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The Heritage Lodge

Situated on the outer edge of Comox Bay, not far from the community of Comox, the nine-acre Filberg property provides a sweeping vista of the Beaufort Range, Comox Glacier and southern Comox Valley. To the east, the property is sheltered by the curve of Goose Spit; to the west, commercial fishing vessels docked at a marina can often be seen.

The five bedroom, five fireplace, four bathroom lodge is a showcase of innovative design featuring the work of local craftsmen using local materials. In 1929, master builder William Hagarty was hired to oversee the project and drew the original house plans on the back of a cardboard box.



Photo by Carl Tessman

Constructed of solid Douglas fir framing, the house has many unique architectural features including a massive front door. Made from beautifully matched Douglas fir planks, it weighs 300 pounds and is 2.5 inches thick.

The double-strapped hinge, like all the iron work in the lodge, was hand-forged in the blacksmith shop at Comox Logging & Railway's Headquarters site. And, like most of the house doors, it's operated by a simple lever device rather than a traditional doorknob.

Since logging played such a vital role in the Filbergs' life and livelihood, it was only natural that wood would be a predominant element in their home. But they couldn't agree on which type to use for the inside walls.

Floss (Florence) preferred white pine but Bob said it would darken too much with age. To prove his point, he paneled the walls in yellow cedar, placing four strips of white pine above the front door. Over time, the pine has become the darker of the two woods.

After the cedar for the walls was planed, it was beaten with hose-covered chains to give it a textured look. The wood was then hand-adzed and finished with hot beeswax and turpentine to create a mottled appearance. The finishing has never been redone and only requires periodic cleaning with a damp cloth.

Exposed Western red cedar beams showcase the high ceilings. These were also worked over with an adze, then blow torched to darken the wood.

Continuing the wood theme, the floors in all rooms except the bathrooms, kitchen and breakfast room are knot-free, tongue and groove Douglas fir. Built to last, these planks are several inches thick, with some being more than 30 feet long.

Large windows, some with leaded glass and finished in Pacific yew, take full advantage of the water and mountain views.

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