

Miele

Miele Design Journal | Issue 01

Designing Tomorrow



Phoenix House

A landmark Canadian
home designed for a
Zero Carbon future

Design · Performance · People

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Shared with gratitude.



About Designing Tomorrow | September 2026

Designing Tomorrow explores the people, projects, and ideas shaping the future of sustainable living through design, innovation, and craftsmanship.

Each issue examines how thoughtful design and enduring quality come together to create homes built for generations.

Designed for Tomorrow

A story of resilience.

Phoenix House is not simply a home. It is a blueprint for a new generation of Canadian residential design.

When the Clinging family lost their multi-generational home to fire, they chose not simply to rebuild—but to ask a more profound question:

What should the next generation of Canadian homes become?

The answer is Phoenix House—a residence that combines advanced building science, resilient design, and carefully considered technology to demonstrate that sustainability is not achieved through a single product, but through hundreds of thoughtful decisions.

A landmark Canadian home designed for a Zero Carbon future.

Phoenix House
Abbotsford, British Columbia



For homeowners Ritz and JP Clinging, the project was an effort to create

((

Not just a new house, but a model for what low-carbon, climate-resilient residential construction could look like in practice.

—Ritz and JP Clinging



The Project

Phoenix House

Abbotsford, British Columbia

Certification

*Pursuing International Living Future Institute (ILFI) Zero Carbon Certification™

Architect

Nick Bray, Nick Bray Architecture

Builder

Todd Best, Best Builders

Interior Design

Josephina Serra, FORM COLLECTIVE

Energy & Carbon Advisor

Elisabeth Baudinaud, Carbon Wise

Occupancy

January 2026

Floor Area

300 m² total floor area

Type

Multi-generational residence
5 bathrooms, 5 bedrooms including
a secondary suite.

Featured

Miele Appliances

Recognition & Research

3 sustainability awards

3 research case studies

Refer to page 11 for full details.

*Phoenix House is pursuing ILFI Zero Carbon Certification™, awarded following one year of verified operational performance.



“

Everyone was focused on doing the right thing — for the client, the project, and the environment.

— Nick Bray
Nick Bray Architecture

Building Better

Impactful building science.

Phoenix House demonstrates that truly sustainable homes are never the result of a single innovation. They are created through a carefully considered combination of architecture, engineering, and thoughtful material choices—each decision contributing to a home that performs exceptionally well today while remaining resilient for decades to come.



Retractable EV charging cable
All-Electric Heat Pump

01

BUILDING ENVELOPE

A home performs only as well as the envelope that protects it.

A high-performance building envelope forms the foundation of Phoenix House's exceptional energy performance. Advanced insulation, meticulous air sealing, and premium high-performance glazing dramatically reduce unwanted heat loss while maintaining year-round comfort with minimal energy demand.

Together, these strategies reduce the home's energy demand before renewable energy systems are introduced—an essential principle of high-performance residential design.

Highlights

- Triple-glazed windows
- Continuous insulation
- Reduced thermal bridging
- Exceptional airtight construction

02

PASSIVE DESIGN

Working with the climate, rather than against it.

