood in the city and from all walks of life. Every site is unique, and no two plaque celebrations are the same. Being a part of this project has made me look at Vancouver in a completely new light. I realize that even though we may be 126 years old, there are so many great stories to learn from and so much more history that has not been told. Places That Matter is an attempt to tell that history.

Thank you to the historians, families, businesses, sponsors, the Park Board, archivists, Vancouver Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, Site Selection Committee members, City Councillors, MLAs, the City of Vancouver, BIAs, Anchor Signs, community groups, community centres, educators, interested individuals, writers and the media for supporting a project that hopes to spark a love of history and heritage in Vancouver. Looking forward to seeing you at a plaque presentation in the near future.

Jessica Quan
Special Project Coordinator, Places That Matter
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Benny's Market



Cambie Heating & Plumbing



Historic Joy Kogawa House



King Edward School Wall



Dayton Boots Factory



Gospel Mission/Louvre Hotel



Vancouver Folk Music Festival



Lakeview Disaster



Kensington Park View



Ace Cycles



Choklit Park



Balclava Block



Collingwood Library



Ruth Morton Baptist Church



Del Mar Inn



Strathcona Gardens

A selection of Places That Matter plaque presentations - no two are the same!
Thank you to everybody that has supported this fantastic project celebrating Vancouver's unique history!



SALVAGE SALE / MAY 12th 2012



Architectural salvage bargains galore

The VHF held its second annual Salvage Sale, again at the warehouse in Richmond thanks to a reprieve from the new owners, Cressey. The sale raised almost \$5000 and placed stained glass, hardware, lighting, doors and a great old desk into new homes. A Dutch door has moved to 70 Mile House! A blowout sale was held in August to sell the remaining items as the warehouse will be making way for a new development. We will let you know when our next salvage venture starts up again!

Thank you to our volunteers for helping us with the sale! A special thank you to Peter, Daryl, Eleanore and Helen for coming to the warehouse multiple days and going more than an extra mile!

Thank you also to our generous donors: Dallas Brodie, Donna Dellorrie, Sandra Thrasher, Teresa Frolek, Robert McNutt, Helen Wood, Mike Pariso, Michael Riste, Mary Ann Clark, Judith Macdonald, Alan Deeth, John Blackmer, James Evans, James Carruthers, Judith and Poul Hansen, Carol Reimer, Thyrsa Cohen, the ReStore, Anna Camporese, Dr. Peter Yorke, Eric Cohen, Anne Lidstone, Lesley Shepard and Jim Stiven.

A special thank you to Cressey!



VHF Social Media Report

With the help of our social media coordinator Anthony, VHF Facebook and Twitter pages have been very active! It's great to be able to expand our social media presence allowing us to engage in some interesting conversations, build new relationships, get our message out there and hear your feedback. We know that people are loving seeing all the images that we're putting up, especially before and after photos. The social media contests we've run have been great! The We Heart Heritage Buildings contest encouraged Vancouverites to slow down and see the heritage buildings around them, take a photo of their favourite and upload it to our Facebook page. The contest was a success and winner Chris Yakimov will be enjoying a night at the Manor Guest House, a beautiful heritage B&B in Mt Pleasant.

Be sure to like us on Facebook: TheVancouverHeritageFoundation and follow us on Twitter: @VanHeritage

HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR JUNE 2012



On Sunday June 3rd, fifteen spaces in ten very unique buildings opened to over a thousand visitors. A 28 page illustrated guidebook ticket allowed tour goers to find their way from house to house (or from church conversion to storefront and bank revitalization to house this year!) to visit unique heritage buildings and hear their stories from 165 enthusiastic volunteers. View the 2012 guidebook on the tour page at: www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org

The VHF is always open to suggestions for houses and buildings on future tours. This year we opened two revitalized storefronts and continue to look for interesting homes and stories about Vancouver's history to open to tour attendees.

Thank you to the Heritage House Tour sponsors: Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang LLP, Buntain Insurance Agencies, Chubb Insurance Company of Canada, GNK Insurance Services, Jakobsen Associates, Odlum Brown Limited, Paradigm Kitchen Design, Smallworks.

Thank you to the event In-Kind sponsors: City of Vancouver Archives, Martin Knowles Photo/Media, RR Donnelly, US Consul General.

