

## PROFILE

### sabina hill

Sabina Hill, BARCH'93, uses traditional art of the Pacific Northwest coast as inspiration for her contemporary furniture design.

Hill has always been drawn to the bold motifs that portray the mythology of its indigenous peoples. She is anxious to incorporate them in a way sympathetic to their origin and aesthetic integrity, but which would also extend their artistic impact beyond a traditional setting. "First Nations design is often taken without too much thought and just pasted on an object. I wanted to make a real fusion of the motif and form to create a totally new aesthetic."

In collaboration with First Nations artists, she has produced two collections of furniture, *New Spirit* and *Formlines*, as well as a number of commissioned pieces. Modern coffee tables, consoles, beds and multi-plane wall panels feature frog, orca, eagle, bear or salmon motifs, often laser cut from metal, sometimes wrapped at angles. The use of native woods like vertical-grain Douglas fir and alder alongside tempered glass and stainless steel adds to the sense of the present embracing the past.

Hill, who is not Aboriginal, describes the production process as a team effort and has collaborated with First Nations artists such as Steve Smith, Andy Everson and Corinne Hunt.

The work introduces First Nations art to a whole new audience. "People can imagine these pieces in their homes. It fits, it works, it's high end, it's contemporary."

Hill initially concentrated her efforts in architecture, interior design and landscaping, and much as she enjoys working on private residential commissions, she aspires to large-scale public works.

She is working on four large scale mixed media installations for the new Four Points Sheraton hotel in Langford, BC. She is also developing a new furniture collection that she intends to launch at Vancouver's Interior Design West show in March.

One of Hill's wall panels adorns the lobby of the department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Vancouver. Another is located in the UBC Oral Health Centre's reception area. See more at: [www.sabinahill.com](http://www.sabinahill.com)

— Vanessa Clarke



*From top, clockwise:*

*Yellow Point Residence, 1993-94*

*This building was Hill's first commission fresh out of school in 1993. It sits on Scout Point on Vancouver Island, across from the original Yellow Point Lodge built in the 1930s by her grandfather Gerry Hill.*

*Prow coffee table (with Andy Everson). Whale and human face.*

*Eagle wall panel (with Steve Smith). Displayed in the reception area of UBC's Oral Health Centre*

*Chilkat bed (with Corinne Hunt).*

*Console and mirror.*