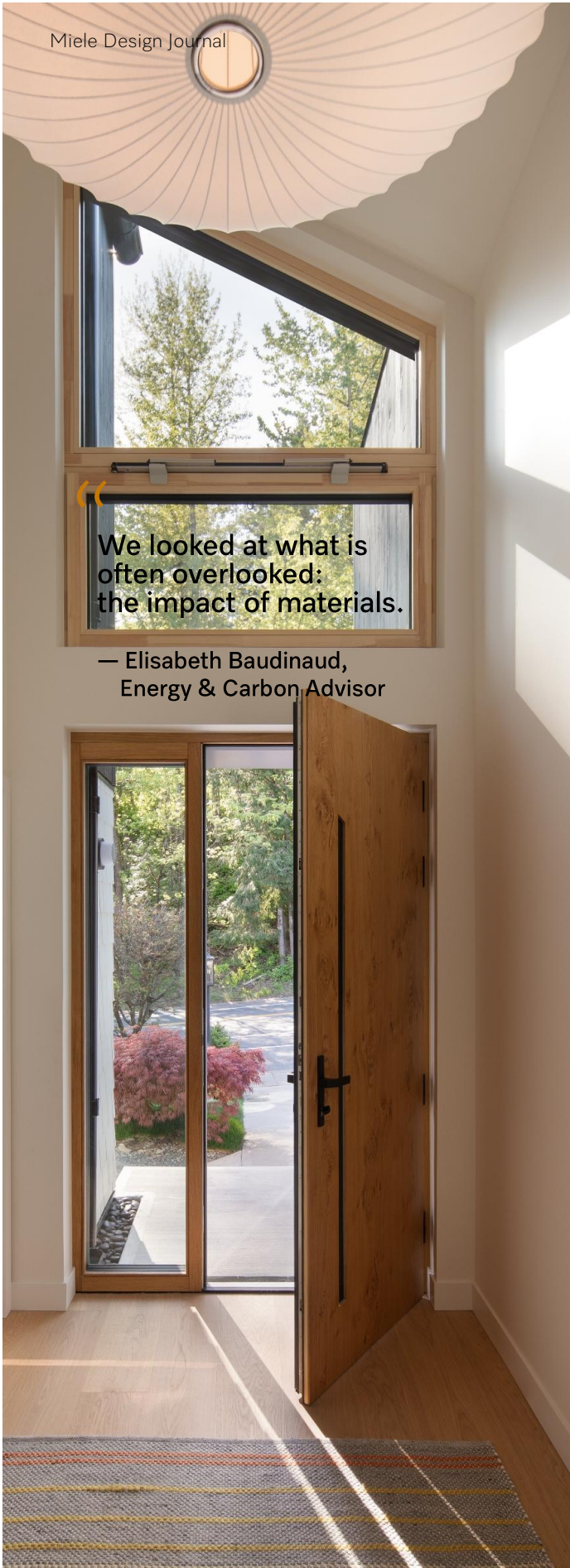
Before relying on technology, Phoenix House works with nature. Building orientation, generous daylight, carefully positioned glazing, and thermal mass reduce heating and cooling demand while creating naturally comfortable living spaces throughout the year.

By allowing the architecture itself to do more of the work, passive design reduces long-term energy demand while enhancing everyday comfort.

Highlights

- Natural daylight
- Passive solar gains
- Seasonal shading strategies
- Optimized solar orientation





We looked at what is often overlooked: the impact of materials.

— Elisabeth Baudinaud,
Energy & Carbon Advisor

03

ELECTRIFICATION

Removing combustion from everyday living.

Designed as a fully electric residence, Phoenix House eliminates the need for fossil fuels by integrating high-efficiency heat pumps for heating, cooling, and hot water with energy-efficient electric appliances.

Together with on-site solar generation, this all-electric approach reduces operational carbon emissions while demonstrating how integrated design can create a home that is comfortable, efficient, and prepared for a cleaner energy future.

Highlights

- 100% electric home
- High-efficiency heat pumps
- Lower operational carbon
- Energy-efficient appliances

04

MATERIAL SELECTION

Beauty measured not only by appearance, but by impact.

Every material was selected with longevity, durability, and environmental responsibility in mind. Low-embodied-carbon products, FSC-certified wood, recycled materials, high-performance finishes, and long-lasting appliances demonstrate that sustainability and exceptional design can coexist beautifully.

Together, responsible material choices and resource-conscious systems reinforce a simple idea: every decision contributes to a home's environmental legacy.

Highlights

- FSC-certified wood
- Low-emission finishes
- Recycled steel
- Responsibly specified materials

Performance by the Numbers

Data behind the design.