A big big thank you to the 165 volunteers who made the tour possible again this year! We are delighted that 75% of our volunteers are return volunteers who come back year after year! Thank you to the House Captains who went above and beyond this year: Jeannie Bates, Nicki Collingwood, Jack Fraser, Jean Fraser, Bonnie Gabel, Brenda Harrison, Paul Nursey, Kathy Reichert, Roberta Robertson and Karen Russell.

Thank you to the hospitable homeowners for so generously allowing us to visit their homes: Ric Arboit & Ida Avignoni, Georgina & Tom Arntzen, John Blackmer & Mark Oldham, Mark Finlay & Mary Moltman, Janaki Larsen & Pascale Roy, Lindsay Miles & Edwina Houlihan, Valerie & Murray Nunns, Brian Roche & Cheryl Knopp, Carol Sawyer & Mike O'Connell, Anthea & Jason Stavru-Johnson, Jerry Prussin & Norah Johnson, and Kerri-Lee & Tim Watson.



Tour day fun! L-R clockwise: Lining up to get inside the first house at 10am; volunteers ready to greet visitors; a helpful homeowner talking with visitors; keen tour-goers cycling their way around the Heritage House Tour; checking out interiors; deciding where to go next.

Message from the Chair



It has been a busy spring and summer at the VHF with 3000 people enjoying more than two dozen walking tours, touring the National Historic Site at Stave Lake Powerhouse, visiting the fifteen houses open on the Heritage House and Mid-Century Modern Tours and attending a wide array of lectures and workshops. Public programs that educate and raise awareness about the importance of conserving heritage buildings is a year round endeavour at the Foundation, and we love that so many people are enthusiastically participating in our activities.

Through special projects the VHF expands the reach of our message that heritage sites and their stories matter to our city. Our unique history strengthens our sense of place and sets us apart from other cities. Popping up around the city are Places That Matter plaques that recognize people, places and events that have shaped Vancouver. Take a moment to read the text and perhaps scan the QR code to read more.

Partnerships are an important way the VHF reaches new audiences. Coming in September is a partnership with the Borealis String Quartet bringing beautiful music into stunning heritage homes for four afternoon concerts; and the lectures in partnership with University Women's Club at Hycroft will continue in the Fall.

After 25 years of heritage conservation policies and programs the Foundation has commissioned a public policy researcher to examine what has been accomplished during this time, and how we might maintain relevancy among City priorities of affordability, densification and sustainability. Watch for the release of the White Paper later this Fall.

The end of the summer sees the departure of our summer students and we are sad to say good-bye to Alex Salaveria who worked so ably to complete the vancouverhousestyles.com web tool, and to Anthony Stahl who launched us into the world of social media. Thank you for inspiring us!

Please consider a gift to VHF when we call on you during our Friends of the Foundation campaign this Fall because your support helps us to develop new, exciting programs that highlight the history and heritage of our city.

Marta Farevaag, VHF Chair 2012

FRIENDS OF VHF ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

In late October the VHF will send out its annual 'Friends of the Foundation' campaign letters. This campaign, along with our other fundraising endeavours, raises about 75% of our annual operating budget. Please respond generously! Your gifts help us to turn our creative ideas for unique, award-winning programs that educate and raise awareness about saving heritage buildings into action. Thank you!

Exciting things to come this fall...

- The launch of vancouverhousestyles.com - an interactive web tool that explains and identifies 16 unique Vancouver house styles and defines locally used architectural terminology associated with the various styles. Developed by a team of volunteers and summer students, the web tool will be located on the new VHF website that will be launched in mid-September and is aimed at helping answer peoples basic questions about Vancouver houses.
- The VHF is launching another map guide. This time we are researching and writing a [guide to the history and buildings along West Hastings Street](#) from Thurlow Street to Victory Square. With the content developed by historian, author and artist, Michael Kluckner, the map guide will be available in both print and on line. Up next will be a map guide to the Eastern portion of Hastings Street.

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The Vancouver Heritage Foundation is a charitable organization supporting the conservation of Vancouver's built heritage through public awareness and education activities, granting programs that encourage financial investment in built heritage and building an endowment fund to protect Vancouver's built heritage in perpetuity.



VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION
September 2012 Newsletter



VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

September 2012 Newsletter

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