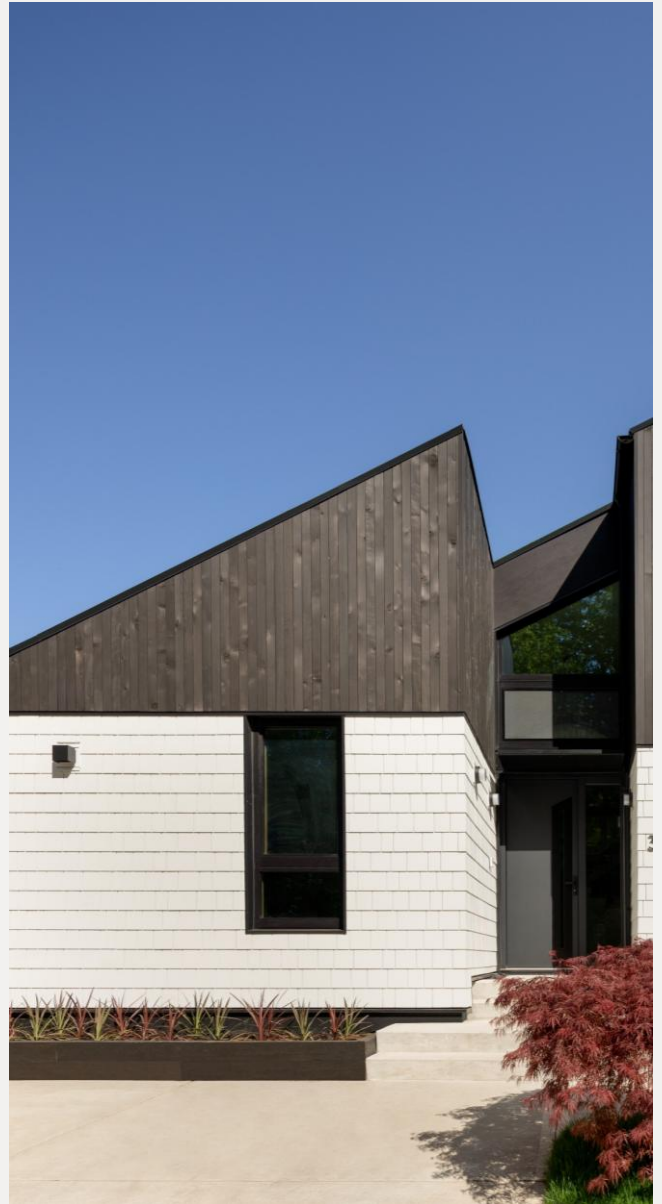
48_{GJ}

Phoenix House
Annual Energy Demand*

VS

117.4_{GJ}

Canadian single-detached home*
Annual Energy Demand



Phoenix House has approximately **59%** lower annual energy demand than a Canadian single-detached home.

*Based on annual energy modelling.

*The reported annual energy demand of 48 gigajoules (GJ) per year is based on annual energy modelling. At the time of publication, six months of occupancy data had been collected. Final measured performance will be evaluated following one year of occupancy.

*Canadian benchmark derived from NRCan 2023 single-detached residential GHG emissions, including electricity.

Performance Numbers

Operational Carbon

96%

Carbon emissions associated with operating the home.

Lower Operational
Carbon

Phoenix House 147 kg CO₂e/year

vs

Canadian single-detached home 4.18 t CO₂e/year*

Embodied Carbon

66%

Carbon emissions associated with building materials over their life cycle.

Lower Embodied
Carbon

Phoenix House 137 kg CO₂e/m²

vs

One Click LCA Canada 2025 benchmark average: 408 kg CO₂e/m²*

Airtightness / Indoor Air Quality

0.28

High-performance airtight envelope

High-efficiency HRV with continuous filtered fresh air

- ♦ Triple-glazed windows
- ♦ Low-emitting / low-VOC materials and finishes
- ♦ Fully electric — no on-site fossil-fuel combustion

ACH₅₀

Exceptional Airtightness

ILFI Zero Carbon Certification™ Target

100%

Phoenix House is pursuing ILFI Zero Carbon Certification™, a rigorous performance-based standard addressing both operational and embodied carbon.*

Operational Energy
from Qualifying
Renewables

Certification requirements:

- ♦ 12 months of verified operational performance
- ♦ Third-party review of carbon performance
- ♦ 100% of operational energy supplied by qualifying renewable energy
- ♦ Embodied carbon reduced and accounted for
- ♦ No on-site fossil-fuel combustion

*Canadian benchmark derived from NRCan 2023 single-detached residential GHG emissions, including electricity.

*One Click LCA Embodied Carbon Rating — Canada All Building Types 2025 benchmark, 21-project dataset. Cradle to grave: A1–A4, B4–B5, C1–C4.

*At the time of publication, Phoenix House was undergoing the one-year operational performance period required for ILFI Zero Carbon Certification™.

Beyond the Project

Recognition & Industry Impact.

Phoenix House has grown from one family's sustainable rebuild into a project influencing research, education, and industry conversations.

Studied by academics and recognized by sustainability leaders, it demonstrates the future of residential design in Canada.

Transformational Maverick Winner 2026

Recognized for advancing sustainability, resilience, and low-carbon residential construction while establishing new benchmarks for future housing projects.

Clean50 Top Project 2025

Selected among Canada's leading sustainability initiatives for demonstrating measurable environmental impact through innovation and collaboration.

Sustainable Building Awards 2025

Recipient of the Life Cycle Assessment & Climate Policy Trailblazers recognition, celebrating excellence in sustainable building design and environmental leadership.



I have always believed in a circular economy, and this project enabled me to teach others that this works.

— Todd Best, Best Builders

Research Case Studies 2024

Phoenix House has been examined through building performance and low-carbon construction research, including:

British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) case study participation.

University of British Columbia (UBC) research involvement relating to overheating and wildfire smoke resilience.

International Energy Agency (IEA EBC Annex 89) case study contribution exploring pathways to Net-Zero Whole Life Carbon buildings.



All-Electric Heat Pump



Integrated Building Controls



Entry & Building Envelope

“

Phoenix House has become a public case study demonstrating how ambitious low-carbon housing can be practical, replicable, and accessible for future residential projects.

— Clean50 Top Project

Their Home, Reimagined.

For Ritz and JP Clinging, Phoenix House became more than rebuilding a home—it became an opportunity to reimagine what home could be. In this conversation, they share the lessons they learned, the moments that mattered most, and the insights they hope will inspire others on their own sustainability journey.



Q. When did Phoenix House become more than rebuilding a home?

A. Honestly, it happened pretty early. At first, we just wanted to rebuild after losing our home to a fire, but we quickly realized we had a rare opportunity to do something bigger. We started with the goal of building a Net Zero home, then found ourselves asking, “If we’re going to do this, how far can we push it?”

That question changed everything. Phoenix House became more than our family home; it became a chance to show what’s possible when you build with the future in mind.

Q. How has Phoenix House changed the way your family lives every day?

A. More than anything, it’s given us a real sense of gratitude. While it’s our family’s home, it also feels

like it belongs to everyone who helped make it happen.

Every partner, designer, tradesperson and supporter has left a little piece of themselves here. It’s also changed the way we think. We pay more attention to how our home performs and how our everyday choices affect the environment. Sustainability Isn’t something we think about occasionally anymore; it’s just part of how we live.



Q. Which sustainable choice had the greatest impact?

A. Probably making the decision right at the beginning that we wanted to build a zero carbon, high-performance home. Making that decision didn't cost anything, but it influenced every decision after that. It became our compass when choosing materials, systems and, just as importantly, the companies we wanted to work with. We looked for partners whose values matched ours. Miele was one of those companies. They weren't just making great products; they genuinely believed in building for the future, and that made them a natural fit for Phoenix House.

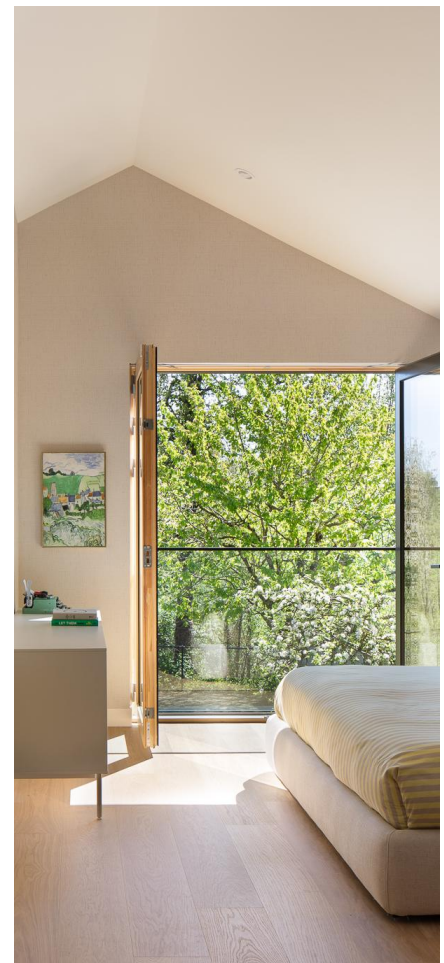
Q. If someone wanted to make one meaningful change toward a more sustainable home, where would you encourage them to start?

A. Start with something achievable. You don't have to build a new house to make a difference. Upgrading to high-performance appliances, improving your windows or installing a heat pump can

all have a meaningful impact. We'd also encourage people to look past the marketing. There are a lot of sustainability claims out there, so take the time to do a little research. Look at the companies behind the products, how they make them and whether they're backing up their claims with real results.

Q. What were some of the biggest challenges in building a low-carbon home?

A. While the finished house is incredible, the journey to getting here was far from smooth. Building a low-carbon home meant doing a lot of research. You can't exactly walk into Home Depot and pick up hemp batt insulation. We spent countless hours finding suppliers and then making sure their products actually met the standards we needed. That part was often slow and frustrating, especially when suppliers couldn't provide the right technical information or documentation. The biggest challenge, though, was dealing with the banks. Construction loans are paid out in stages as certain milestones are reached,



but those milestones are still based on the way homes were built 40 years ago. They don't account for the different timing, upfront costs and processes involved in building a low-energy, high-performance home. That often left us scrambling to cover the gaps between when bills were due and when the next draw was released. It added a huge amount of stress to an already challenging build and caused more than a few sleepless nights. That's the reality behind a project like this that a lot of people don't get to see.

Q. What everyday moments have your appliances helped create for your family?

A. The kitchen has always been the heart of our home, and we're lucky enough to have two of them. Whether it's a quiet family dinner or a house full of friends, that's where everyone naturally gathers. Cooking has become easier, especially when we're making completely different meals to satisfy both our Lao and Irish sides of the family. Holy Basil Stir-Fry (Pad Gra Prow) is a family favourite with its roots in Northern Thai cuisine and flavours that are very similar to Lao food. It's also the kind of dish that suits the Miele Induction Range perfectly — everything happens quickly, from frying the egg to stir-frying the pork (or tofu), chili, onion and basil, so the responsive heat really helps the whole dish come together. It's simple, comforting and full of flavour, and that crispy fried egg on top is the chef's kiss.

Ritz shares her family favourite recipe, Holy Basil Stir-Fry (Pad Gra Prow) on pages 17 and 18.





Q. Looking back, what would you do differently?

A. There are always little things we'd tweak, and we certainly wouldn't complain if the project had taken less time. But every challenge taught us something. We wouldn't change the ambition because we believe the result was worth the extra effort.

Q. What do you hope Phoenix House inspires?

A. We hope Phoenix House shows that building sustainably isn't about giving something up; it's about building something better. We also hope it encourages people to think about the decisions they make right at the beginning of a project because those choices shape everything that follows. Most of all, we hope it gives people confidence that building healthier, more efficient homes is achievable. And we hope it shines a light on companies like Miele that are genuinely helping move the industry forward through innovation, quality and a long-term commitment to sustainability.

“

If we were going to do this, how far can we push it?

— Ritz and JP Clinging





Ritz preparing the perfect drink to complement dinner.

((

Holy Basil Stir-Fry (Pad Gra Prow) is one of those dishes we keep coming back to. With its roots in Northern Thai cuisine and flavours that are very similar to Lao food, it feels especially familiar and meaningful to me as part of my Lao culture. It's simple, comforting and full of flavour, with fresh basil, chili and a rich savoury sauce. And topping it with a crispy fried egg really brings it all together—chef's kiss.

— Ritz Clinging

Recipe

Holy Basil Stir-Fry (Pad Gra Prow)

Ingredients

Stir-Fry

- ¼ cup + 3 tbsp sunflower oil, divided
- 2 eggs, cracked individually into 2 small bowls
- 1 tbsp Thai oyster sauce
- 1 tbsp thin soy sauce
- 1 tbsp sweet soy sauce
- 1½ tsp Thai fish sauce
- 2 tbsp minced unpeeled Thai garlic or peeled regular garlic
- ½ tsp minced fresh red bird's eye chili, optional
- 1 lb (450 g) regular ground pork
- 1 fresh red spur chili, halved crosswise, seeded and julienned
- ½ white onion, cut lengthwise into ¼-inch strips
- 1 cup packed fresh holy basil leaves
- ½ tsp white pepper, preferably, (or black pepper)

Vegetarian Option

- 1 lb (450 g) plant-based ground meat, or
 - 14 oz (400 g) extra-firm tofu, well drained and crumbled
- For a fully vegetarian version, replace the fish sauce and Thai oyster sauce with vegetarian fish sauce and vegetarian oyster-style sauce.

For Serving

- 2 cups steamed jasmine rice
- 1–2 tbsp chili fish sauce, or vegetarian chili fish sauce if preparing the vegetarian version

Preparation

1. Fry the eggs: Place a medium wok or induction-compatible skillet on the Miele Induction Range and select power level 8. Add ¼ cup sunflower oil and heat until shimmering. Carefully slide one egg into the oil. Reduce to power level 6–7 and fry for approximately 1 minute, or until the edges of the egg white are crisp and golden while the yolk remains soft. Using a flat spatula, gently loosen the egg from the pan and transfer to a paper towel-lined plate. Repeat with the second egg and set aside.

Recipe

Preparation continued

2. Prepare the sauce: In a small bowl, combine the oyster sauce, thin soy sauce, sweet soy sauce and fish sauce. If preparing the vegetarian version, use vegetarian oyster-style sauce and vegetarian fish sauce. Set aside.
3. Place a large induction-compatible wok or skillet on the Miele Induction Range and select power level 7–8. Add the remaining 3 tablespoons sunflower oil. Once hot, add the garlic and red bird's eye chili, if using. Stir-fry for 10–20 seconds, just until fragrant, taking care not to brown the garlic.
4. For the pork version: Add the ground pork and increase to power level 9. Spread the pork across the surface of the wok or skillet to maximize contact with the hot pan. Sauté for approximately 1 minute, breaking the meat into small pieces as it cooks.
5. For the vegetarian version using plant-based ground meat or crumbled tofu: Add the plant-based ground meat and cook at power level 8–9, breaking it into small pieces and sautéing until lightly browned and heated through.
6. Add the prepared sauce and continue to stir-fry for approximately 2 minutes, or until the pork is cooked through or the vegetarian alternative is well coated with the sauce. Add the red spur chili and onion and cook for another minute, keeping the ingredients moving in the pan. Tear the holy basil leaves directly into the wok. Stir-fry for approximately 1 minute, or just until the basil begins to wilt and turn deep green. Season with white pepper and remove from the induction surface.
7. To serve: Divide the steamed jasmine rice between two plates. Spoon the holy basil stir-fry over the rice, adding a little of the flavourful cooking juices from the wok if desired. Top each serving with a crispy fried egg and serve with chili fish sauce on the side.

Preparation



15 min

Cooking Time



35 min

Servings



Serves 2

Tip: Induction responds quickly to changes in power level, making it ideal for stir-frying. Have all ingredients measured and prepared before you begin cooking so they can be added quickly in succession.







Good design begins with understanding how people want to live, then making every choice support that experience.

— Josephina Serra, Form Collective



Built to last.
Designed to inspire.







Why Longevity Matters

Sustainability is measured over decades, not years.

Sustainable homes are built through countless decisions that work together over generations.

This same long-term thinking is reflected in Miele's Immer Besser (Forever Better) philosophy—a commitment to continuous improvement through lasting quality, engineering excellence, and products designed to endure.

To help realize Phoenix House's ambitious sustainability goals, Miele Canada collaborated with the homeowners to select appliances that aligned with the project's focus on energy efficiency, durability, and long-term performance.

By choosing appliances engineered for longevity and designed to be repaired rather than replaced, Phoenix House reflects one of the most important principles of sustainable design.



BUILT FOR LONGEVITY

Many Miele domestic appliances are tested for the equivalent of up to 20 years of use.*

DESIGNED TO SUPPORT REPAIR

Precision engineering, genuine replacement parts, and long-term service support help extend product life.

EFFICIENCY THAT ENDURES

High-efficiency technology reduces energy and water use—today and for years to come.

SUSTAINABLE BY TRADITION

Sustainable materials, ethical manufacturing, and long life reduce environmental impact.

* For more information, please visit miele.ca/20years

Designed as a true multigenerational living space, this feels less like a separate unit and more like a seamless extension of the home, creating a comfortable and connected environment for the entire family.







Thoughtful Washing

Caring for clothes. Conserving resources.

Designed to maximize cleaning performance while minimizing resource consumption, Miele washing machines intelligently adapt water, energy, and detergent use to every load. By using only what is needed, they support a more sustainable approach to everyday laundry care while helping garments last longer.

Highlights

- Intelligent load sensing
- Long-term performance
- Optimized water and energy use
- Precise detergent dispensing (TwinDos®)

Thoughtful Drying

Drying with less energy.

Miele's heat pump dryers recover and reuse heat throughout the drying cycle, reducing energy consumption while drying gently at lower temperatures. By helping extend the life of garments as well as reducing operational energy demand, they reflect a broader principle of sustainable design: products should care for both the things we own and the resources we share.

Highlights

- Longer garment care
- Heat recovery technology
- Energy-efficient drying technology
- Efficient everyday performance





Appliance Schedule

Phoenix House
Abbotsford, British Columbia

Specification Approach

Every appliance contributes to the home's broader performance strategy—supporting energy efficiency, resource conservation, durability, repairability, and seamless architectural integration.

Included:

Primary Kitchen
Suite Kitchen
Primary & Suite Laundry
Digital planning resources

The following appliance schedule documents the products specified for Phoenix House, including current model equivalents where applicable, and the specification rationale behind each selection.



Primary Kitchen Schedule

CATEGORY	MODEL	APPLIANCE	WHY IT WAS SPECIFIED
CLEANING	Dishwasher G 7716 SCi 24"		• Outstanding cleaning performance • Low water and energy use • Quiet operation • AutoOpen drying
VENTILATION	Hood Fan DA 2390 35"		• Fully integrated • Recirculating option • 10-ply stainless steel grease filter • LED task lighting
COOKING	Induction Range HR 1622-3I 30"		• Supports all-electric living • Energy-efficient technology • Fast response and precise control • Moisture plus and automatic programs
COOKING	Microwave M 7240 TC 24"		• Versatile cooking functions • Minute Plus button convivence • Automatic programs • Seamless design integration
REFRIGERATION	Undercounter All Fridge KU 7175 D 24"		• Optimal food preservation • Two adjustable temperature zones • Soft-close drawers • Multi-use: Beverages, fruits & Veg
REFRIGERATION	MasterCool Single Door Fridge K 2602 Vi RH 24"		• Precise temperature management • Freshness preservation technology • Push2open door opening assistant • Seamless integration
FREEZING	MasterCool Single Door Freezer K 2672 Vi LH 24"		• Ice and cooled water door dispenser • NoFrost system reduces maintenance • Push2open door opening assistant • Smart temperature management

Suite Kitchen Schedule

CATEGORY	MODEL	APPLIANCE	WHY IT WAS SPECIFIED
CLEANING	Dishwasher G 7716 SCi 24"		• Outstanding cleaning performance • Low water and energy use • Quiet operation • AutoOpen drying
VENTILATION	Hood Fan DA 2390 35"		• Fully integrated • Recirculating option • 10-ply stainless steel grease filter • LED task lighting
COOKING	Induction Range HR 1622-3I 30"		• Supports all-electric living • Energy-efficient technology • Fast response and precise control • Moisture plus and automatic programs
COOKING	Microwave M 7240 TC 24"		• Versatile cooking functions • Minute Plus button convenience • Automatic programs • Seamless design integration
REFRIGERATION	MasterCool French Door Fridge KFMC 3642 FD 36"		• ENERGY STAR® certified efficiency • Precise temperature management • Freshness preservation technology • Longlife AirClean odor reduction

Primary & Suite Laundry Schedule

CATEGORY	MODEL	APPLIANCE	WHY IT WAS SPECIFIED
LAUNDRY	Front Load Washer WXF 980 WCS 24"		• ENERGY STAR® certified • Optimized water consumption • Automatic detergent dose control • Tested for long-term durability
LAUNDRY	Heat Pump Dryer TXF 360 WP 24"		• ENERGY STAR® certified • Heat pump energy efficiency • Moisture-sensing cycle optimization • Ventless low-energy operation
LAUNDRY	Stacking Kit WTV 502 1" (25.4mm)		• Space-saving vertical configuration • Reduces built-space requirements • Supports compact building design

Every appliance was selected not only for how it performs today—
but for how it continues to perform over decades.

Learn More

Explore product specifications, planning
resources and the Miele Appliance Overview.



→ **Miele A&D Connect**

→ **Miele Appliance Overview**

Sustainable Glossary

Terminology of sustainable design.



a

ACH₅₀ **Air Changes per Hour** **at 50 Pascals**

A measure of a building's airtightness. Lower numbers indicate less air leakage and higher building performance.

b

Building Envelope

The complete barrier between the interior and exterior of a building—including walls, roof, windows, doors, and insulation—that helps control energy use, comfort, and durability.

e

Embodied Carbon

The greenhouse gas emissions associated with manufacturing, transporting, installing, maintaining, and eventually replacing building materials.

g

Gigajoule (GJ)

A standard unit used to measure energy consumption. In buildings, gigajoules are commonly used to compare annual energy demand—lower values indicate lower energy use.

i

International Living Future Institute (ILFI)

An internationally recognized organization administering performance-based building certifications, including Zero Carbon Certification™, which addresses both operational and embodied carbon. Certification is awarded following verified operational performance and third-party review, with operational energy supplied by qualifying renewables and embodied carbon reduced and accounted for.

n

Net Zero Energy

A building designed to balance its annual energy consumption with on-site renewable energy generation, based on energy modelling.

p

Passive House

A rigorous building standard focused on exceptional energy efficiency, comfort, and indoor air quality through airtight construction and high-performance insulation. Included here for general reference; Phoenix House is not presented in this journal as a Passive House-certified project.

z

Zero Carbon

A building designed to minimize carbon emissions through exceptional energy efficiency, electrification, renewable energy, and lower-carbon material choices. ILFI Zero Carbon Certification verifies operational performance and requires embodied carbon to be reduced and accounted for.



With Thanks

With sincere thanks to the homeowners for opening their home and sharing their journey, and to the architects, designers, builders, consultants, project partners, and Miele colleagues whose collaboration, expertise, and shared commitment to intentional, sustainable design helped bring both Phoenix House and this inaugural edition of Miele Design Journal to life.

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Excellent quality is the cornerstone of durability.
Durability is the best form of sustainability.

— Rebecca Steinhage
Executive Director, Human Resources & Corporate Affairs, Miele

Sustainable by Tradition. **Responsible for our Tomorrow.**

Continue the experience.

Visit a Miele Experience Centre to explore Miele appliances and design possibilities.

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